

**Youth Council
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2014**

Chairperson Teresa Strum called the Youth Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Day, Sally Hanrahan, Beth Hubbard, Jon Mandrell, Edna McManus, Teresa Strum

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tera Armstrong, Ed Bochniak, Jim Carlson, Emlee Dooley, Linda Hessenberger, Kevin Kleckner, Terry Madsen, Jeannette Maurice, Mary Stouffer

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Furlan, Jo Ann Johnson, Carrie Folken

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the February 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Kathy Day and carried.

New Business

Review of career preparation/life skills program for the Safe School and Nachusa Campus School

Pam informed members that she provided the Menu of Services to the Safe School but has not heard back from them. She said that the leadership of the Safe School will be changing at the end of the year and she plans to follow-up with them in August or September.

Sally told members that she is meeting with the students at Nachusa Campus School on April 9. She said that it will be an informal presentation where she will find out about what the students are interested in and build from that.

Jon Mandrell informed members about upcoming events that are being held at Sauk Valley Community College. He said that a Career Exploration Day that is designed for students age 16 and older is being held on April 17. However, he said that if students younger than 16 were interested in attending the event, they would be welcome. In conjunction with the Job Fair, Jon said that an event that is open to the community will focus on 2-year programs such as manufacturing, EMS, Nursing, etc. On May 9th, Jon told members is their 8th Grade Day which provides an opportunity for students to get hands-on experience and explore different careers, such as criminal justice, robotics, manufacturing, etc. Information on all of these events as well as registration information is available on the Sauk Valley Community College website.

2014 Summer Youth Employment Program

Pam informed members that Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. has applied for a Summer Youth Employment Program grant through the IL Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. She said that the plan is to serve up to 150 students and recruitment will start soon. Carrie Folken informed members that the deadline for the grant is April 24 and will be run similar to the SYEP last year. She said that students can apply for the program on Illinois Worknet once the grant is received. Edna McManus motioned to endorse the SYEP and support the application for funding as presented. Motion was seconded by Jon Mandrell and carried.

Update on Current Youth Providers (Sally Hanrahan)

Sally Hanrahan provided members with a current Youth Providers Update. Sally informed members that the Bridge program provides academic instruction to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from Streator High School and wish to earn their high school diploma. She said that classes are held at Streator High School and this is the 12th year that Bridge has provided services to youth. Sally said that the planned goal was to serve 12 students, 11 are currently enrolled and 5 have earned their High School Diploma. Sally said that it is expected that the remaining 6 students will earn their diplomas by the end of May. She told members that five out of the seven youth who were deficient in reading or math have improved their levels and the other two students will test soon. Two of the students who have earned their diploma have moved into post-secondary education and one student has entered employment, Sally said.

The Education Outreach Program, Sally told members, provides services to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped out of school in Lee, Ogle or Whiteside County. She said that youth are provided or linked with academic instruction that results in a GED certificate as well as career readiness skills to help them secure and maintain employment. Sally continued by saying that the Whiteside County ROE has administered the EOP program for the past 10 years and expanded it this year to include Lee and Ogle County youth. She told members that the Whiteside County Regional Office of Education and the Lee/Ogle County Regional Office of Education offices will consolidate in January 2015 and are working collaboratively on projects prior to the consolidation. Sally said that their planned goal of 129 enrollees was achieved and additional enrollments are pending. She said that a total of 56 GED certificates were issued since July 1, 2013.

Sally reported that the Regional Work Study program provides academic instruction and employment support to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from school and want to earn a high school diploma from their district high school. She said the program serves youth in LaSalle County with the exception of Streator youth who may participate in the Bridge Program. Instruction is provided at the Ottawa IVCC Center and that this is the 4th year that the RWS program has provided services to youth. She told members that 12 students were planned to be served but 15 were actually enrolled. Sally said that 3 diplomas have been earned to date.

However, she told members that one more youth will be enrolled within the next week that only needs one credit to earn his diploma. Sally said that four students out of the eight who are deficient in basic skills have improved their reading and math. The remaining four will test soon and it is expected that all students will graduate by the end of June.

Sally informed members that the Step Ahead program provides academic instruction to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from school and wish to earn a GED certificate. She said that due to the rural nature of the county, instruction is provided, usually one-on-one, at the local library in each youth's community and this is the 5th year that Step Ahead has provided services to our youth. Ten students were planned to be served, however, 7 are enrolled. Sally said to date, 2 diplomas have been earned. She said that another eligibility appointment has been scheduled. Sally told members that one student has chosen to participate in the work experience program and he has been working with BEST on job preparation and worksite development. Several students, Sally said, have improved their reading and math scores and two students are planning to start the GED testing process very soon.

Review and Approval of Program Year 2014 Request to Extend Contract for Current Providers

Pam informed members that the four projects currently being funded by BEST, Inc. have been recommended for approval. Pam informed members that these programs are being recommended for one year and therefore the scope of the program cannot change. She told members that if the scope changes, it becomes a new program. Members then reviewed the results of the evaluations that were completed by the readers and noted that each project was performing satisfactorily.

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the Bridge Program with Streator Township High School pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Kathy Day and carried.

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the Education Outreach Program with Whiteside County Regional Office of Education pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Jon Mandrell and carried.

Edna McManus motioned to approve the Regional Work Study Program with LaSalle County Regional Office of Education pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Kathy Day and carried.

Kathy Day motioned to approve the Step Ahead Program with Bureau County Regional Office of Education pending contract negotiations. It was also noted that the proposal was very vague and needed a clearer purpose of the program. Sally informed members that recruitment for the Step Ahead program has always been difficult as they work with students in a rural community who may not have transportation. Sally said that the program coordinator works with the individual at sites, like a library, that are convenient for them. She said that the budget this year does include the cost of the GED. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

Review and Approval of Program Year 2014 Request for Proposals

Sally informed members that there were no new programs submitted for consideration. She said that she was disappointed as she had talked with some of the schools in the northern area who appeared to be interested. Kathy Day suggested that once the budget is finalized that some of the schools like Warren High School and West Carroll High School be contacted about implementing a youth project. Kathy noted that these schools would have WIA eligible population. Sally comments that students in the Savanna school district also need assistance and suggested finding a tutoring service to work with them one-on-one.

Jon shared with members some of the programs and services that Sauk Valley Community College has offered to adult students in the rural area.

Modification Policy for WIA Youth Contracts

Pam presented the Modification Policy for WIA Youth Contracts and recommended some changes to the current policy that are identified in **red** text.

Change in Key Personnel

Any request that changes the hiring, status or job duties of key personnel that have already been approved for the grant, including an increase or reduction in the amount of hours worked **and/or salary of any personnel.**

Budget Changes

Increase or decrease in **total project** funding.

Request to transfer funds that results in either a **10%** or more change in a **cost category** or more than \$10,000.00 in a budget line item

Edna McManus motioned to adopt the revised Modification Policy for WIA Youth Contracts as presented. Motion was seconded by Jon Mandrell and carried.

Discussion of Issues Affecting Youth Today and Possible Projects to Address Them

Pam started a discussion asking members for their input about issues affecting youth today and what possible projects could be established to address them. She told members that a representative from Franz made a presentation at the NCI Works meeting about careers in manufacturing. Pam said that he suggested helping the area career centers in preparing the youth for manufacturing. Another issue affecting youth, Pam said, is ex-offenders. She said youth ex-

offenders face special challenges as their records follow them through their adult life. Jon stated that in terms of workforce, working with the area career centers should be #1 priority. Pam said that one of the challenges is how can the local workforce system work with the career centers. She told members that under the previous program BEST was able to pay tuition for some of the students to attend the area career center, but is not certain if it is possible under WIA. Edna suggested the issue of students being forced to focus on college and not all students are college-bound. Jon stated that 2-year certificate programs are available for students who do not want to attend college for 4-years. Another issue Edna stated is that parents have a perception of certain jobs and encourage their children to choose different paths.

Teresa recommended that the “Discussion of Issues Affecting Youth Today and Possible Projects to Address Them” be put first on the Agenda for the June meeting.

Pam said that she would contact Kim Purvis with the Whiteside County Area Career Center about working together. Kathy Day suggested Pam contact Kevin Kleckner with Jo Davies County Area Career Center.

Other Business

It was noted that the next Youth Council meeting will be June 10, 4:00 p.m. in Mendota.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Sally Hanrahan motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Beth Hubbard and carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson