

**Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016**

The Youth Committee was called to order at 4:02 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
Mary Boogemans			X
Linda Burt			X
Jim Carlson			X
Debbie Clausen			X
Emlee Dooley			X
Carrie Folken		X	
Jill Guynn		X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		
Vanessa Hoffeditz			X
Beth Hubbard	X		
Aurora Medina		X	
Paula Rademacher	X		
Cary Robbins			X
Teresa Strum	X		
Gerald Waszkowiak			X
DeAnne White			X

OTHERS PRESENT (Ottawa): Pam Furlan, Dianna Schuler, Breanne Suarez (University of IL Extension Service)

OTHERS PRESENT (Dixon): Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jill Guynn motioned to approve the August 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally Hanrahan informed members that she contacted the Safe Schools, Thome and Nachusa regarding the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program for this school year. Safe School in Peru, Sally said, will be meeting later this week and will check on some possible dates. The Thome School, she said is also looking at some available dates, but is thinking of bringing the students to the Work in the Real World event in November. Sally told members that Nachusa is not interested in running the program with the full group. She told members that Nachusa plans on utilizing some of the program in a classroom setting to teach the students some job search skills, interviewing tips, application completion and how to find a summer job.

Update on Current Youth Providers / Project Reach

Sally (and Jo Ann) disseminated updated copies of the Youth Provider report. Sally reported that all youth projects are progressing along with new students getting enrolled. Sally pointed out to members that a new project to the report is Project Reach. She explained to members that Project Reach is the High School Equivalency program that works with students in Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties. Sally told members that BEST, Inc. contracted with an individual in July to provide High School Equivalency instruction. Currently, Sally told members that 3 students are enrolled and 3 new students are pending enrollment.

Work in the Real World Update

Sally informed members that Work in the Real World is scheduled for Friday, November 18 at Sauk Valley Community College. Sally told members that all of the schools in the Sauk Valley Community College district have been invited to attend. After the registration deadline has past, Sally said that she would follow up with the schools.

Sally told members that she has started to make contact with presenters and plans to have it finalized by the end of the month. Industries that will be represented include: agriculture, business education, manufacturing, distribution, health care, patient care, and criminal justice, Sally said. Sally stated that Sauk Valley Community College will include their Building Trades program this year.

WIOA Youth Career Pathways Grant

Pam reminded members that the Department of Commerce (DCO) released a grant application for local areas to operate an out-of-school Youth Pathways program. She told members that BEST, Inc. was not awarded the grant, but neither was any other area of agency that applied. Therefore, Pam said, Department of Commerce is in the process of restructuring the application for release early next year. Pam told members that she, Sally Hanrahan, Carrie Folken, Sara Escatel, Dwayne Mentgen and Paula Rademacher met to see if the program could be operated without additional funds from DCO. Pam said that a plan was laid out to run a program for WIOA eligible out-of-school youth, ages 16-24 who are in need of either a high school equivalency or a few more credits to receive their high school diploma. It

was agreed that 18-20 youth from the IL Valley Community College and Sauk Valley Community College districts would be served. The program would start, she said, with orientation by a local business about careers in manufacturing and possibly some site tours. At some point, Pam said, OSHA training would be provided so that a certificate could be attained. The next step, Pam continued is to have the students work on their high school equivalency with the adult career centers. From there, she said, a bridge program or basic training program in either the certification production training, engineering associates program, multi-craft training program would be available. For those students who complete this phase, they may be able to enroll in some type of manufacturing related curriculum. At some point, Pam said, an internship program may be available to enrollees.

Discussion of Preparing Youth for Workforce

Pam referred members to the article entitled "Chicago tackles youth unemployment as it wrestles with its consequences" that was included with the meeting materials. She said that the article talks about the challenges the youth faced and the fundamentals they lacked. Pam told members that at the NCI Works meeting, members talked about returning citizens from incarceration and the challenges they face. Many of them, she said, had criminal background issues. Pam told members that she recalled Edna McManus having some "new mom" issues with her students enrolled in the Teens Mom Program. Although the article referenced Chicago youth, Pam stated that some of the same issues are in this area.

Aurora told members that she will be attending a Teen Mom Conference in November. Teresa said that there used to be a similar program at Sterling High School, but it was not just for teens. It was noted that LaSalle Peru High School has an after school program for teen moms that meet once a week to talk about career development, housing, etc.

