

**Youth Council
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2015**

Chairperson Teresa Strum called the Youth Council meeting to order at 4:00 p.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
Emlee Dooley		X	Edna McManus	X	
Carrie Folken	X		Paula Rademacher		X
Sally Hanrahan	X		Mary Stouffer		X
Linda Hessenberger	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Beth Hubbard	X		Lisa Tavitass		X

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Furlan, Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Tera Armstrong motioned to approve the April 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Edna McManus and carried.

New Business

Update of Career Preparation/Life Skills Program for the LaSalle Safe School / Career Preparation/Life Skills Program for Nachusa Campus School

Sally informed members that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program is completed at LaSalle Safe School. Edna told members that in April she presented Goal Setting to the students and had the students set a goal and report back to her in a certain timeframe about achieving the goal. Tera asked if the format for the program was going to continue. Pam told members that she received an email from Jennifer Ahlfield, LaSalle Safe School Principal, stating that the teachers thought the program was great and the kids are asking if we are coming back next year.

Discussion was then held regarding the next Career Preparation/Life Skills Program. Pam reminded members that Nachusa was selected as the next site. Teresa asked if multiple programs could be conducted at the same time. Edna asked about the possibility of having the same students at the LaSalle Safe School. Pam said that she would contact them about the turnover of students. Pam also commented that the program was cost effective as everyone either volunteered their time or contributed it towards in-kind services. Pam continued by saying that if the program would be operational at the LaSalle Safe School next year members may want to, at the August meeting, begin preparing materials for the program.

Sally informed members that she met with the principal of Nachusa in April and provided her with the information. Sally said that the principal was going to talk with the teachers to see how it would benefit the students. Sally told members that she would follow-up with Nachusa about their interest in implementing the program. Pam suggested that if Nachusa was not interested that some other schools especially in the Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties may be willing to do an abridged version of the program.

Update on Current Youth Providers

Sally disseminated an updated Youth Provider report to members. Sally told members that detailed information for the provided is included in the typed report but provided members with an overview of each youth project for PY 2014.

Sally said that 6 High School Diplomas has been earned through the BRIDGE Program operated by Streator High School. She told members that there are 3 students working to complete requirements for a diploma.

The Education Outreach Program operated by Whiteside County Regional Office of Education reported that 22 students were from Whiteside County, 6 from Lee County and 5 from Ogle County. Sally said that their Welding Program started yesterday and will run through the end of July.

Jon Mandrell noted that the Sauk Valley Community College welding program enrollments are down. He said that if members know of anyone interested enrollments are open.

Sally told members that the Regional Work Study program offered by the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education is for students who want to earn their high school diploma from the district high school. Sally said that the program is going well.

Sally said that due to the rural nature of Bureau County, the Stop Ahead program offered by the Bureau/Henry/Stark Regional Office of Education provides instruction on a one-on-one basis at the local library of each youth's community. She told members that 4 students have earned their GED.

Edna informed members that the GED program is called "High School Equivalency (HSE)". She told members that Illinois has approved 2 additional tests for individuals to obtain their high school equivalency which becomes effective January 2016. Edna told members that the new name for the former English as a Second Language ESL program is now English Language Acquisition (ELA).

Work in the Real World Update

Sally told members that Work in the Real World will be held on November 13 at Sauk Valley Community College. She said that, in addition to other programs, Larry Williams (Freeport Housing Authority) will conduct a program on professionalism in the workplace. Sally said that a Work in the

Real World event was scheduled this past spring at IL Valley Community College that was to focus on STEM programs for freshman girls but there were not enough interest.

Teresa commented that it is surprising how many people do not understand about professionalism in the workplace. Jon said that some students don't follow directions in how to send emails to instructors. Tera told members that individuals don't follow directions in completing job applications and then don't understand why they are not considered for a position.

Changes Under WIOA with Youth

Carrie provided an overview of eligibility for the Youth Program under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) noting that if a youth has a barrier they do not need to be considered economically disadvantaged. Another change, she said, was that a person who is considered economically disadvantaged does not need to meet one of the other barriers to be considered eligible for the WIOA programs. Carrie continued by saying that a priority of services will need to be developed in order to service those most in need. She informed members that the definition of out-of-school has changed for the WIOA program. If an individual does not meet the economically disadvantaged definition, Carrie said, they need to meet one of the following barriers: parent or parenting youth, disability, dropout, foster child/ward of the court; in court services; or individuals who need additional assistance to complete education and training plans or basic skills deficient. Carrie added that a youth ages 16-24 can be considered as an out-of-school youth under WIOA. She said that in-school youth are ages 14-21. Carrie said that students who received free or reduced lunch will be eligible. However, she told members that only 25% of the youth funds can be spent on the in-school population. The majority of the youth funds will be focused on the out-of-school population.

