

Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works)
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
12:00 Noon

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REVISED AGENDA

Call to Order (Linda Burt / Cary Robbins)

Roll Call

Chair Comments

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 (March 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes) (**Page 1**)
- Youth Committee (April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes) (**Page 7**)
 - Approval to Extend Youth Contract with Bureau, Henry Stark Regional Office of Education
 - Approval to Extend Youth Contract with Regional Office of Education #35
 - Approval to Extend Youth Contract with Regional Office of Education #47
- Targeted Population Committee (April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes) (**Page 11**)

Business Meeting

Oversight Committee (Gerald Waszkowiak)

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports January & February 2021 (*Action Item*) (**Page 15**)
- Review & Approval of 3rd Quarter Performance Report (*Action Item*) (**Page 23**)
- Review of the Partner Report (*Action Item*) (**Page 24**)
- Approval to recertify the following IL Valley Community College Training Programs (effective 11/01/2020) (*Action Item*)
 - Advanced Automotive Technology

- Agricultural Business Management
 - Auto Brakes, Suspension Alignment
 - Basic Automotive Technology
 - Certified Nursing Assistant
 - Certified Nursing Assistant Refresher Course
 - Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator
 - Driveability
 - Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
 - Engine Performance
 - Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Certificate
 - Industrial Maintenance Certificate
 - Machinist Tool Die Certificate
 - Medical Administrative Assistant
 - Nursing (RN)
 - Phlebotomy Certificate
 - Practical Nursing
 - Process Operation Technology
 - TDT Equipment Refresher Training
 - Truck Driving Training Advanced Proficiency Certificate
 - Welding Advanced Construction Certificate
 - Welding Basic Construction Certificate
 - Welding Production Certificate
 - Certified Nursing Assistant
- Approval to recertify the following Sauk Valley Community College Training Programs
 - Pharmacy Technician Program with Clinical Externship

Other Business

- Review & Approval of PY 21 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Document (Page 25) & One Stop System Budget (Page 64) (*Action Item*)
- Requesting approval for a modification to the PY 20 WIOA formula grant to increase Dislocated Worker funding in the amount of \$107,177 (per DCEO revised Dislocated Worker formula allocations to incorporate an additional \$3 million in Statewide Rapid Response funding to support the provision of career and training services over the next 15 months due to the impact of COVID 19). (*Action Item*)
- Requesting approval to include an additional \$8,177.77 in reallocated Dislocated Worker funding to the modification (above), and also to request approval to include any Incentive Funds that may be awarded this year to the modification or a subsequent modification if it should become necessary. Last year Incentive Funds in the amount of \$26,032.00 were rolled into the WIOA grant. Previously the procedure was to award those funds in a separate Incentive Grant. (*Action Item*)
- Requesting approval to modify the Opioid Grant in the event that we have to ask for additional money from DCEO before the next incremental funding is granted. (*Action Item*)

- Requesting approval to establish and submit WIOA Grant #PY21-681004 for the period 07/01/21-06/30/23 (*Action Item*)
- Computer Purchase Request (**Page 73**) (*Action Item*)
- Opioid Grant Update (See Report from Kerri Hicks below)

The Opioid Dislocated Worker Grant currently has 8 impacted participants enrolled into a Paid Work Experience throughout the 8 County Territory. We have 1 that has moved from a Paid Work Experience to an OJT with Perfectly Flawed. She had started as a Peer Support Specialist and is now the Peer Coordinator and running the Mobile Wellness Outreach Van that Perfectly Flawed was able to obtain through another Grant. We are working with 2 inquirants on completing their intake process and then will be placing them with worksites in the Whiteside County. These impacted participants were referrals from Sinnissippi Center Recovery Homes.

Kim, our Education Coordinator has been working closely with our Southern Territory Job Coach with leads on possible 2nd Chance Employers in the Bureau, LaSalle, and Putnam Counties. Over the duration of the Grant, Kim has built great relationships with our Clients and 2nd Chance Employers. Our partnership with Perfectly Flawed, has been able to provide an OJT that was mentioned above, in addition to bringing on a Mobile Outreach Specialist that helps to support the Peer Coordinator. This Mobile Outreach Van covers both Bureau and LaSalle Counties.

Both Job Coaches, Stephanie and Laurie have been doing an outstanding job with Case Management and trying to avoid any gaps in services with referrals. This of course, has not been an easy process with COVID. They continue to contact potential 2nd Chance Employers and provide great “interviews” to referrals.

Transportation Providers - NCAT, LOTS, and BPART are still being utilized and been a tremendous supportive service to our Clients.

I have been attending monthly meetings with CPASA, C5 Rural, and Project OPEN. By being a part of these Coalitions, it has provided a great network opportunity for reaching out to possible 2nd Chance Employers and potential Clients. I also attend additional workgroup meetings for both C5 Rural and Project OPEN that help to support the mission of Workforce Development, identifying Social Determinants, and the Recovery Process.

With things slowly starting to open back up, we are seeing an uptick in inquiries both from 2nd Chance Employers and potential candidates for the Grant.

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

Our most recent sector event was held on March 25th at 9am with the Logistics Sector (including manufacturers with logistics divisions). Twenty-six (26) companies were invited. Remaining sector to schedule is Hospitality. Hospitality will be schedule in the coming weeks.

Since our last report we have meet with a total of 140 individuals/companies either one on one or through our group events. We’ve held a total of 6 events with a total of 140 participants. Since February we held the Ag/Agri Business event and on February 8th we met 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. Follow up with Forster is ongoing. We have also met with GrainCo following the Ag/Agri Business event and are working with them to see how their current internship program can be converted to an apprenticeship program. We have had 3 meetings with Elliot Aviation. They would like to see their technicians, cabinet makers and upholsters in apprenticeship programs. They do customization of Cessna airplanes. Because they are in Rock Island County we have been working with the DOL Apprenticeship rep from Iowa along with the company. They are currently looking for possible training providers that will fit their needs and then we will regroup to finalize their programs, assuming they can find a training provider that is conveniently located for them.

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. We currently have 3 more in our regular WIOA funding incumbent worker training program that we will not be able to count toward our 20. The company that these additional 3 apprentices work for have to re-sign their standards since they recently made a change in the provider for their welding component.

We are currently in the process of drafting our most success story for the quarter ending March 31st. Which is a requirement of the grant.

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)

Of the 19 companies benefiting from this grant, 3 decided to not receive the funding after their approval, 15 have been reimbursed for their expenses, and 1 still has documentation to submit to us. We expect the last company will be in a position to close out by the end of April. We are hoping to be able to close this grant out early. Two success stories have been submitted to BEST Board for this grant along with the expressed appreciation from Ramza Insurance in Streator and Ottawa

- Partner Updates/Success Stories ([Page 75](#)) (Carrie Folken) - FYI

Illinois Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security supports economic stability and encourages economic growth in Illinois by providing Employment Services to Illinois residents and employers, analyzes and disseminates essential Labor Market information and administers Unemployment Insurance programs. We also ensure that eligible individuals receive the unemployment benefits to which they are entitled. The Department also protects taxpayers against waste, fraud and abuse by ensuring the integrity of wage reports and unemployment claims.

Additionally, in the local Illinois Department of Employment Security Office, we make supportive service referrals to our partner agencies, depending on the needs and interests that our claimants disclose to us while we are assisting them.

Public Comments / Recognition of Guests

Adjournment