

**Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018**

The Youth Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Teresa Strum. Roll Call was taken. Pam informed members that Sarah McFarlane, Program Director of Adult Education at Sauk Valley Community College has replaced Martha Anderson on the Youth Committee.

Name	BEST, Inc. Fiscal Office, Dixon	IL Valley Community College, Oglesby	Absent
Tera Armstrong			X
Jim Carlson			X
Emlee Dooley	X		
Jill Guynn		X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		
Beth Hubbard	X		
Sarah McFarlane	X		
Aurora Medina			X
Teresa Strum	X		
Mary Stouffer			X
Breanne Suarez			X

OTHERS PRESENT (IL Valley Community College): Jo Ann Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT (Dixon): Pam Furlan, Kathy Day

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the October 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Beth Hubbard and carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs is continuing at the Safe School in Peru and Center for Change at Thome School. She said that students have been hearing presentations on job search and job keeping skills about twice a month. Sally said that throughout the program, students have heard presentations from employers so she is not sure if they will end the project with a panel as they have done in the past. She said that the program will end in April.

Update on Current Youth Providers / Project Reach

Sally informed members that the Youth Providers/Project Reach reports were included with the meeting materials. She stated that Regional Work Study Program with the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education, Step Ahead with the Bureau County Regional Office of Education and Bridge Program with Streator High School are moving along. Sally said that the Education Outreach Program with Regional Office of Education #47 has several new students this year and has seen 17 individuals to date receive their High School Equivalency. Sally pointed out that the Bridge Program with Streator High School is not getting as many students as they have in the past. Pam said that hopefully they will address the declining enrollments in their proposal for next Program Year. Sally commented that the Streator High School program has been around for many years and they have done fabulous work, but maybe it's time to make a change to their program. Regarding the Step Ahead program, Sally told members that there are several students in the pipeline ready to enroll.

Sally explained to members that the Project Reach program was a contracted program between BEST, Inc. and Judy Fitzpatrick for students in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. Sally said that Judy is now a full-time Career Advisor/HSE Tutor with BEST, Inc. and therefore, the contract is no longer in place. The duties of the contract are now part of Judy's job responsibilities. Sally told members that she will continue to report numbers for this project. Sally said that Judy has been actively recruiting students as well as contacting with schools and reaching out to community organizations. Recently, Sally said, Judy was interviewed by the local media about the Project Reach program.

Work in the Real World Update

Sally told members that Work in the Real World was held on November 17 at Sauk Valley Community College. She said that about 250 students from Lee, Ogle, Whiteside and Bureau County's schools attended the event. Sally told members that 50 presenters representing businesses and the community college talked with the students about jobs and careers. New this year, Sally said, was information on the new Drone Program at Sauk Valley Community College. She told members that evaluations were sent to the students last week and the responses have been favorable. Sally told members that some of the students were so happy that employers took the time to attend and talk with them. Pam asked Sally if she sent out thank you letters to the presenters. Sally said that she has not yet, but plans to send them out once she can provide the presenter with some of the evaluation results. The next Work in the Real World event, Sally told members will be Friday, November 16 at Sauk Valley Community College.

RISE Up Update

Beth Hubbard informed members that the student who was participating in the RISE Up curriculum has moved on to other interests and is no longer doing the modules. She said that she

has two more students that may be interested and will keep members informed on the progress. Members discussed the curriculum noting that adults could benefit from the modules also.

Youth Committee Initiatives

Pam informed members that the Talent Pipeline and Workforce Innovation Notice of Funding Opportunities Request for Proposals have been released. She said that DCEO is planning to release of the Notice of Funding Opportunities for a Youth project. Pam told members that she asked Kathy (Day) to participate in the discussion as she is the individual that will be writing the grant. Pam told members that at the last Executive Committee Meeting DeAnne White suggested that we expand the population from foster care or aging out of the foster care system to more of an umbrella for transitional aged youth. She said that most of the youth in the foster care system would fall under this umbrella but by expanding the population other youth would also benefit. Emlee, who is familiar with the Foster Care System, agreed by saying that there is a large population in the middle that the umbrella would include. Emlee shared some stories with members about situations with her foster children and how DCFS is limited in their time constraints to work with these youth. Members then discussed the benefits of the youth receiving a credential and recommended that the RISE Up program be considered followed up with Work Experience. Pam asked if there would be any challenges that we would encounter if we begin working with the transitional aged youth. Emlee suggested that DCFS be contacted to possibly develop a partnership. Employee also suggested that contacts be made with the schools as they know their students and who would benefit from such a program. Emlee said that DCFS does conduct pretests and post-tests on the students and she thought she may be able to obtain a copy to see what they are being evaluated on.

Sally asked Pam what DeAnne meant by “transitional youth”. Pam said that they are the kids that were getting thrown out, leaving home for whatever reason, and they have no support system.

Pam asked if the committee would like to focus on those kids that have no support system or those who had a support system that is not working. Jill commented that the committee should focus on both. Emlee continued by saying that in order to pilot the project the committee may want to focus on the youth that have a support system that is not strong enough to handle the situations.

Moving back to the grant application, Pam said that most grants require some sort of sustainability and asked members what would happen to these kids when the grant runs out in 12-18 months. Pam suggested that an internship program modeled after the Vermillion Advantage Program be considered. She said that the Vermillion Advantage Program has been operating in the Danville area for 20 years with great success. Pam told members that the Vermillion Advantage Program involves social service agencies, parents, etc. Jill informed members that the University of IL Extension has programs and resources for life skills and job preparation that they would be able to offer. She shared with members their community kitchen

program that offers youth the opportunity for classroom training as well as learning how to cook in a restaurant. Jill said that they have found that making the programs fun give the youth a feeling of accomplishment that will make the successful. Jill commented that the University of IL Extension has specialist at the State 4H level that work with Career Readiness.

Kathy Day commented that members provided her with information for the grant as well as an opportunity to leverage resources from other partners. Pam commented that the population that would benefit from the grant would more than likely need to meet WIOA Eligibility Guidelines. Pam stated that she did not know when that Notice of Funding Opportunities for the Youth Grant would be released, but she will keep members informed.

Youth Work-Based Learning Expenditure Update

Pam informed members that the Youth Based Learning Expenditure rate was at 26.2%. She reminded members that the law requires a minimum of 20% be spent on Youth Work-Based Learning.

Other Business

PY 2018 Youth Request for Proposals – Request for Readers

Pam informed members that the Youth Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued on Thursday and are due back on March 15. She asked members if they are interested in reading and rating the RFPs to let her know. Teresa Strum volunteered to read.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Jill Guynn motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson