

**Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 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 (Dixon): Pam Furlan

OTHERS PRESENT (Ottawa): Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Paula Rademacher motioned to approve the June 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

Business Meeting

Discussion of Preparing Youth for Workforce

Pam asked members for their input about identifying the issues and challenges facing youth preparing for the workforce. Teresa commented that accountability is an issue in terms of tardiness and lack of professionalism. DeAnne commented that accountability is not limited to youth. She stated that technology that youth rely on has hampered their ability to function. DeAnne continued by saying that many people do not listen to their voice mail or return calls. Sometimes, she said, their voice mail is full and you cannot leave a message for them. DeAnne also stated that some email addresses are not appropriate. These issues, DeAnne said, falls under accountability and most people does not realize that. Sally informed members that the youth that she works with are very distracted. They go from one thing to another with no regret. Paula stated that some of the students she works with does not understand work ethic. For them, she said, it is short term and “live in the moment”. Sally commented that employers are struggling to keep their workforce entertained. Paula said that projects, assignments, etc. needs to be broken down into “chunks”. Jim interjected agreeing with what was said, but stated that he continues to work with wonderful students who are mature and have the ability to set and pursue goals. He told members that these students were raised with good role models at home. The big challenges, Jim said, is how you reach the students who do not have role models at home. These students, he said get their role models from TV. Therefore, they are perceived as being selfish and lazy. Carrie commented that the crime, drugs, illegal activities are always going to be there. These issues, she said, is going to hinder them from being successful if they do not think about the impact it will have on them for the rest of their life. Pam provided members with an overview of a webinar that she viewed that was interesting. She told members that one of the projects in the interview was similar to the WYB TV program that BEST, Inc. ran several years ago. Jim told members that at Seneca High School during Freshman Orientation, they brought in speakers that encourage the students to take ownership of the school and giving them a safe community. Jim stated that youth become part of gangs, etc. because they do not have a sense of belonging. At Seneca High School, Jim said they are doing some research on positive youth prevention. Paula commented that some students do not realize the consequences of their actions. They may have a dream job, but it may be out of reach if they have a record.

Pam then provided members with information about a Zero Level Job Program that she learned about at a conference she attended. Before getting to the entry level job, Pam said, students need to learn the essential skills of team work and responsibility. Once they successfully complete the essential skills, they receive a certificate. The next level is to get an entry level job with an employer. Pam explained that the student starts at Zero and moves through a Career Path. Members discussed this type of program as an option. Pam sated that it could be implemented as a pilot program. Members agreed. Pam informed members that she would forward the information to Sally and asked Sally to have the Youth Group work on it together.

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that nothing had been done with the Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs since the last meeting. She told members that Circuit Breaker School was going through some staffing changes, but she said she will follow up with them and the Safe School regarding their interest. Nachusa

is interested in having the program again, but Sally said she will need to address some concerns regarding the class size.

Update on Current Youth Providers

Sally provided members with 2 separate handouts. The first handout reflected the Youth Provider Updates for Program Year 2015 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). The second handout reflected the Youth Provider Update for Program Year 2016 (July 1, 2016 – Present). Sally told members that she included a paragraph about the Project Reach program on both reports.

Work in the Real World Update

Sally told members that Work in the Real World will be held on November 18 at Sauk Valley Community College.

Pam noted that a Work in the Real World event may be planned for the Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties in the future.

Carrie said that she was not aware of a Work in the Real World Event planned for the IL Valley Community College district.

“IWORC” / Business-Educators Meeting Update

Pam said that in previous meetings she provided members with general information about the Educators Meetings that Dr. Espinoza spearheaded. In the IL Valley Community College district, IWORC (Illinois Workforce Opportunity Coalition) has formed to continue to dialogue with businesses. The group will be meeting on October 12 at IL Valley Community College from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Paula told members that the Manufacturing Expo Committee had their first meeting and they will do it similar to last year’s event. She said that Sterling will have their event on October 26.

Project Reach (Sally Hanrahan)

Sally commented that Project Reach Update was included with the Current Youth Providers Update.

WIOA Youth Career Pathways Grant

Pam informed members that no one in the State received the Pathways Grant. She explained that Department of Commerce will revise the application guidelines and restructure the application process. Paula told members that Sauk Valley Community College is going forward with the manufacturing program.

Other Business

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Sally Hanrahan motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jim Carlson and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson