

**Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2016**

The Youth Committee was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Teresa Strum. Roll call was taken.

Name	Present (Sterling)	Present (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		
Edna McManus			X
Paula Rademacher			X
Cary Robbins			X
Teresa Strum	X		
Gerald Waszkowiak			X
DeAnne White			X

OTHERS PRESENT (Sterling): Jo Ann Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT (Ottawa): Pam Furlan, Aurora Medina

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the April 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Emily Dooley and carried

Business Meeting

PY '16 Funding Update

Pam informed members that about \$500,000 was cut from the WIOA Formula Grant for PY 2016. She said that the Youth Program will be reduced by \$171,000. Pam told members that special grants for such program like Trade will still be available.

Pam then told members that the 4 youth projects that were funded during PY 2015 are being proposed to be extended to PY 2016. She said that staff did not anticipate any cuts in these projects, but stated that contract negotiations will be held within the next few weeks. Pam informed members that under WIOA the focus is more on work-based learning activities. Therefore, she said, we anticipate increasing the number of individuals being served in the youth and adult programs with the same amount of money. Pam stated that the goal is to place individuals in programs such as OJT, Internships and Work Experience.

In regards to the State Budget, Pam told members that she visited with eight of the ten State Senators and Representatives to remind them of not being able to access the federal funds last year. She reminded members that last year the money was released through a separate bill being approved. Pam said that she is hoping that will happen again this year, but did not get a real positive feeling after talking with the State Senators and Representatives. Pam told members that the new Program Year starts July 1 and BEST, Inc. should have enough carry-forward money to get through the end of August. Pam said that she would keep members updated on the budget situation.

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program was finished for the school year. She said that Safe School and Thome would like to have the program again next school year. Circuit Breaker, Sally said, is undergoing some staff changes and she was asked to contact them at the beginning of the school year. She said that evaluations were completed by students and school staff from Thome School and disseminated a copy of the results to members. Sally said that she would provide the evaluations from the other sides as soon as she receives them.

Sally then provided an overview of the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program for Aurora as she is a new member to the Youth Committee.

Update on Current Youth Providers

Sally informed members that the update on the Current Youth Providers was included with the meeting materials. She said that all programs were successful and will start all over July 1.

Project Extensions

Pam stated that she mentioned earlier in the meeting that all 4 youth projects will be extended beginning July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Educators Meeting Update

Pam provided members with an Update on the Educators Meeting. She reminded members of the meeting that was spearheaded by Dr. Espinoza (LaMoille High School) that brought together educators and businesses to talk about STEM projects and how local high schools could prepare students for jobs. Pam told members that the ideas were shared and the dialogue continued with the CME Group that BEST, Inc. and IVCC has been facilitating for several years. Continuing, Pam said that NCI Works held an Employer Forum that included IL Department of Employment Security, Business Employment Skills Team, Inc., Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and IL Valley Community College Adult Education Department. These Partners, Pam said, provided attendees with information about the types of services that could be provided. From there, Pam said, educators begin the dialogue with the businesses to find out how to prepare students for entry into the manufacturing industry. Pam said the program ran over due to the dialogue between the two groups. Unfortunately, Pam said, there was plans to convene a Steering Committee, but due to the funding issues affecting the schools, this project was put on the back burner.

Pam told members that an Employer Forum was also held at Sauk Valley Community College. For this event, Pam said that Dianna Schuler sent a questionnaire to the educators in the Sauk Valley Community College district asking what types of questions they would like to ask employers. These questions were then posed to local employers at the Employer Forum. Instead of starting a new initiative, Pam said, that all efforts will be combined with the Sauk Valley Area Manufacturing Group. She said that they will be meeting next month and she will provide an update at the next Youth Committee meeting.

Pam stated that she will keep members informed about a discussion she and Jim (Carlson) had prior to the meeting about Internships and Career Pathways.

Project Reach

Sally told members that Project Reach is the Program that will be providing GED services as well as other services to WIOA eligible students in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties.

WIOA Youth Career Pathways Grant

Pam informed members that BEST, Inc. has applied for a competitive Out-of-School Youth Grant that is designed to help youth with barriers to employment follow a career pathway. Pam said that several employers have agreed to share information about the manufacturing industry.

As part of the orientation, Pam said, all enrollees would be provided OSHA Training where they would receive a credential. Enrollees would also go on industry tours so they could see firsthand the day-to-day operations of a manufacturing company. At the same time, Pam stated, enrollees will be linked to a manufacturing program learning terminology and other information they will need to be ready for a manufacturing career. For those enrollees who successfully obtain their high school equivalency certificate, they will be given the opportunity to enroll in the Certificate Production Technician Program or Engineering AAS Program offered at IL Valley Community College. For enrollees from the Sauk Valley Community College district they would have the opportunity to enroll in the MultiCraft or some other manufacturing program.

Continuing, Pam said that, if the grant is approved, would be an 18-month program starting July 1 (if notified about funding). She said that 20 youth, 10 in each community college district, would be enrolled. The grant funding request, Pam said, is about \$250,000. She said she would keep members informed about this opportunity.

Discussion of Preparing Youth for Workforce / Identify Issues and Challenges

Pam began the discussion by saying that up until now there has been a lot of time spent on putting Plans together. Now, she said, it is time to get down to the business of what the Youth Committee should be doing. One of the task of the Youth Committee, she said, is to prepare youth for the workforce. Pam said that we, as a committee, need to start identifying real issues and challenges that the youth are facing. Businesses, Pam said, cannot find youth who are prepared to work due to drug/alcohol issues, background issues, etc. Pam told members that she would like the committee to have a conversation on what are the issues and challenges these kids are facing and identify the barriers.

Teresa stated that lack of soft skills is an issue. She listed attire, showing up on time, background and drugs/alcohol as real issues facing youth today.

Beth commented that some of the issues Teresa identified are also individualized for each person. She said that a youth with ADHD has huge social anxiety issues. They may have been bullied in the past and find new things to be hard to do. She said that they tend not to initiate things and have a lack of accountability. Beth said that this type of individual has never been held accountability and when you address it with them they take it personally.

Emily echoed what Beth stated above.

Aurora said that behavior issues in general is a concern. Language barriers can also be an issue for some, she said.

Emily agreed about the Language barrier.

Jim commented that there are a lot of angry kids in today's society. He said some of the things that employers have mentioned to him include getting along with co-workers and supervisors and punctuality. The number one issue in schools, Jim said, is tardiness. He said that a lot of kids are just mad and it just magnifies.

Sally said that she listened to some Youth Webinars sponsored by Illinois Workforce Partnership (IWP) that provided some good information. Pam said that she would send out the link to Youth Committee members for their viewing and continued discussion about this topic. Pam asked Sally to start putting a list together of some of the issues addressed so that discussion can continue.

Other Business

Public Comments

Sally announced that Edna McManus will be retiring at the end of the June and wished her the best of luck.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Jim Carlson motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Beth Hubbard and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson