

**Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2020**

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	IL Valley Community College	Ottawa One-Stop	Absent
Tera Armstrong				X
Jim Carlson			X	
Emlee Dooley				X
Jill Guynn	X			
Sally Hanrahan	X			
Beth Hubbard	X			
Sarah McFarlane				
Aurora Medina				X
Kris Noble	X			
Teresa Strum	X			
Justin Wiggins				X

OTHERS PRESENT (Oglesby): Pam Furlan

OTHERS PRESENT (Dixon): Dianna Schuler

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Teresa Strum motioned to approve the October 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Kris Noble and carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally reported that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program is going well. There is a nice mix of employers involved. She stated that she is getting ready to meet with the Safe School in Peru this month. Sally was asked by Teresa how Thome School's program was going and she stated that she did not know because we have not done one there for the last few years. Pam stated that they we are working on Thome as a potential in the future. Pam also stated that at a collaboration meeting she received a

question about being able to pay for the tuition for eligible youth at the career and technical education centers. She reported that she sent that question to DCEO and is waiting for an answer.

Update on Current Youth Providers

For the Education Outreach Program Sally referred members to page 5 of the mailing for numbers. She stated that the program is “busting with new people”. Beth mentioned that after January 1st it became non-stop with new people. Sarah stated that seniors are realizing that they aren’t going to be graduating in May and are dropping out to pursue their HSE.

For the Regional Work Study with ROE 35 Sally stated that she has met with Steve Malinsky and they also have a lot of kids coming in for services. She stated that the program had to change their hour in the Ottawa IVCC Campus location and this change may be the reason that some students have had attendance issues. The new hours may not be working out well for the students. She stated that those coming in regularly are doing well. That the program’s numbers are good. She did say that there was a correction to the number of certificates reported on page 6 of the packet, that it should be 4 not 2.

Step Ahead, Sally reported, serves a small area so the instructor travels to the students. She stated that they have had a bump in the number of new enrollments but they are concerned about the fact that the work experience numbers are just not there yet. Sally stated that she is getting the instructor in touch with BEST staff, to work on those work experience numbers. Pam asked if those at Step Ahead were concerned about meeting new enrollments. Sally stated that she isn’t really concerned, that by March there should be an increase. Sally also stated that she would like to see them reach out to some older youth as well.

Work in the Real World Update

Sally reported that the event was held in November with 58 employers and 251 students attending. Students came from Bureau Valley, Sterling, Rock Falls, Erie, Fulton, and Ohio. She went on to report that there were 16 volunteers. Sally stated that some evaluations showed that some students found the wrap up to be too long and not engaging enough. Next year there will be some changes made to that portion of the event.

Kris mentioned that she thought the presenters need to know their audience better and engage them more. Teresa stated that a list of ideas for the presenters was given out to everyone. Sally stated that facilitators have a list of questions that they use if they believe the presenters are losing the interest of the students.

Youth WBL Expenditures

Pam reported that as of December 31, 2019 the required WBL expenditure percentage was at 29.2%. She reminded members that the requirement is 20% of all youth expenditures by June 30th. She stated that BEST staff are focused on WBL activities including work experience and older youth OJT. She stated that OJT can reimburse an employer 50% of a new hire’s wage for 6 months or so. Teresa asked for clarification on the percentage. Pam stated that the percentage is based on all youth expenditures during the program year and as non-WBL expenditures go up the percentage in WBL will go down which is why staff are focused on keep that percentage as close to meeting or exceeding the 20% as possible.

Reverse Hiring Event Update

Sally reported that the event went really well. Beth shared that there were 17 students and 18 representatives from 13 companies in attendance. Students that participated were those enrolled in BEST services and those from Beth's HSE class. The event lasted a total of 3 hours; 1 hour was for the student and the other 2 for the businesses that attended. Students were comfortable and professional and the businesses were supportive of the event. Pam shared that the idea came from a NAWB conference she attended and the format was for the students to sit at a table and the businesses visited each table to speak with the students.

Beth indicated that the plan was to hold the event again and informed the members that feedback from the companies was great. One idea being considered is to have the youth do a job shadow experience soon after the reverse hiring event. Teresa inquired as to the purpose of the event. Beth shared that it was for the students to learn about benefits and the like from the businesses as well as possibly find a job. Sally added that the event was a confidence builder for many of the students.

Other Business

Pam informed the committee that the PY20 youth RFP was scheduled to go out on February 14, 2020 and that it would be available online. She stated that a change this year is that the work experience services will be brought back in house at BEST, Inc. rather than being provided by those who successfully submit a response to the RFP. Sally added that this year's RFP has language that was added concerning duplication of services as well. Kris asked if new providers ever respond to the RFP. Pam indicated that it has been the same 3 for a number of year and that we actually had a 4th up until recently. Jill inquired if we BEST was looking for something new. Pam said yes but that there are certain things that are also required to be included. Pam also stated that she is still waiting on the release of the Youth NOFO from DCEO and would like to do something new through that grant. Sally requested volunteers to be readers for the PY20 Youth Request for Proposal replies. Teresa, Sarah, and Sally will read.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Sally Hanrahan motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Kris Noble and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Dianna Schuler