Pam stated that she wanted members to understand that the focus of the youth program will change under the WIOA program. She said the work-based learning is required. At least 20% of the youth funds need to be spent on work-based learning activities such as work experience, on-the-job training, and internships.

Edna asked if an in-school youth who would be considered economically disadvantaged was the only eligibility criteria. Carrie responded that an in-school youth would need to have a barrier in addition to being economically disadvantaged.

Teresa asked how the number of enrollments would be impacted with the changes in the WIOA programs. Pam said that under WIA staff were allowed to add additional barriers such as "limited or no work history" to an "in need of additional services" category to determine a barrier for in-school youth. Pam said she was not certain if this type of additional service would be allowed under the WIOA program.

Carrie told members that all youth currently enrolled in youth programs will automatically be grandfathered into the WIOA program on July 1.

PY 2015 Youth Provider Recommendations

Sally presented the Streator High School proposal to members. She said that the Streator High School proposal was the only project submitted in response to the second round of Request for Proposals for PY 15 Youth Projects. Sally told members that 7 individuals reviewed the project and recommended to approve the project. Edna McManus motioned to approve the Streator High School project as submitted. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

Pam informed members that the Youth Council's recommendation for the Streator High School project will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of NCI Works for final approval.

WIOA Plan Development

Pam informed members that the WIOA Plan is due to the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity on July 16. In order to allow for a 30-day comment period, Pam told members that staff will be meeting on Thursday to put together a budget and participant plans. Pam then provided members with an overview of the PY 15 Youth Plan. She told members that the youth allocation for PY 15 is \$1,016,099. Pam said that after the obligations for youth projects and 20% carry-forward to next year monies is taken out of the allocation there is not a lot of money left. Pam said that staff are planning to serve about 80 individuals in work-based learning activities for PY 15.

Pam informed members that under WIOA, 75% of the funds must be used for out-of-school youth activities. Pam reminded members that the youth projects are considered out-of-school so reaching that requirement should not be a problem.

Continuing with the Plan Development, Pam told members that since no proposals were received to operate out-of-school projects in Carroll or Jo Daviess Counties that staff would be developing youth programs in those areas. Pam said that Sally (Hanrahan) has been meeting with staff to implement a project. Jon Mandrell said that Sauk Valley Community College has been working with West Carroll School and offered to assist Sally. Jon commented that 11% of the population in the West Carroll area have degrees. Of the 11%, 5% are teachers, he said. Jon also said that a group of faculty called PASS (Partnership Advocating for Student Success) is available. He also told members that Sauk Valley Community College is considering expanding their Criminal Justice Program to high schools in the Thompson Prison area. Members discussed the employment opportunities at Thompson prison.

Pam informed members that under WIOA Youth Councils are an option and not a requirement. However, she said, with members suppose Pam said she would like to recommend that the youth council consider as a "committee". Members agreed.

Other Business

Sally informed members that the youth Leadership Conference finished up last week. She told members that this year students participated in a game (Bring Your "A" Game to Work) that focused on 7

different concepts (attitude, attendance, appearance, ambition, accountability, acceptance, and appreciation) to prepare them to be successful at work. Sally continued by saying that Teresa Strum and Deana Jones were part of an employer panel that confirmed everything they learned about in the “A” game.

Edna commented that one of her students that was involved with the Leadership Conference expressed to Edna some of the information she learned. Jon started a discussion about the changes in male vs female population of students nationwide. He commented that at Sauk Valley Community College male enrollments are down by 18%. Jon noted that there is a difference in Leadership activities at Sauk Valley Community College giving the example that student council used to comprise mostly of males and now it is females. Carrie commented that males are going into short-term training. Jon said that male enrollments are also down for the 15 high schools in Sauk Valley’s district. Pam asked if any information was available for male dropout rates. Beth said that her program is an equal mix of male and female but she will check the success rate on those who have exited the program. Edna said she will check the enrollment percentages at IL Valley Community College. In closing, Jon commented that the marketing focus has changed to include more male population.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Linda Hessenberger motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Tera Armstrong and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson