

Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works) Meeting
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
12:00 Noon

Join Zoom Meeting
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AGENDA

Call to Order (Linda Burt / Cary Robbins)

Roll Call

Chair Comments

Resignation of James A. Andreoni

Welcome New Member (Lyndsay Bliss)

Consent Agenda (*Action Item*):

Consent Agenda Items - Anyone may remove an item from the consent item list by requesting the chair to do so. Items removed will be discussed and voted upon immediately following passage of the remaining consent items.

- NCI Works (November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes) (Page 1)
- NCI Works Executive Committee (January 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes) (Page 17)
 - Approval of the October 2020 Financial Reports
 - Approval of Modify Opioid Grant
 - Approval for the following training programs from IL Valley Community College
 - SMAW Basic Welding Certificate
 - GMAW Intermediate Welding Certificate
 - Basic Dental Office Management Certificate
 - Basic Computer Aided Drafting Certificate
 - Agronomy AAS
- Employer Engagement Committee (February 2, 2021 Meeting Summary) (Page 20)
- Youth Committee (February 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes) (Page 23)
- Targeted Population Committee (February 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes) (Page 28)

Business Meeting

Oversight Committee (Gerald Waszkowiak)

- Approval of the Financial Reports November & December 2020 (*Action Item*) (Page 31)
- Approval of 2nd Quarter Performance Report (*Action Item*) (Page 39)
- Review of the Partner Report (*Action Item*) (Page 40)
- Approval for Recertification of the Commercial Drivers License Program at Sauk Valley Community College (Page 41) (*Possible Action Item*)
- Review of Commercial Drivers License-Truck Driving Entrepreneurship Program at Sauk Valley Community College (Page 44) (*Possible Action Item*)
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Other Business

- Opioid Grant Update (See Report from Kerri Hicks below)

The Opioid Dislocated Worker Grant, currently has 20 participants in the Program. 2 have been exited, both DRE positions. 1 was the Northern Job Coach, he moved out of State and that position has since been filled. The other being our Behavioral Health Nurse with Sinnissippi Center, she has found Full-Time employment elsewhere, and this position has not been filled.

We have 13 participants enrolled in Paid Work Experience. 3 of these positions are Peer Support Specialists. 1 is placed at Perfectly Flawed and will transition to OJT by Mid-February. 2 are placed at Arukah Institute of Healing in Princeton and provide support not only with clients being served at Arukah but also being utilized, referred to by Princeton Police Department.

There are 4 referrals that we are just waiting on eligibility documents or work placements before enrolling them into the Program. These referrals have come from either Perfectly Flawed or the Recovery Homes in Dixon.

I have been attending Project OPEN quarterly meetings and networking with their team in hopes to connect better with Probations, Drug Courts, and local Law Enforcement that are in Whiteside, Lee, and Ogle Counties. By attending the CPASA committee and C5 Rural Consortium meetings, I am able to network with these same agencies in Bureau, LaSalle, and Putnam Counties.

We are still working with NCAT, BPART, and LOTS to provide Transportation for clients that are in need. We have been able to provide this supportive service to 3 of our impacted participants.

The Peer Support Specialist placed at Perfectly Flawed has earned many certifications to help promote/support her position and the Opioid Grant was able to help provide support in training for most of these that she wasn't able to find online for free. We also provided certifications in

Forklift Training and GermPro Sanitation to an impacted participant that is working with Badge A Minit.

I am working with Perfectly Flawed, Arukah, and Project OPEN asking if they would provide Letters of Support to prove that the extension of this Opioid Grant is greatly needed for another year – June 2022.

- Apprenticeship Expansion Grant Update (See report from Dianna Schuler below)

Our next sector event is scheduled for February 10th at 9am and will be with the Ag/Agri-Business Sector. Remaining sectors to schedule include Logistics and Hospitality. Those will be schedule in the coming weeks.

Since our last report we have meet with a total of 117 individuals/companies either one on one or through our group events. We've held a total of 4 events, an increase of 3 since our September report to DCEO. Those events had a total of 71 participants, an increase of 56 since September's DCEO report. In January we met with River Bend High School in Fulton and a local manufacturer (Timken) to assist the high school with their development of a Registered Youth Apprenticeship Program. Although the high school decided to sign on with an existing program through Iowa, we can take satisfaction in knowing that we were able to assist them in connecting with an interested participating employer. Furthermore, our contact with Timken has opened the door to other possibilities including incumbent worker training. The week of February 1st we met with Galena Spoon Company. Although the company isn't really looking to commit to a full time apprenticeship program, we were able to connect the owner to our Business Relations Rep and a representative from IDES to help the company recruit a part time employee for as needed help. February 8th we will be scheduled to meet with Forster Products in Lanark. The owners are planning to expand their market and thus their productivity and have expressed excitement about the possibility of an apprenticeship program to attract employees. They currently have an aging workforce and will need to do some demand planning to fulfil their talent pipeline.

In addition to the establishment of new and expansion of existing apprenticeship programs, the grant is also focused on expanding the number of registered apprentices in our region by 20. It allows us to count any first year apprentice that we may have worked with through our Title 1 funding and we can count those we served through Title 1 since July 1, 2019. Thus far we have served 16 first year apprentices through Incumbent Worker Training for a total of \$22,610 in leveraged funding. We have reported such on our report to DCEO.

Nikelle and I will keep the board apprised of developments as they unfold

- Update on the 1E Small Business Grant (See Report from Dianna Schuler below)

Grant funding in the amount of \$303,123.35 that provides funding for 19 Local Workforce Area businesses to defray costs incurred due to layoff aversion. Three of the companies that were awarded grant funding to offset costs have declined and one business remains to be reimbursed at this time.

- Partner Updates/Success Stories (Page 47) (Carrie Folken) - FYI

Public Comments / Recognition of Guests

Adjournment