

**Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2017**

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

Name	BEST, Inc. Fiscal Office, Dixon	NCI Works One Stop Center, Ottawa	Absent
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): Jo Ann Johnson, Dianna Schuler

OTHERS PRESENT (Dixon): Pam Furlan

Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was noted that the April 11, 2017 should be corrected to reflect Jim Carlson present at the Ottawa site instead of the Dixon site. With that correction, Jim Carlson motioned to approve the April 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Martha Anderson and carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that the Safe School and Thome School are both interested in having the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program starting in the fall. This year, Sally said, she will invite employers to conduct presentations similar to what was done at the Thome School last year.

Update on Current Youth Providers / Project Reach

Sally disseminated a corrected copy of the Youth Provider Update to members. The only change, she noted is that for the Project Reach update there was 8 new enrollees instead of 6. Sally reported that at the next Youth Committee meeting she will provide the end of year report and the PY 17 Youth Provider Report. Members asked how the Project Reach project was coming along. Sally noted that the instructor, Judy Fitzgerald, covered both Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties, so the challenge for her is to confirm the student's commitment before she drives to either location. Sally noted that there may be a few more graduates by the end of the summer. She also told members that Judy is starting to receive phone calls about the program, so word is getting out. It was noted that the contract total may be in error. Sally was asked to contact the BEST Fiscal Office for the correct contract amount.

RISE UP

Sally provided members with information regarding the RISE Up Program that was put together by the National Retail Federation. Sally told members that these programs provide modules on retail, customer service and soft skills such as problem solving, time management, goal setting and accepting feedback. The curriculum is ideal for individuals going into a position that works with customers. Members then discussed the cost associated with operating the RISE UP program. After discussion, it was agreed that this program is something that the committee would like to incorporate as a pilot program. Pam asked Sally to discuss with the staff at the next Youth Committee Meeting so BEST, Inc. can move forward with implementing the pilot program. Pam also suggested that the Business Relations Representatives be aware of this pilot program so that they can let local businesses know of this opportunity. Sally mentioned that the Chicago Workforce operates a RISE UP program.

Issues Affecting Youth

Pam said that the Youth Committee has been talking about different issues affecting youth and ask members if there was one issue they would like to pursue. She told members that the Career Preparation/Life Skills program was developed from a discussion about how the safe schools students do not have the same advantages of other students in learning about jobs. Teresa pointed out that the Targeted Population Committee is working on a pilot program to either integrate or reintegrate their selected population groups (Offenders, Individuals with Disabilities, Veterans) into the workforce. Pam commented that the Targeted Population Committee has expanded the veterans' population to include socialization. Continuing the discussion about issues, Teresa noted that some youth do not understand the accountability and consequences of their actions. Martha stated that some youth have difficulty linking school to work. She said they don't understand that if they miss a certain amount of time from work they may be fired. Pam commented that the Choices Program may be a good starting point to address these concerns. Pam also told members that she has been a proponent of encouraging employers to ask for high school transcripts as they reflect the student's behavior regarding attendance, tardiness, etc. Beth noted that for students, workforce is hands-on and they are more apt to pay attention to what they are doing. School for them is learning and they may or may not be interested. Martha agreed that a disconnect between workforce and school settings exist. Jim commented about the concept in quality

and quality work. He pointed out that Quality of Work and Community Service should be connected. Self-Ethnicity is when youth truly believe they are capable of doing what they need to do, but they do not believe in themselves. Next is the Old Fashion Effort where they just try and if they make a mistake they learn from it and build upon it. Breanne informed members that the University of IL Extension Services has a program called "Tackling the Tough Skills" that would cover the areas addressed during the discussion. Martha commented the importance of having a coach or mentor. Breanne said that another program "Ready for Life" does include a mentoring program. After discussion, Breanne told members that she will bring the "Tackling the Touch Skills" program to the next Youth Committee meeting to share the contents of the modules.

Other Business

Pam informed members that Department of Commerce received their allocations for PY 2017, however, they have not been released to the local workforce areas. She said that once BEST, Inc. receives the allocations we will be able to begin the planning process. Pam told members that she will be participating in a webinar tomorrow to go over the process. Although the allocations have been released to the States, she said that until the State budget is passed we will not have access to the funds. Pam told members that the State of Illinois, overall, received an increase in funding for the adult, youth and dislocated worker programs. She told members that she will continue to keep the Youth Committee informed regarding the planning process.

Pam told members that a draft of the Community Audit is available if anyone would be interested in seeing it. She said that public forums will be held at the end of July at Highland Community College, Peru City Hall and Sauk Valley Community College. Pam said that details on these events will be sent to all members.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Paula Rademacher motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Breanne Suarez and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson