

**Youth Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2017**

The Youth Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Teresa Strum. Roll call was taken.

<b>Name</b>	<b>BEST, Inc. Fiscal Office, Dixon</b>	<b>NCI Works One Stop Center, Ottawa</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Martha Anderson			X
Tera Armstrong		X	
Jim Carlson	X		
Emlee Dooley			X
Jill Guynn			X
Sally Hanrahan	X		
Beth Hubbard	X		
Aurora Medina			X
Paula Rademacher	X		
Breanne Suarez		X	
Teresa Strum	X		

**OTHERS PRESENT (Ottawa):** Pam Furlan, Jo Ann Johnson

**OTHERS PRESENT (Dixon):** Dianna Schuler

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the February 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Paula Rademacher and carried.

**Business Meeting**

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally reminded members that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program is being operated at the Thome School in Rock Falls and the Safe School in Peru. She told members that Melissa Rockwood with AHEC will be finishing up the Choices Program at the Thome School next week. Both schools will be ending their programs with an Employer Panel. Sally said that both schools are interested in having the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program again next year. Sally also told members that the Safe School in Princeton may be interested in being involved with the program next school year.

Pam asked if Choices was being done at the Safe School in Peru. Sally responded that Aurora Medina shared information on careers with the students instead of doing the Choices program. Sally said that the career information went over very well. Breanne commented that 4-H has a Welcome to the Real World program that may be a benefit to the students.

#### Update on Current Youth Providers / Project Reach

Sally then referred members to the Current Youth Providers / Project Reach Update that was included with the meeting materials. She told members that Bridge program offered at Streator High School is doing well. Sally said that the instructor expects to have more diplomas earned. Sally told members that the Education Outreach Program with the Regional Office of Education #47 has exceeded enrollments and GEDs are being obtained. Sally then informed members that the Regional Work Study Program with Regional Office of Education #35 has 5 students enrolled at the IL Valley Community College campus in Oglesby and 22 students enrolled at the IL Valley Community College campus in Ottawa. The Step Ahead Program in Bureau County is on target, Sally said. They have 7 students ready to start within the next week. In regards to the Project Reach program, Sally said that they anticipated serving 6 students and have 7 enrolled. One of the students has earned their GED and a few others are close to taking the exam. Overall, Sally said, the program is doing well.

Sally told members that she met with the current Youth Providers last month to inquire how they thought their individual programs were going. She said that they all commented that they have seen an increase in students being diagnosed with anxiety and depression. Sally said that attendance issues continues to be a real challenge. One provider, Sally said, is very frustrated that students are settling for entry level employment and not thinking that they can achieve bigger things if they apply themselves. She told members that is one of their goals is to start working with the students to get them to start thinking "big". Paula agreed saying that students have trouble seeing past the immediacy and are in fear of failure. Members then held a discussion about motivating the students to set their goals higher. Pam suggested asking some employers to talk with the students in the projects. Sally said that she would look into that possibility.

#### Work in the Real World Update

Sally informed members that Work in the Real World will be held on November 17. She said that meeting rooms are confirmed and the planning will begin at a later date.

#### Review & Approval of PY 17 Youth Providers

Sally informed members that a rating summary for the Request for Proposals for PY 17 was included with the meeting materials. She said that 4 projects (Regional Office of Education #35, Regional Office of Education #47, Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education and Streator High School) have been recommended for funding. Sally told members that BEST, Inc. has not been given the PY 17 allocations, so these projects will not be negotiated until the local budget is secured.

Sally informed members that the Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education project is similar to their current project except they are including a work experience component for the coming year. Paula Radamacher motioned to approve the Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education project pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Teresa Strum and carried.

Discussion was held regarding Regional Office of Education #35 proposal. Sally reminded members that this project serves students at IVCC in Ottawa and Oglesby. She told members that the proposal included students from Marshall County. Sally said that BEST, Inc. will not be able to work with the students from Marshall County. Teresa noted that several comments were listed about not meeting the 14 elements. Pam stated and Sally agreed that the proposer did not provide enough detail as to how they will provide the 14 elements. After discussion, Teresa Strum motioned to approve the proposal submitted by the Regional Office of Education pending contract negotiations and clarification of how they intend to provide the 14 elements. Motion was seconded by Tera Armstrong and carried.

Sally told members that the proposal from the Regional Office of Education #47 is similar to the current project except they plan to provide work experience. Breanne motioned to approve the Regional Office of Education #47 proposal pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Teresa Strum and carried. Beth Hubbard abstained from discussion and voting on this project.

Sally informed members that Streator High School submitted a proposal for the same program that they are currently operating. Teresa Strum motioned to approve the Streator High School proposal pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

Teresa noted that on the rating sheets it was somewhat confusing regarding the Total Budget requested. She requested that the rating sheet be changed to include Funding Requested, In-Kind Contribution and Total Budget. Jo Ann said that she would change the rating sheet for future proposals.

### RISE UP

Pam informed members that she recently attended the National Association of Workforce Board's conference in Washington, DC and learned about the RISE Up program. She said that the education and credentialing program is designed to help education and advance both entry-level retail employees and first-time job seekers. The curriculum includes: Customer Service and Sales; Advanced Customer Service and Sales; and Retail Industry Fundamentals. Pam told members that upon completion the youth receives a certificate that is recognized by the retail industry nationwide. Adults can also benefit from this program, Pam said. Pam encouraged members to view the information on line. After discussion, Beth volunteered to research the program and report back to members.

### Issues Affecting Youth

Pam stated that now that the planning process is almost complete committees can now begin planning initiatives to focus on. Pam asked members what issues and/or challenges do they see in their community. Tera commented that anxiety and depression among youth is on the rise. Sally noted that

she and Beth recently had the same discussion regarding depression and anxiety with the students. She noted that they were not sure if it is increasing or more of an awareness and willingness to talk about it. Pam asked if there was a speaker or presenter that could share such information with the youth programs. Paula said that Florissa, a community organization, does a good job helping youth with depression and anxiety. She stated that kids do not necessarily know appropriate coping mechanisms as these skills are not taught at home. Teresa commented that bullying is also another issue affecting the youth. Breanne agreed. Beth said that she agrees that depression and anxiety is an issue affecting youth. She expressed concern that the students are setting their goals lower and are scared to do more. Beth told members that some students talk about being nurses, doctors, etc., but when it comes time to discuss educational requirements they back away. Jim stated that he did not have anything new to offer as he is seeing the same things in the schools. He stated that it is being reflected in attendance and grade performance. Jim told members that a few years ago Seneca High School added a psychocologist to their staff and students are taking advantage of it.

After discussion, Pam asked members to give some thought about a speaker or presenter that may be able to address these issues affecting youth. She asked members to send her an email with the information so that a list can be developed.

#### Other Business

None

#### Public Comments

None

#### Adjournment

With there being no further business, Beth Hubbard motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Tera Armstrong and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson