

**Youth Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2016**

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

Name	Present (Dixon)	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 (Dixon): Jo Ann Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT (Ottawa): Pam Furlan

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the February 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Paula Rademacher and carried.

New Business

WIOA Update

Pam stated that she is continuing to work on the Local Plan. The Regional Plans, Pam said is being developed by a different group. She told members that the Local and Regional Plans need to be ready for 30-day publication on May 1. Pam told members that the Chief Elected Officials (CEOs) will be

meeting on April 25 and the NCI Works Executive Committee will be meeting on April 26 to act on these Plans. Pam told members that we have not yet received allocations for Program Year 2016 but hope to have them next week. The State allocations, Pam said, were received last week. Pam reminded members that the allocations are done on a formula basis. The allocation at the national level, she said, held steady, but the state determines the allocation on a different formula. The only thing that might have impacted it would be the change in the demographics or actual unemployment levels for youth. Pam continued by saying that these formulas are not current as they are based on data that is a year or two older. She said that it also depends on where we were in comparison with the rest of the country. Pam reminded members that under WIOA the focus will be on work-based learning initiatives. She said that 75% of the funds need to be spent on out-of-school youth and 20% of youth spending needs to be on work-based learning activities. These activities, she said, include internships and work experience as well as some projects are being planned with manufacturing and health care industries. Pam told the committee that in the past, all of the out-of-school funding had to be spent on low income individuals. Under WIOA, Pam said, if the youth has some other type of barrier such as a teen parent or foster child, they no longer have to be determined as low income. Also, Pam told members individuals ages 16-24 may be considered for the youth program.

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally stated that two schools (Nachusa & Circuit Breaker) did not want to participate in the employer panel due to the behavior of students. Sally said she went to Nachusa and providing additional job interviewing skills to the students. The students at Circuit Breaker were more interested in learning about summer jobs. In lieu of the employer panel for Circuit Breaker, Joel Torbeck provided students with a list of where they could look for summer jobs. Thome School went very well, Sally said. She told members that Safe School had an employer panel and that also went well with questions from students. Sally referred to the handout regarding evaluations that was done last year. One is for the students, and one is for the teachers. The student's evaluation, Sally said, is a little more intensive because staff wanted them to name items. Emlee told members about a video that addressed interviewing skills and techniques. Paula stated that the video sounds like the one that Sauk Valley Community College uses at their Career Center. Jill Guynn stated that at the U of I Extension Office they use several different career programs about professional leadership skills. After discussion, Pam suggested that the BEST Staff Youth Workgroup look at the different interviewing videos and activities that are available and maybe combine the best parts of each and share.

Update on Current Youth Providers

Sally stated that the current youth provider reports were included with the meeting packet. Each of the current providers have requested to extend their contract for Program Year 2016.

The BRIDGE program, Sally said, is for Streator High School students only who have dropped out of school and want to return to get their diploma. The goal, she said was for them to serve 18 students and they will serve about 12. They are under their goal, Sally said, but Streator High School also has other

alternative education programs within the school so they funnel the students to the appropriate program. The students they have are successful with the credit recovery attainment all are working, Sally said.

Sally told members that the Education Outreach Program operated by Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Regional Office of Education serves a number of students, and they are on target to reach goals. She told members that the individual was hired for the Career Coordinator position and has met with three youth and is in the process to start them in the work experience program.

Sally informed members that the Regional Work Study Program operated by the Regional Office of Education #35 – LaSalle & Putnam Counties has expanded their program to include an office in LaSalle. The office in Ottawa, Sally said will serve students in the Ottawa area and the LaSalle office will serve students in LaSalle and Putnam Counties. To date, 5 students have been enrolled. Sally told members that the Director said that the schools are starting to buy-in to the program and thinks that the numbers are going to increase.

Next, Sally provided members with a review of the Step Ahead Program operated by the Bureau, Henry, Stark Regional Office of Education. She said that this High School Equivalency program serves students in Bureau County and they have exceed their numbers.

Educators Meeting Update

Pam informed members that one of the initiatives of the Employer Engagement Committee is to sponsor Employer Forums. She told members that the sites for these Forums would be IL Valley Community College and Sauk Valley Community College. Pam stated that a third site may be in the Carroll / Jo Daviess and Ogle Counties areas at a later date. Pam said that this opportunity allowed educators and businesses talking about initiatives or kinds of activities that the schools could bring to the business community. She said that this will allow for a pipeline from the schools to the workplace. Last Wednesday, Pam said, an Employer Forum was held at IL Valley Community College. She said that four employers and three to four educators participated. The dialogue, Pam said, was tremendous. Pam told members that staff met with educators and guidance counselors at Sauk Valley Community College and gave them a list of questions of what do you want to ask businesses. She said that Career Cruising was discussed and is available in many high schools. Career Cruising provides students with information on careers, exploration and various types of training. Another part of the project that was discussed was linking the initiative with Inspire Illinois. Paula stated that she has been in communication with Steve Hahn about getting Inspire Illinois in the Whiteside Area Career Center area.

Review and Approval of the PY 2016 Request to Extend Contracts

Regional Office of Education #35 LaSalle/ Putnam

Sally stated that they are planning to serve 18 students during Program Year 2016. She said that they requested \$86,040.06. Sally told members that all of the raters recommended approval of the Regional Office of #35 LaSalle/Putnam Project. Motion was made by Jill Guynn to approve the Regional Office

of Education #35 LaSalle/Putnam Project as recommended. Motion was seconded by Paula Rademacher and carried.

Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education

Sally told members that Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education is planning to serve 12 students during Program Year 2016. She said that they requested \$41,306.00. Sally told members that all raters recommended approval of the Bureau, Henry, Stark Regional Office of Education project. Motion to approve the Bureau, Henry, Stark Regional Office of Education Project was made by DeAnne White. Motion was seconded by Edna McManus and carried.

Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Regional Office of Education

Sally told members that the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Regional Office of Education project is planning to serve 110 students during Program Year 2016 and requested \$204,794. Sally said that all raters recommended the approval of the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Regional Office of Education project. Emlee Dooley motioned to approve the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Regional Office of Education project. Motion was seconded by Paula Rademacher and carried. Beth Hubbard abstained from discussion and voting.

Streator Township High School

Next, Sally told members that Streator Township High School plans to serve 15 students during Program Year 2016 and requested just under \$57,764.10. Edna McManus motioned to approve the Streator Township High School project. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

Other Business

Project Reach

Sally informed members that the program for the Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties High School Equivalency Program is called "Project Reach". She told members that she is planning to meet informally with a candidate for the position next week. The instructor, Sally said, will meet with students in their respective area at local libraries or community centers. Project Reach, Sally said, is intended to provide work-based learning activities and job shadowing for the student to move from their High School Equivalency to their next step.

Community Garden

Sally informed members that the person she was trying to contact from Sinnissippi is no longer with the agency. DeAnne said that she would give Sally another name to contact. Pam told members that BEST, Inc. applied for a grant for a Community Garden Project through Miracle Gro but it was denied. Pam asked Sally to follow up with the individual from Sinnissippi and perhaps BEST, Inc. could apply for the grant next year.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Jim Carlson motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Edna McManus and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

Approved _____