

**Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works)  
Zoom Meeting  
Tuesday, July 6, 2021  
12:00 Noon**

**Join Zoom Meeting  
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## **AGENDA**

Call to Order (Linda Burt / Cary Robbins)

Roll Call

Chair Comments

Introduction of New Member (William Keene)

### **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 (May 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes) ([Page 1](#))
- NCI Works Executive Committee (May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes) ([Page 12](#))
- Employer Engagement Committee (June 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes) ([Page 14](#))
- Business Liaison & Marketing Committee (June 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes) ([Page 17](#))
- Youth Committee (April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes) ([Page 20](#))

### **Business Meeting**

Oversight Committee (Gerald Waszkowiak)

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports March & April 2021 (*Action Item*) ([Page 24](#))
- Approval to Certify 160 Hour CDL Program with Midwest Safe Driving School (*Action Item*) ([Page 32](#))
- State of Illinois Demand Occupational Training List. Request to Petition Training Programs to the State. (*Action Item*)

## Other Business

- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Carrie Folken) (*Possible Action Item*)
- Opioid Grant Update (See Report from Kerri Hicks below)

The Opioid Dislocated Worker Grant currently has 9 impacted participants enrolled into a Paid Work Experience throughout the 8 County Territory. We have 2 that have moved from a Paid Work Experience to an OJT with Perfectly Flawed and IVAR. Perfectly Flawed client went from Peer Support Specialist to their Peer Support Coordinator. IVAR has gone from Maintenance crew member to Shift Supervisor. We will also soon be moving to an OJT for our Education Coordinator that is placed at Perfectly Flawed and she will become their Program Manager, this is expected to occur in June.

One of the Grants that Perfectly Flawed was awarded, helped them to purchase a Van. They are using this for their Mobile Outreach program, which we were able to place an impacted participant at their site as their Mobile Outreach Specialist. By providing this service, they are then able to support Bureau, LaSalle, and Putnam Counties with the resources needed in Harm Reduction. This Mobile Outreach has also created a great partnership with Arukah Institute of Healing that has also provided placement for 2 Peer Support Specialists at that worksite and working closely with our Local Police Department.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, my Northern Job Coach – Laurie Free had left the Program due to personal reasons. At this time, we have not found anyone to replace this position.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we were made aware that there was no further funding till potentially June 6<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we then decided to co-enroll 6 participants into WIOA services. While I am still receiving applications from potential candidates, I am just reviewing to see if they meet BEST qualifications and enroll from there or if they meet Opioid Grant. If they qualify for Grant only, then we work with them on resources that they could seek till we can provide them a work placement. This partnership has been working well with Perfectly Flawed, as they are able to provide many of our potential referrals for volunteer work till we can place elsewhere when funding comes in.

Supportive Services that our Clients receive are in Transportation and Training. Many have taken advantage of Certifications that the Employers require for their current position or even to help promote their occupation.

I am still 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

We have had 24 participants total in the Opioid Grant to date.

We have submitted the modification for the second round of funding through DCEO. We are waiting for the approval from the Department of Labor but in the meantime, all the paperwork is being submitted to DCEO so that once DOL approves we will have a short turnaround time.

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

We have met with a total of 138 individuals/companies either one on one or through our group events. We've held a total of 6 sector events. We are looking to late summer to hold Hospitality since summer should be their busiest time of the year. We thought we'd see how well they do after the year of CoVid restrictions and thought that late summer might give them, and us, the best idea of how an apprenticeship could help those in the hospitality sector.

GrainCo received their final set of standards in May to review and sign off on and we are waiting to hear that they have done so. This will be our first official success.

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 recently had 3 more in our regular WIOA funded incumbent worker training program that we hope to be able to count. The company these additional 3 apprentices work for had to re-sign their standards since they recently made a change in the provider for their welding component, they signed in May. A question was submitted to DCEO on May 28<sup>th</sup>, with a follow up on June 4<sup>th</sup>, to verify if we can indeed count these additional employees on our reporting.

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

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

#### From the Sterling BEST, Inc. Office

Andrew was laid off from his job in the manufacturing sector in September of 2019. He came to the BEST, Inc. office in Sterling in December of that year to inquire about getting assistance with tuition and fees for welding classes at Sauk Valley Community College.

As a dislocated worker, Andrew qualified for financial assistance and was able to enroll in the welding program at Sauk in January of 2020. He did very well in his classes from the start. And when the pandemic caused his training to be delayed a few months, he persevered and picked up where he left off when classes started again.

Andrew eventually earned certificates in entry level welding, advanced welding, and robotic welding and graduated from Sauk in December of 2020. He was hired to work at Astec Mobile Screens in Sterling in February of 2021 and is still employed there.

- Discussion of Future Meetings as the Executive Order for remote meetings expires July 24, 2021

NCI Works Meeting Schedule:

September 28, 2021  
November 23, 2021  
March 22, 2022  
May 24, 2022

NCI Works Executive Committee Meeting Schedule:

- January 25, 2022  
July 26, 2022

Employer Engagement Committee meets on the first Tuesday of August, October, December, February, April and June

Business Liaison & Marketing Committee meets on the first Wednesday of Tuesday of August, October, December, February, April and June

Youth Committee meets on the second Tuesday of Tuesday of August, October, December, February, April and June

Targeted Population Committee meets on the third Wednesday of Tuesday of August, October, December, February, April and June

Public Comments / Recognition of Guests

Adjournment