



Kane County

KC Jobs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

LEWIS, ALLAN, Bates, Daugherty, Penesis, Strathmann, Young, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair) and Pierog (County Chair)

Friday, October 17, 2025

10:30 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Lewis called today's meeting to order at 10:35 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Ted Penesis Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
REMOTE	Board Member Cheryl Strathmann
ABSENT	Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Gary Daugherty Board Member David Young Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Juby*; Dev. Exec. Dir. VanKerkhoff and staff Toth; JEG 360 LLC. Grueling; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public including Workforce Board Manager Jasmine Walker.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Lewis announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She ask the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Member Strathmann attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Ted Penesis

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Jobs Committee Priorities**A. Jobs Committee 2026 Goals Discussion**

Chairman Lewis reviewed the Committee's goals. She suggested the Committee Members submit any suggestions for new goals to her. An additional review of the goals will be discussed at next month's meeting.

B. Kane County Economic Development Initiatives Staff Updates

Dev. Planner Toth referenced the Illinois Investment Guide. He stated that this is a yearly publication published by Conway Global. The guide shows how Illinois' continuing to make progress. An add was purchased within the guide to represent current developments in Kane County, and the Village of Sugar Grove. In addition, Toth provided the Made in Kane, twenty-page, pamphlet that Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) produced as part of the completion of phase one of the Lighthouse Manufacturing Program. IMEC collaborates with Kane County through initiatives to support and grow local manufacturing businesses. The pamphlet includes a number of metrics, data, companies that participated in the program, and an interview with Development Director, Mark VanKerkhoff.

JEG 360 LLC., John Grueling stated that Kane County Economic Development Corporation entered into a second agreement with IMEC for phase two of the Illinois Manufacturing Lighthouse Program. The total amount of the agreement is \$483K, which will be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). There will be additional funding for the twenty companies that participated in phase one of the program. Each of the companies will qualify for an additional \$5K of consulting services. Once the companies complete phase two of the program, the goal will be for these companies to work independently with IMEC in phase three. Grueling stated that there will be an additional ten new companies participating in phase two, with each company qualifying for \$30K for training and consultations. Further discussion ensued.

7. Office of Community Reinvestment - Workforce Development Division**A. Workforce Development Division Staff Presentation**

Workforce Board Manager Jasmine Walker presented information on the Workforce Development Division staff. She stated that the workforce system continues to operate collaboratively across the One-Stop fiscal and program management teams. Her team works together to ensure compliance, performance, and innovation across all workforce programs in the tri-county region. Walker stated that a major development this quarter is with the proposed partnership with Waubensee Community College for a Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Technology Training Program. The program will focus on safety protocols for high-voltage systems, electric motors, batteries, regenerative braking, HVAC, and drivetrain systems. It is Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accredited, and graduates will earn a Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Certificate. The program totals 27 credit hours over two semesters (about one year), with a cost of \$4,660 covering tuition, fees, and books. Walker noted that the Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics field continues to see growing demand, with a median salary of around \$50,900 per year. She highlighted the progress with the Workforce Development Kiosk Initiative. A total of 15 kiosks are launching, with the first four being operational in Aurora. These kiosks include the Quad County Urban League, Hessed House, Santori Library, and the Aurora West Branch Library. A ribbon cutting took place on September 30, 2025, at the Quad County Urban League, marking phase one of the rollout, which runs from September through November. Phase two will follow from December through February, and additional host sites across Kane, Kendall, and Dekalb counties are currently being identified. The following secured locations include the Sandwich Library, Genoa Library, and the Gail Borden Library. These kiosks expand access to job search tools and training information, and they also provide Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) services. As of June 30, 2025, a total of 786 WIOA participants were served, achieving 90 percent of the enrollment goal. Walker noted that there is strong outlook for training participation including a total of 238 adults in training, 140 in youth training, and 141 dislocated workers participating. The top training areas that align with high-demand and high-wage career pathways in the region include truck driving, IT Management, Health Care such as radio-logic technicians or basic nurse assistants, and automotive and registered apprenticeships. Walker highlighted that the One-Stop team continues to strengthen community engagement and connect employers with job seekers. Each job fair event helps to expand outreach, provide on-site enrollment support, and promote the WIOA-funded services. She announced that there will be an Elgin Community Job Fair event on Wednesday, October 22. This event will help expand outreach, provide on-site enrollment support, and promote Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) funded services. Further discussion ensued.

8. New Business

None.

9. Comments by Co-Chair

None.

10. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Ted Penesis

11. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

12. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Ted Penesis

This meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary