

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

Pam Furlan called the Youth Council meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and asked members to introduce themselves.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tera Armstrong, Kathy Day, Emlee Dooley, Sally Hanrahan, Linda Hessenberger, Beth Hubbard, Edna McManus, Teresa Strum

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ed Bochniak, Jim Carlson, Kevin Kleckner, Terry Madsen, Jon Mandrell, Jeannette Maurice, Mary Stouffer

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Furlan, Jo Ann Johnson

Selection of a Chairperson

Pam said that the first order of business was to select a chairperson for the Youth Council and asked for volunteers. Linda Hessenberger and Teresa Strum agreed to co-chair the Youth Council.

New Business

Discussion Regarding Committee Structure and Projects/Tasks

Pam informed members that the Youth Council is required by law and certain criteria must be met for membership. As an example, Pam said that Emlee Dooley represents parents of eligible youth seeking assistance and Tera Armstrong is a former participant. Pam noted that all members have an interest in youth.

Referring to the goals that were provided with the meeting materials, Pam asked members to review them and to let her know if any changed needed to be made.

Selection of Regular Meeting Day and Time

Members then discussed a regular meeting day and time. After discussion, it was agreed that the regular meeting of the Youth Council will be the second Tuesday of the even numbered months. Due to the distance of travel for some members, it was agreed that locations and times would alternate between Mendota at 4:00 p.m. and Dixon/Polo at 9:00 a.m. Linda Hessenberger offered to host the 4:00 p.m. meeting in Mendota at the First State Bank. Teresa Strum offered

to host the Dixon/Polo meetings at 9:00 a.m. She will provide detailed information regarding the location of those meetings.

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

Pam asked members for their thoughts regarding the issues affecting youth today and what projects could be implemented to address the issues. Pam started the discussion by referring to an event that was sponsored by the previous Youth Council in 2004 entitled “Framework for Success” that was directed toward teachers, guidance counselors and social workers. Pam explained that the first day of the event was a seminar atmosphere and the second day small work groups were facilitated. Edna recalled this event and said that it opened her eyes when dealing with single moms. Sally and Beth both said that they continue to receive positive feedback from local teachers who attended the event. Members who attend the event provided an overview of the presenter, Ruby Payne noting that the topic was geared toward generational poverty. Edna recommended that the topic of generational poverty would be beneficial and suggested that Pam contact the local Regional Offices of Education about considering a workshop for their in-service training. Emlee noted that the number of students in poverty has only risen.

Pam provided an overview of the youth projects that BEST is funding this program year. She said that grants were awarded to Streator High School, Bureau/Henry/Stark Regional Office of Education, LaSalle County Regional Office of Education and Whiteside County Regional Office of Education. Beth provided members with an overview of the Whiteside County Regional Office of Education program noting that it provides students with GED preparation and work experience. She said that 135 students are currently enrolled.

Discussion then centered on the new GED requirements that became effective January 2014. Edna informed members that she is still learning about the GED requirements but noted that it will be graded at 3 levels: 1-149 is failing; 150-169 is the GED; and 170-200 is career readiness/college ready. Members commented that students will need to know the Common Core measures before attempting to take the GED test. Edna stated that students should be encouraged to stay in school and receive their high school diploma.

In summary, members agreed that the issues affecting youth are: Poverty, Drugs, and Violence & Bullying.

Review of career preparation/life skills program for the Safe School and Circuit Breaker School

Pam informed members the Local Workforce Investment Area #12 Youth Council developed a career preparation/life skills program for the Safe School and Circuit Breaker School in LaSalle

County. Pam then disseminated the menu of the different modules that were developed for the Project. Pam asked members if the Youth Council would like to pursue this project. Sally commented that the Employer Panel would be a benefit to the students that she works with. Beth said that Focus House, Nachusa, Chana and Whiteside have alternative education programs that may be considered. Teresa informed members about the Choices™ Program that her agency provides for middle and high school students. She said that the program explains to students how the choices they make now could impact the rest of the life. After discussion, members agreed to pursue the career preparation/life skills program for the Safe School in LaSalle County and asked Pam to contact them about which module(s) they would like to have presented to their students as well as a timeline. Sally was asked to contact the one of the schools in the northern region about their interest in the project and report back to members at the next Youth Council meeting.

Other Business

Pam mentioned that a copy of the Youth Council Membership List was included with the meeting materials.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Edna McManus motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Emlee Dooley and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson