

**Workforce Investment Board of Will County
March 10, 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 Interrial	X		Josh Potter	X		James Tromp	X	
Kraig Kistingner	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								
Mandy Dwyer	Kenneth Santiago	Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant	Dean Meza-Gotto					

Welcome and Introductions –Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:31 AM.

Presentation: Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant presented information on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library coming to Will County and how businesses and individuals can become involved with the initiative. This program will mail one book per month for any child signed up for the program age 0-5 years.

ACTION ITEMS:

Minutes - Minutes of December 9, 2024, meeting were approved on a motion by Interrial; seconded by Stiff. Motion carried.

Training Programs –

- Interrial presented the training programs for recertification as received in the packet from Governor State University and Joliet Junior College. Motion to approve as presented was made by Mudron, seconded by Tromp. Motion carried. Namuo from JJC abstained.
- Interrial presented the training programs for certification as received in the packet from Lewis University. Motion to approve as presented was made by Kistingner, seconded by Mudron. Motion carried.

Communications Committee Report - Mudron reviewed the reports as presented in the packet:

Business Services Team

- 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.
- 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 Committee: Stiff reviewed the report in the packet, highlighting:

- 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 Committee: Interrial reviewed the reports as presented in the packet including the Business Grants Summary.

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 funding opportunities and events:

- Funding WIOA -Portlock presented the Potential Impact of OMB Memorandum – a form DCEO requested we complete as a result of the pause, decrease or termination of funding through DOL – specifically to local workforce areas. We will use this information to continue to inform our elected officials and stakeholders. We continue to monitor what's happening at the federal level and in the DOL.
- PY25 MOU – Minimal edits this year as it is a budget only cycle. Partners are reviewing their services and editing to reflect current programming.
- Will County Priority Occupations - Presented the 2025-2026 list to the board members of the occupations eligible for training scholarships based on agreed criteria.

Public Comment: NONE

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Pryor, seconded by Potter at 8:13 AM. Motion carried.
Next meeting June 9, 2025, at 7:30am