

Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works)  
Zoom Meeting  
Tuesday, September 7, 2021  
12:00 Noon

**Join Zoom Meeting**  
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## 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 (July 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes) (Page 1)
- Employer Engagement/Targeted Population Workgroup (August 3, 2021 Discussion) (Page 7)

### **Business Meeting**

Oversight Committee (Gerald Waszkowiak)

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports May & June 2021 (*Action Item*) (Page 10)
- Review & Approval of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Partner Report (*Action Item*) (Page 18)
- Review & Approval of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Performance Report (*Action Item*) (Page 19)
- Approval to Recertify Training Programs (*Action Item*) (Page 20)

Illinois Valley Community College

- Advanced Renewable Energy Technician Certificate
- Agricultural Business Management
- Agronomy AAS
- Basic Dental Office Management Certificate

- Business Management
- Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator
- Cybersecurity Associate in Applied Science Degree
- Cybersecurity Certificate
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Certificate
- Phlebotomy Certificate
- Process Operation Technology
- Renewable Energy Technician Certificate

#### Morrison Institute of Technology

- Engineering Technology

#### Sauk Valley Community College

- Agricultural Mechanics
- Agriculture Business
- Agriculture Production Technology
- Electronics: Industrial
- Entrepreneurship & Small Business Management
- Multicraft Technology

#### **Other Business**

- Request to establish Trade Grant (20-661004) (Annette Pace) (*Action Item*)
- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Carrie Folken) (*Possible Action Item*)
- One Stop Partner Update (Rhonda Krueger)
- One Stop Center Reopening Plans (**Page 77**) (Carrie Folken)
- PY 20 Youth Program Update (**Page 84**) (Carrie Folken)
- Opioid Grant Update (See Report from Kerri Hicks below)

The Opioid Dislocated Worker Grant has had a total of 24 participants since starting in November 2019. I have not been able to place any new participants into the Grant since May/June due to lack of funding. This first lack of funds, occurred in April and we were able to transfer 6 of our Individuals to WIOA services, keeping the few others in the Grant in the active Paid Work Experiences.

The Grant's initial end date was 6/30/2021, which the few remaining impacted participants then completed their Paid Work Experience and all but 1 Participant were hired on directly with that Employer. They are working Full-Time and receiving benefits. We do still have 1 active OJT with Perfectly Flawed.

Any referrals that are coming my direction, I am just reviewing all Pre-Applications with both Opioid Grant criteria and BEST qualifications. I have placed 3 clients currently in WIOA services at Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery, this is a worksite that was established during the Opioid Grant.

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

We have meet with a total of 142 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 has signed their set of standards and anticipates their first apprentice starting this fall in classroom training (related training instruction). This is be our first official success and we have posted a success story on Illinois workNet. GrainCo is located in Ottawa.

Sauk Valley Community College/WACC/Fulton High School (River Bend High School) have entered into a partnership on a set of standards that would be administered by SVCC. These standards are for Maintenance Electrician and is an outgrowth of River Bend High School's effort to establish a Registered Youth Apprenticeship. This program will actually be available to River Bend students, WAC students and any adult apprentices at participating employers. Whenever a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (such as a school, college, or workforce area) holds the standard, DOL expects at least 1 participating employer to also sign onto the program for the OJT portion of the training. As of right now (July 28<sup>th</sup>) there are no participating employers. BEST has offered to assist in recruiting interested businesses for Sauk's program.

Plastic Products, a manufacturer in Rock Island County, is moving quickly to establish a program for their tool and die employees. They are working through Eastern Iowa Community College, a 3<sup>rd</sup> party intermediary, to sign on to their program. The program is already developed and meets the company's needs so we expect that this will be up and running within a few months at most.

Nikelle has reached out to the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce to have a discussion about "Why Apprenticeships" (our moto basically). Jeff Hettrick, the Director of the chamber, has expressed his desire to know more, including about 3<sup>rd</sup> party intermediaries/sponsors, about apprenticeship programs. He believe some of his members might be able to benefit.

As previously reported, 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. We

are still waiting to hear back on this question along with some other questions concerning our budget and if we can charge regular staff time to it in order to spend it down.

- **Department of Commerce (DCEO) Monitoring**

DCEO Program and Fiscal monitoring for PY 20 completed on July 8<sup>th</sup> and a soft exit interview was conducted. The State Monitors were very appreciated of all the work the staff did to help make this electronic review such a success. We had the official exit interview on August 2 with the DCEO letter to follow. We were given the findings to address and to submit the corrections to the State within 10 days of the letter. As the State said, they had a very easy time getting through all the files and didn't really see any red flags, there were some data validation corrections that staff were addressing the corrections and submitting them. Fiscal had no findings in their review.

- Partner Updates/Success Stories

- BEST Success Stories ([Page 87](#))
- Sauk Valley Community College Adult Education FY 21 Overview ([Page 105](#))

- NCI Works Membership List ([Page 106](#))

- NCI Works Meeting Schedule:

November 2, 2021  
March 1, 2022  
May 3, 2022  
September 6, 2022

NCI Works Executive Committee Meeting Schedule:

January 4, 2022  
July 5, 2022

Public Comments / Recognition of Guests

Adjournment