Workforce Investment Board of Will County
June 9, 2025, Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS								
Name	**Present**	**Absent**	**Name**	**Present**	**Absent**	**Name**	**Present**	**Absent**
Jayme Cain	X		Cornell Lurry		X	Juan Rico		X
Beth Gonzalez	X		Judy Mitchell	X		Jim Rink		X
Doc Gregory		X	Pat Mudron	X		Amy Seeley	X	
Linda Guerrero	X		Clyne Namuo	X		Michelle Stiff	X	
Maribeth Hearn	X		Mike Paone	X		Ben Stortz		X
Carlos Interial	X		Josh Potter	X		James Tromp	X	
Kraig Kistinger	X		Doug Pryor	X		Maggie Wolf	X	
Paul Lauridsen		X	Anne Rapp		X			
STAFF								
Caroline Portlock	Pat Wendholt		Lisa Borrelli	John Hall	Dakota Mashak	Keri Peter		
GUESTS								
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant	Dean Meza-Gotto		Lauren Kmetz-Weisman					

Welcome and Introductions –Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM.

Presentation: Workforce Hub, the CEJA Navigator(s) presented by Lauren Kmetz-Weisman CEJA JJC

Presentation: After several years of service, Dr. Judy Mitchell has retired from the Workforce Board. Chair Gonzalez, on behalf of the board, thanked Judy and presented her with a plaque.

ACTION ITEMS:

Minutes - Minutes of March 10, 2025, meeting were approved on a motion by Kistinger; seconded by Pryor. Motion carried.

PY25 Allocations -

- Portlock presented the PY25 Funding Allocations as presented in the packet. Motion to approve the Funding Allocations as presented was made by Tromp, seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried.
- Portlock presented the PY25 One-Stop Operator agreement with WSD. Motion to approve the agreement as presented was made by Tromp, seconded by Mitchell. Motion carried.
- Portlock presented the PY25 Work Readiness subcontract with JJC. Motion to approve the subcontract as presented was made by Interial, seconded by Hearn. Motion carried. Namuo and Wolf abstained.
- Portlock presented the PY25 Youth Program subcontract with JJC. Motion to approve the subcontract as presented was made by Interial, seconded by Hearn. Motion carried. Namuo and Wolf abstained.

Training Programs –
New Programs: Interial presented new training programs for certification as received in the packet from Nailology 350. Motion to approve as presented was made by Mitchell, seconded by Mudron. Motion carried.

Recertification: Interial presented the training programs for recertification as received in the packet from Genesis H Governors State University, Illinois Welding School, Inc., Joliet Junior College, Lewis University, University of St. Francis, and Wilco Area Career Center. Motion to approve as presented was made by Tromp, seconded by Kistinger. Motion carried. Namuo and Wolf from JJC, Hearn from University of St. Francis, all abstained.

Reports:
Communications Committee - Mudron presented the following:

- *Business Services*
  - Business Services reported on the events and activities including recruiting events, data requests and the apprenticeship expansion grant. Much of the focus the 2nd quarter has been recruiting vendors for the Pathways to Professions Career Expo.
  - Under the apprenticeship expansion grant, business services is awarding two incentive payments to employers who are partnering in this initiative to create apprenticeship programs: AdventHealth Bolingbrook and Giesecke+Devrient. Apprenticeships are being developed with 5 other companies under this grant.
- *Communications and Outreach*
  - Staff are reviewing all documents to remove DEI language as directed by the Executive Order and working with the state to clarify revisions that will need to be made to local and regional plans.
  - Outreach efforts and communication narratives will focus more on the employer services becoming more aligned with current federal government priorities.
  - Recent newsletters for Job Seekers and Businesses have become more single topic focused which resulted in an increase in open rates and click-through rates.
  - Created new Rapid Response flyer, P2P marketing materials, and updates to various pages on the website.
  - The Will Works Podcast continues to gain listeners and will host on-site interviews with businesses and students at this year's Pathways to Professions Career Expo.

Program Operations - Stiff presented the following:

- The committee welcomed Laticia Holbert. Laticia is the Workforce Development Director for ComEd and serves on the workforce board for Kane, Kendall, DeKalb counties.
- Career scholarships are up 15% compared to the same time last year with a majority of the adult customers seeking training in the TDL sector and the youth split between healthcare and professional services.
- The committee reviewed the 2nd quarter survey results from the Career Certified program and heard about Jasmine's journey to becoming an RN (in your packet).
- Members reviewed the local priorities list for demand occupations and discussed the status of formula funding and WIOA reauthorization.

Systems and Trends - Interial reviewed the Business Grants Summary as presented in the packet.

One Stop Operator / Workforce Center Report- Stiff reviewed the Workforce Center Report as presented in the packet noting the events, activities, and partner referrals.

Director's Report- Portlock discussed the following opportunities and events:

- Portlock reported on the board recertification process- this is biennial with a deadline for submission in September. Board staff will work with WIB members to update their applications needed for the process.
- Portlock announced and thanked Josh Potter (Communications) and Ben Stortz (Program Operations) for stepping up to co-chair committees.

WIB Member Updates/Announcements:

- Hearn announced that there is a new president at the University of St. Francis. His name is Ryan C. Hendrickson. He will begin his duties on June 1, 2025.

Public Comment:

None

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Pryor, seconded by Tromp at 8:44 AM. Motion carried.

Next meeting September 15, 2025, at 7:30am