Pam asked members if there was anything that could be done to help those youth that have background issues. She told members that the Targeted Population Committee researched the issues and challenges of identified targeted populations and developed an outline to identify any commonalities. That committee, Pam said, will work on a general education campaign to education employers on the benefits of hiring those targeted populations. Pam commented that most of the individuals identified have the skills, they just need to get back on the right track.

Teresa commented that Sterling High School has started a day care center so that teen parents can continue with their education while their child(ren) are being taken care of. Beth told members that they allow their students to bring their babies to class and/or appointments as long as the child is not mobile. She said that once the child is mobile it is not in a safe environment. By allowing the student to bring their infant to class and/or appointments eliminated any excuse.

Teresa asked if the committee should be looking at the teen mom issue. Pam responded that was one of the barriers referenced in the article. She told members that although other committees and/or groups are working on education partnership collations, it would be nice if we could get the entire system to work on some sort of common program to start teaching students the importance of attending school, being on time, participating in classes, etc. If such a program could be incorporated in the schools,

maybe by the time they were ready for work they would already have the essential and fundamental skills. Pam commented that businesses were unaware that they could request high school transcripts on potential employees. It was noted that the parents are required to sign-off to release the transcripts. Pam stated that there needs to be a way to start making students at an early age to be more accountable and responsible in terms of school. She continued by saying that businesses have concerns about the future workforce and whether they will have qualified workers, especially in the manufacturing industry. Another concern, Pam said, is the retiring workforce and will there be qualified workers to fill those jobs. As the Youth Committee, Pam asked members if there was a way to address these concerns as a universal goal.

Jill told members that the University of IL Extension is interested in bringing their curriculum into the schools, but it has to tie directly to the curriculum they are already using in class. Jill then introduced Breanna Suarez who provided an overview of the curriculum. Breanna told members that curriculum consists of 8 components that is geared toward high school students. All of the components, she said address soft skills that students do not have. Jill commented that they are in the process of training team teachers that will re-teach it to the youth. Breanna commented that the curriculum is not aligned to reach the common core standards, so it requires creativity. Carrie commented that this type of curriculum should be taught in kindergarten as many of the soft skills are missing in their lives. Breanna told members that she has a better time getting into the middle schools. Anything younger, she said, the curriculum will be over their heads. She continued by saying that since 4H is very active in this area that train the trainer may be an option. Continuing, Breanna said that each module is 30 minutes and would be dependent on the needs of the student(s). She said that she delivers 4-6 sessions that could be done during the year. Carrie asked if after school programs/study sessions would be easier. Breanna replied that they also operate an after school program (Welcome to the Real Work) that addresses work habits, interpersonal skills, leadership training, professionalism, social media, mock interviewing, etc. Jill commented that although this program is available to all University of IL Extension offices, not all local offices may be running it.

Teresa commented that it sounds like a lot of opportunity for programs may be available.

Jill then provided an overview of the Clover Buds Program that is available for 5-7 year olds that is offered through 4H. She told members that the University of IL Extension has a lot of resources they would like to share.

Beth then addressed a concern she is facing regarding truancy. In some cases, she said, the parents may be court ordered, but issues such as lack of transportation and child care prevent them from bringing their child to school. Also, Beth commented that due to their housing situation they are sick more than others. Pam shared with members the Adult Redeploy grant that BEST, Inc. is involved with. Aurora told members about the program operated by the Youth Service Bureau that families are mandated to attend.

High School Equivalency Request for Proposal (RFP)

Pam informed members that the individual that is working with the Project Reach program will be reaching her contract limit soon and her contract cannot be extended. Pam told members that a Request for Proposal will need to be released to find an individual and/or entity to continue the program. She asked members to approval to authorize BEST, Inc. to release the Request for Proposal for an instructor for Project Reach. Pam said that the final approval for the selected individual and/or entity would be presented to the NCI Works Board at their November meeting.

Teresa motioned to authorize the release of the Request for Proposal to serve this type of specific program and competitively bid the services of Project Reach. Motion was seconded by Paula Rademacher and carried.

Other Business

Pam asked Aurora to ask the Youth Service Bureau if funding would be available to provide the program that Breanna presented. She commented that it would be a good program if the schools would allow it as a pilot.

It was noted that the Innovations Grants are due in February. It was also noted that NIU has a Community Foundation Grant that may be worth pursuing.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Carrie Folken motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson