

**Youth Council
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2015**

Chairperson Teresa Strum called the Youth Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and guests were introduced.

NAME	PRESENT – KSB HOSPITAL, DIXON	PRESENT – IVCC, OGLESBY	ABSENT
Tera Armstrong		X	
Ed Bochniak			X
Jim Carlson			X
Emlee Dooley			X
Carrie Folken	X		
Sally Hanrahan	X		
Linda Hessenberger			X
Beth Hubbard	X		
Terry Madsen			X
Jon Mandrell	X		
Jeanette Maurice			X
Edna McManus		X	
Paula Rademacher			X
Mary Stouffer		X	
Teresa Strum	X		
Lisa Tavitias	X		

OTHERS PRESENT (Dixon Location): Paul McMahon (Lee/Ogle Regional Office of Education), Terry Camplain (Chana Education Center), Chris Delimata (Nachusa), Nina Mardaus (Sauk Valley Community College), Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the February 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Beth Hubbard and carried.

New Business

Update of Career Preparation/Life Skills Program for the LaSalle Safe School

Sally informed members that the March presentation at the LaSalle Safe School included an employer panel consisting of Steve Hammer (Jeff Perry, Peru), Don Trager (Subway Franchise Owner) and Kay Redshaw (Eakas, Peru). Sally said that these employers talked with the students about the skills needed to enter the workforce. She told members that the employers also talked about the importance of goal setting and encouraged the students to consider part-time employment. Sally said that the students had many questions of these employers and the presentation as well received.

Sally told members that Edna McManus is scheduled to present the Choices™ program in April and May to the students.

Edna provided an overview of the Choices™ program to members. She told members that she plans to address careers and goal setting with the students.

Edna informed members that she conducts the Choices™ program for LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam Counties. Teresa Strum stated that her office (AHEC) offers the Choices™ program for 19 counties, including Lee and Whiteside Counties.

Career Preparation/Life Skills Program Discussion

For the guests in attendance, Sally Hanrahan explained the development of the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program. She told them that a few years ago the Youth Council decided they wanted to be proactive and put together a series of presentation modules to supplement with the schools were teaching. She said that staff met with the Safe School in Peru to get an idea of what types of presentations was needed. Based on that discussion and subsequent meetings, a curriculum, or Menu of Services, was developed that included an Orientation, Career Exploration, Choices™, Job Search Do's and Don'ts, How to be Successful at Work, Employer Panel and Mock Interviews. Sally explained that based on the needs of the students, either a few or all of these programs could be presented.

Sally stated that the Youth Council would be happy and willing to do the same type of program(s) for the students in Lee and Whiteside area.

Paul McMahan commented that the Regional Office of Education is always interested in new types of programs and services. Sally commented that sometimes students need to hear it from an outside source to make an impression.

Sally explained that there are 6 modules with Choices™ taking 2 of them. She told members and guests that the program ran for 6-7 months at the Safe School with each session lasting about 40 minutes. Sally said that the Employer Panel was a big hit with the students.

Discussion was held with the guests asking questions about the program. After discussion, Sally reiterated that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program is available and staff are willing to tweak the program pending the needs of the students.

In closing, Sally said that she would share the modules with the guests.

Update on Current Youth Providers

Sally provided an overview of the Current Youth Providers informing members that a typed report was included with the meeting materials. She said that Whiteside County Regional Office of Education is recruiting for the Welding Program that will start this summer.

Sally informed members (and guests) that the BRIDGE program operated by Streator Township High School provides academic instruction to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from Streator High School and wish to earn their high school diploma. The Education Outreach Program operated by Whiteside County Regional Office of Education provides services to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped out of school in Lee, Ogle or Whiteside County. Sally said that youth are provided or linked

with academic instruction that results in a GED certificate as well as career readiness skills to help them secure and maintain employment. Sally then said that the Regional Work Study Program operated by the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education, provides academic instruction and employment support to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from school and want to earn a high school diploma from their district high school. Continuing, Sally told members that the Step Ahead Program ran by the Bureau County Regional Office of Education, provides academic instruction to WIA-eligible youth who have dropped from school and wish to earn a GED certificate. Sally said that due to the rural nature of the county, instruction is provided, usually one-on-one at the local library in each youth's community.

In closing, Sally said that current enrollment information and successes are listed with the typed report.

Members (and guests) then discussed changes to the high school equivalency programs in IL. Members shared information about the changes noting that an IL State Board of Education has a Task Force that is working on policy changes. Information was shared that in addition to the GED exam there are two provider who are being considered to offer the high school equivalency exam at a lesser cost. It was noted that these options would allow the customer the choice of which exam they wanted to take.

Teresa then introduced Nina Mardauss to members. Teresa explained that Nina is the instructor of the Health Career Bridge Program offered at Sauk Valley Community College. Nina told members that the program has three dedicated GED students currently enrolled. She said that the program was designed to provide information to those students enrolled in the GED program who have an interest in the health field. Nina said that the class meets on Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. She said that in addition to learning about the essential skills for health careers they learn about grammar and other skills relevant to the world of work.

Lisa (Tavitas) said that she and Nina would like to talk with Sally about incorporating some of the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program with their curriculum. Jon (Mandrell) commented that he and Lisa can talk about possibilities for those students who complete the program to earn college credit at Sauk Valley Community College.

Jon said that there was a large group of youth that went through the Welding Program at Sauk Valley Community College.

Work in the Real World Update

Sally informed members that Work in the Real World will be held on November 13, 2015 at Sauk Valley Community College.

Sally said that a STEM event is being planned for May 1 at IL Valley Community College. Teresa suggested that Sally contact the University of IL Extension about a science education program. Carrie (Folken) said that the University of IL Extension office is not located at IL Valley Community College.

Changes Under WIOA with Youth

Carrie told members that an update on the changes under WIOA with Youth was presented at the February meeting and nothing has changed. She said that a TEGP for Youth and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) were released. Carrie told members that the BEST, Inc. youth career advisors have met and are in the process of reviewing the NPRM. Carrie said that 2 staff attended the "Ready by 21" National Conference and brought back some worthwhile information. She told members that she

and another staff members will be attending the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) National Conference in May and hope to find out some more information about the WIOA program(s).

PY 2015 Youth Provider Recommendations

Carrie informed members that a rating summary for the Request for Proposals for PY 15 were included with the meeting materials. She said that 3 projects (LaSalle County Regional Office of Education; Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Regional Office of Education; and Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education) have been recommended for funding.

Lisa Tavitas motioned to approve the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education project as presented. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education project as presented. Motion was seconded by Carrie Folken and carried.

Tera Armstrong motioned to approve the Lee Ogle Whiteside Regional Office of Education project as presented. Motion was seconded by Lisa Tavitas and carried. Beth Hubbard abstained from discussion and voting.

Release Another Round of Request for Proposals (RFPs)

Carrie informed members that BEST, Inc. has not received the allocation for PY 15. She said, however, there are counties in the local workforce area that have youth in need of services. In the event that the allocations are received and it is determined that funds are available to operate additional programs, Carrie requested that BEST, Inc. be allowed to release another round of Request for Proposals. Edna (McManus) asked why Streator High School was not recommended for funding. Carrie stated that the proposal submitted by Streator High School did not meet the minimum specifications and therefore could not be considered for funding. Edna McManus motioned that if funds are available that a second round of Request for Proposals be issued. The motion included that Streator High School be given the opportunity to submit a proposal. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan and carried.

WIOA Plan Development

Carrie told members that the allocations or Planning guidelines have not been issued by the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. For informational purpose, she said that it is anticipated that by the next Youth Council meeting a Youth Plan would be developed for the July 1 implementation date.

Other Business

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business Beth Hubbard motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Lisa Tavitas and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Jo Ann Johnson