

**Youth Council
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2014**

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

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Tera Armstrong	X		Terry Madsen		X
Ed Bochniak		X	Jon Mandrell		X
Jim Carlson		X	Jeanette Maurice		X
Kathy Day	X		Edna McManus		X
Emlee Dooley	X		Kim Purvis		X
Sally Hanrahan	X		Mary Stouffer		X
Linda Hessenberger		X	Teresa Strum	X	
Beth Hubbard	X		Lisa Tavitas	X	

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Furlan, Paula Rademacher (for Kim Purvis)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Emlee Dooley motioned to approve the June 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Beth Hubbard and carried.

New Business

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

Lisa Tavitas talked about the Bridge to Health Careers program that she will be started at Sauk Valley Community College through the Adult Education program. Lisa continued by saying that she plans to serve approximately 20 students that will include both adults and youth enrollees. The program is planned to allow students to receive college credit, however, it would also count on the point system for those students who choose to apply for one of the Health Education programs at Sauk that requires a point system. (Example: RN, LPN, Rad Tech). The program will also provide mentorships and field trips.

Lisa is working on creating an outline and will get a draft of it to Pam. Comments about the outline will be needed by September 5. Program will last 16 weeks and include reading and writing. Lisa is considering starting it in the summer 2015 but may start it in the spring semester.

Lisa also reported that Sauk Valley Community College received a Digital Divide grant that will provide a lab for residents to use computers and get assistance to increase their technology skills. She said that four labs will be open in the community on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Lisa informed members that sites include Sauk Valley Community College, Morrison High School and Rock Falls Middle School which will be open from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Additionally, she said that residents will be allowed to

use the lab located at the IL Dept. of Employment Security Office in Sterling from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lisa also said that with the changes to the I-Pathway curriculum it is anticipated that students will utilize these labs which will be staffed with qualified instructors who can help them with their basic skills. Lisa told members that a similar program is being planned with Dixon High School to assist seniors who may be in need of extra assistance to graduate.

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

Pam disseminated to members a copy of the proposed modules for the career preparation/life skills program for the Safe School in LaSalle. She said tentatively, the program will be held on the second Friday of every month. Two sessions will be held accordingly: 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. for the junior high students and from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. for the high school students. Pam said that Jennifer Ahlfield, Director of the Safe School, will be talking with the instructors this week and some adjustments to the schedule may be needed. Emlee comments that Edna may need 2 sessions for her presentation. Pam will confirm with Edna and others who were not able to attend the meeting. Emlee also stated that the second Friday in October, she believes, is a school holiday, so that date may need to be adjusted also. Pam suggested that it may be beneficial to ask the employer panel to conduct the mock interviews for the students. Members agreed. Sally continued by saying that the presenters will be as flexible as the Safe School administrators need them to be.

Emlee and Tera disseminated a copy of the Orientation outline and provided members with an overview of their program. They shared with members various techniques on engaging the students and how they are planning an interactive presentation. Tera asked Pam to develop an introduction explaining the NCI Works Youth Council and its connection with the program offered at the Safe School. Emlee and Tera also presented a copy of a list of questions that they would like to ask of each student to find out what jobs they are interested in and where they would like to work. After discussion, it was suggested that the students be given post-notes to use to answer the questions which will be displayed as a reminder of the student's responses. It was also noted that students may be added throughout the year so it is important to have extra copies available of the materials. Members said they would need to determine how to introduce the new students to the program.

Emlee asked about developing a "take-home page" for students that they could share with their parents as an option. Emlee explained it would be a modified or simplified version of the outline which would give the receipt some information about what modules are being shared with the student(s). Members supported that idea.

As for the Nachusa Campus School program, Sally said that they have lots of community support and are not interested in a formal schedule at this time. She said that they will call Sally when they want her to meet with students.

2014 Summer Youth Employment Program

Sally provided members with an update on the 2014 Summer Youth Employment Program. She said that the \$150,000 grant allowed for 75 students to be served. In reality, Sally said, 80 students have been served in the 8-county area. She told members that students participated in a work readiness program which provided them with very good information through Illinois workNet. The goal, Sally said, was for 70% of students to complete both the pre- and post-test, which was exceeded.

Sally told members that staff was contacted by DCEO to see if additional money was needed in the local area to extend the Summer Program. Pam said the \$40,000 was requested to extend the working opportunities for some students, however, confirmation on receipt of the funds will not be determined until next week.

Sally then provided members with a breakdown of summer workers per county:

Bureau – 4	Carroll – 5	Jo Daviess – 4
LaSalle – 33	Lee – 13	Ogle – 8
Putnam – 2	Whiteside – 11	

Update on Current Youth Providers

Sally informed members that the Youth Provider report was sent under separate cover. She provided members with an overview of the projects and identified their PY 2013 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) results as well as their PY 2014 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) plan.

BRIDGE – Streator Township High School

BRIDGE provides academic instruction to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from Streator High School and wish to earn their high school diploma. Classes are held at Streator High School. This is the 13th year that Bridge has provided services to youth.

PY 2013

Planned Goal to serve: 12

Number Enrolled: 11

High School Diploma's earned: 10

Contract: \$58,243.52

10 out of 11 of the participants graduated within this contract year with all 10 increasing in an educational functional level. Three (3) participants were involved in a work experience during the contract and 2 started college in the spring semester. Two (2) youth are participating in the summer youth program.

PY 2014

Planned Goal: 12

Number Enrolled: 1, includes 1 carry-in

High School Diploma's Earned: 0

One youth carried forward. Interviews by the program liaison and the BRIDGE coordinator are taking place for the beginning of the school year. Program will start at the end of August.

Education Outreach Program – Whiteside County Regional Office of Education

The Education Outreach Program provides services to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped out of school in Lee, Ogle or Whiteside County. 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.

Whiteside County ROE has administered the EOP program for the past 11 years. The Whiteside County Regional Office of Education and the Lee/Ogle County Regional Office of Education offices continue to work collaboratively and will consolidate on July 1, 2015.

PY 2013

Planned Goal to serve: 129

Number Enrolled: 135, includes 94 carry-ins.

New Enrollments: Whiteside: 21; Lee County: 13; and Ogle County: 7

Plan to carry forward into 2014-2015: 93

GED Certificates earned from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014: 31

GED Certificates earned prior to July 1, 2013 by youth that were carried into the PY'13 year: 25

Contract: \$218,028.00.

The welding program started on 6/2/14 with six students. Classes ended on 7/23/14 and were held on Mondays 1:00-3:30 (Welding 106) and Wednesdays 9:45-12:15 (Career Exploration) and 1:00-3:30 (Welding 106).

Four of the six students successfully completed the program.

- One is enrolled at Sauk Valley Community College this fall and plans to continue in the welding field
- One was hired as a welder at Astec Mobile Screens
- One is applying for jobs in the welding field
- One decided to pursue a different career at this time and is currently applying for other jobs

PY 2014

Planned Goal to serve: 125

Number enrolled: 97, includes 94 carry-ins

New Enrollments: Whiteside: 2 + 1 pending; Lee County: 0; and Ogle County: 1
Enrolled in Follow Up: 38
GED Certificates earned from July 1, 2014 to present: 2
GED Certificates earned prior to July 1, 2014 by youth that were carried into the PY'14 year: 28
Contract: \$220,585.00.

One student has received funding for Vocational Training. She is enrolled in the Basic Nurse Assistant Program (NUR 100) at Kishwaukee College this fall. The course begins on 8/25/14.

Regional Work Study – LaSalle County Regional Office of Education

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. 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. This is the 5th year that the RWS program has provided services to youth.

PY 2013

Planned Goal to serve: 12
Number Enrolled: 16
Diplomas Earned: 11
Contract: \$41,442.06.

PY 2014

Planned Goal to serve: 12
Number Enrolled: 5, includes five carry-ins
Diplomas Earned: 0
Contract: \$40,015.79

Five youth carried in. Program will start at the end of August

Step Ahead – Bureau County Regional Office of Education

The Step Ahead program provides academic instruction to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from school and wish to earn a GED certificate. Due to the rural nature of the county, instruction is provided, usually one-on-one, at the local library in each youth's community. This is the 6th year that Step Ahead has provided services to our youth.

PY 2013

Planned Goal to serve: 10
Number Enrolled: 9
Diplomas Earned: 3
Contract: \$35,666.00

One student has moved out of the area and won't be carried forward into the current program year. Nine students increased at least one functioning level.

PY 2014

Planned Goal to serve: 10

Number Enrolled: 5, includes 5 carry-ins

Diplomas Earned: 0

Contract: \$39,625.00

Thirty-six (36) letters to possible candidates have been mailed. One new youth is expected to complete eligibility and be enrolled within the next week. The ROE will pay for GED tests and pre-tests from their grant this year.

Whiteside County Regional Office of Education Contract Modification Request

Beth Hubbard presented a request to modify the contract for the Whiteside County Regional Office of Education Outreach Program for Program Year 2014.

Sauk Valley Community College / National Manufacturing Day

Pam informed members that Jon Mandrell was not able to attend the Youth Council meeting but did provide information about the event being held at Sauk Valley Community College in conjunction with National Manufacturing Day. He said that Sauk Valley Community College is working with local businesses to provide tours of their manufacturing facilities to high school freshman. Pam also told members that a Manufacturing Expo will be held at IL Valley Community College in October.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business Kathy Day motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Tera Armstrong and carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson