

**Youth Committee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2021**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Zoom Meeting was called to order at 4:0 p.m. by Chair Teresa Strum. Roll call was taken.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Tera Armstrong		X	Beth Hubbard	X	
Jim Carlson		X	Aurora Medina		X
Emlee Dooley	X		Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble	X	
Abby Farrell		X	Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		X

Others Present: Carrie Folken, Jo Ann Johnson, Randy Freeman, Mary Ann Rice, Rachel Curry

Teresa welcomed everyone and asked Mary Ann and Rachel to introduce themselves to members. Both Mary Ann and Rachel are employees of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Carrie informed members that Jill Guynn has stepped down from the Youth Committee and Beth Dellatori has joined the committee representing the University of Illinois Extension Service.

Carrie also informed members that Sally Hanrahan will be a few minutes late for the meeting as she was experience car problems.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kris Nobel motioned to approve the April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Beth Hubbard. Roll call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Tera Armstrong			Beth Hubbard	X	
Jim Carlson			Aurora Medina		
Emlee Dooley	X		Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble	X	
Abby Farrell			Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		

Motion carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Carrie Folken provided members with information regarding the Career Preparation and Life Skills programs. She said that a workshop was done for the customer service industry. Abby Farrell was the employer that provided students with information as to what employers are looking for in an employee and the types of skills and experience that is needed. Carrie told members that the workshop went very well and the students really enjoyed it.

Teresa commented that Sally would be touching base with the schools about their interest in participating in the Career Preparation and Life Skills program next school year.

Update on Current Youth Providers

Carrie informed members that the update on the Current Youth Providers was sent to members under separate cover. She said that the reporting period is from July 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. Carrie said that there were no real surprises regarding the decreased numbers but overall all providers did a great job recruiting and serving students. She told members that all of the providers we are contracted with have a commitment to youth.

Carrie told members that Sally would be providing the year end results at the next Youth Committee meeting.

Teresa asked if we expect to see an increase in numbers for next Program Year. Carrie responded “yes” and that some of the providers have already begun to contact youth especially with the credit recovery programs. She said that some students struggled this past year with remote learning and were not able to receive all of the high school credits. Beth echoed Carrie’s comments by saying that she has already received phone calls from schools about students that fell behind last year. Teresa asked if the students would have anxiety issues being back at school. Sarah commented that was her concern especially with retaining them and keeping them focused. Carrie asked if anyone was working on strategies or best practices that might work or are the schools doing anything to train students differently? Kris pointed out that some of the trauma students in the Whiteside County area falls in line with some of their other challenges. She commented that schools will be passing students who will have a difficult time catching up. Teresa stated that the future is unknown for the students receiving opioids to help with the anxiety.

Update on PY 21 Youth Providers Contract Negotiations

Carrie informed members that contract negotiations were held with the 3 current youth providers for Program Year 2021 which will start on July 1, 2021. She told members that the comments from the reviewers were negotiated as part of the contract extension. Carrie said that copies of the contracts will be mailed to each of the providers for their signatures this week and will be in place to start on July 1, 2021.

Youth Work-Based Learning Expenditure

Carrie told members that a strong emphasis is on Youth Work-Based Learning and reminded members that we are required to meet 20% expenditure rate for each Program Year. For Program Year 19, the expenditure rate is 23.1%. Carrie reported that the expenditure rate for Program Year 20 does not need to be met until June 2022.

Other Business

Member Updates

Carrie shared with members a youth project that the BEST staff have been discussing in regards to work-based learning. She said that some employers are apprehensive about having youth at their worksites especially if they do not have supervision for them all of the time. The project that the staff are discussing is having youth work doing different tasks such as community gardens, curb painting, etc. as a team so that they are able to learn a skill while being supervised. Carrie said that the project is in the beginning phases of discussion.

Sarah reported that Sauk Valley Community College had an in-person GED graduation in May that included some of Beth's students. Sarah told members that the ceremony was about an hour and a half long since several of the students talked about how the program helped them succeed. The event, Sarah said was also live-streamed and posted to the YouTube channel.

Kris informed members that the Sauk Valley Area Chamber of Commerce is working with BEST and Sauk Valley Community College to post the information that they gathered from businesses as to the types of education and skills needed for specific jobs at their facilities. She said that the videos will be housed on the Sauk Valley Chamber website and shared with schools, libraries, etc. in the fall. Kris said that they will continue to grow the library so that the education community can have access to the various business and types of careers that are available.

Randy commented that he has a personal interest in the youth projects. He told members that he shared information regarding all of the programs with the LaSalle County Board members so that they are informed about the different programs available in the counties.

Mary Ann Rice and Rachel Curry with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation provided members with information about the youth programs they have available. They also shared some information about the eligibility of their programs noting that if anyone had anyone a customer that they thought might be eligible or in need of their services to give them a call. They did say that although the office is closed to the general public, they are receiving phone calls and told members to leave a message and one of them would return their call.

Beth Dellatori told members that the 4H Fair would be held in person this year. She also said that a summer camp will be held at Rotary Park in LaSalle that will afford youth an opportunity to learn about live animals, sports, nutrition, etc. Beth said that the UI Extension is also partnering with the Girl Scouts on STEM projects. Beth also told members that the UI Extension had difficulty getting into schools during the pandemic so they developed virtual training on

STEM, Building Your Future, How to Read a Label, Live on a Budget and Health Rocks. These virtual learning aids will be shared with schools and libraries.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Kris Noble motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Emlee Dooley and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson