

Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works)
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
12:00 Noon

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AGENDA

Call to Order (Linda Burt / Cary Robbins)

Roll Call

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 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes) (Page 1)
- NCI Works Executive Committee (July 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes) (Page 12)
 - ✓ Employer Engagement Committee (June 7, 2022 Meeting Report)
 - ✓ Approval of the Financial Reports (March & April 2022)
 - ✓ Approval to Recertify Program with Castor
 - ✓ Approval to Recertify Programs with IVCC
 - ✓ Approval of the PY 22 Local Plan
 - ✓ Approval of the PY 22 EDR 5 Regional Plan
 - ✓ Approval of the PY 22 EDR 6 Regional Plan
 - ✓ Approval of the PY 22 Budget
- Business Liaison & Marketing Committee (July 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes) (Page 17)
 - ✓ Approval of Individual Achievement Award Winner – Shayna Miranda
 - ✓ Approval of Business Leadership Award Winner – Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce
- Employer Engagement Committee (August 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes) (Page 19)
- Youth Committee (August 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes) (Page 22)

Business Meeting

Oversight Committee (Gerald Waszkowiak)

- Approval of the Financial Reports May & June 2022 (*Action Item*) (Page 26)
- Approval of 4rd Quarter Partner Report (*Action Item*) (Page 34)
- Approval of 4th Quarter Title I B Performance Report (*Action Item*) (Page 35)
- Review of the Partner Referral Report (Page 36)
- Review of Potential Training Provider (*Action Item*) (Page 37)

Targeted Population Committee (Vanessa Hoffeditz) (*Action Item*) (Page 46)

Requesting assistance in prioritizing initiatives:

1. Developing an education program for area employers on the targeted population
2. Identify and develop a public service matrix for the targeted population
3. Develop material that provides information addressing the fear of losing benefits

Other Business

- Reappointment of NCI Works Members

The following NCI Works members were reappointed to a 3 year term effective October 1, 2022

Sara Escatel	Randy Freeman	Janet Graham
William Keene	Patricia Head	Linda Hessenberger
Rhonda Krueger	Terry McGuire	Dwayne Mentgen
Len Saunders	Kevin Reibel	John Spencer
Teresa Strum		

- Approval of the Trade Grant Modification (Annette Pace) (*Action Item*)
Requesting a modification to the Trade Grant to allow for an additional enrollment
- Request to establish Trade Grant (21-661004) (Annette Pace) (*Action Item*)
- Approval of the PY 22-23 Performance Negotiating Team (Carrie Folken) (*Action Item*)
- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Carrie Folken) (*Possible Action Item*)
- PY 21 Youth Program Update (Page 48) (Carrie Folken)

- Department of Commerce (DCEO) Monitoring (Carrie Folken)

DCEO Program and Fiscal monitoring for PY 21 was completed with our exit interview conducted on August 30th the DCEO letter to follow. The State Monitors were very appreciative of all the work the staff did to help make this electronic review such a success. We were given the findings to address and to submit the corrections to the State within 30 days of the letter. Most of the areas that needed attention were for data validation and not programmatic errors. These are considered clerical errors. Fiscal had no findings in their review.

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

Final report of the Opioid Dislocated Workers Grant, there were a total of 29 participants since starting in November 2019. All of these participants have been exited from the Grant with 10 placed into Employment and 2 are still being provided additional services through WIOA – BEST Office in Whiteside County.

2 OJT's were completed with Perfectly Flawed which helped to support their placement of a Program Manager and Peer Coordinator into Full-Time employment on December 1st and July 1st.

3 participants that were working in a Paid Work Experience at Lutheran Social Services in Sterling are now Full-Time employed with benefits as of July 1st as Peer Support Specialists.

I am still in constant contact with Perfectly Flawed and Arukah Institute of Healing where they are providing referrals for our services. These Organizations cover LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam Counties. I review them and if they are eligible for BEST Program, then I provide the contact with the correct Career Advisor for their County.

The Opioid Dislocated Workers Grant was able to support the evidence that there needed to be more training available to our Participants in Counseling for SUD (Substance Use Disorder) and OUD (Opioid Use Disorder). These services had not been part of our Training Provider List previously. Now, with these occupations currently added, I am working with a Client to further her Education in CADC (counselor of alcohol and drug counseling), she will be starting this Training by end of year.

The Grant had provided some amazing opportunities to many that had been impacted by the Opioid Crisis whether themselves or by family member or friend. These relationships with these Clients was an awesome experience and though there were many hiccups (mainly experienced by the Grant itself) I am pleased by how many lives we were able to assist, plant the seed with and help to break their generational cycles.

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

We have meet with a total of 179 individuals/companies either one on one or through our group events. In our original apprenticeship grant proposal we anticipating developing 5 new programs and expanding 3. As of June 30th we realized the expansion of 1 program and our 5th new one is finalizing their standards with US DOL.

The grant period ended June 30, 2022.

Our plan is to continue to promote apprenticeships and are currently working with Martin Engineering to establish some new programs for them through an online provider Tooling U and RCBI Institute. Martin continues to assess where additional apprenticeship programs will fit within their organizations. The efforts with Putnam County High School, which would like to establish a number of Youth Registered Apprenticeship opportunities for their juniors and seniors, will begin with the school surveying the students on their areas of interest and the Illinois Valley Chamber reaching out to area businesses on their interest in signing on as participating employers. BEST will continue to be available to provide technical assistance and linkage to US DOL.

While we had hoped that Label Mills would actually sign their standard before the end of the grant period, we are happy to report that the training outline has been finalized with Highland Community College and the company has tweaked their OJT portion with DOL assistance. We counted this as a success since the bulk of the work had taken place within the grant period. The only thing left as of June 30th was DOL review and approval/signature.

During our most recent regional business services team meeting we announced the end of the grant period. However, with no other workforce area having anyone on staff with experience with apprenticeships, I did offer to lend them any assistance they might need with a company interested in developing or expanding their interest in apprenticeship. With Nikelle's help, we have managed to establish and maintain a very strong working relationship with Dr. Nakeya Womack, our current DOL Office of Apprenticeship representative, so offering to be that liaison for areas 3 and 13 (region 5 and 6 respectively) seemed to be a natural extension of the efforts we established during the grant period.

- Success Stories
 - BEST Success Stories (Page 51)
- NCI Works Meeting Schedule:

November 1, 2022

Public Comments / Recognition of Guests

Adjournment