

**Youth Committee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2022**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Zoom Meeting was called to order by Chair Teresa Strum at 4:02 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Lyndsay Bliss		X	Rob Lentz	X	
Jim Carlson		X	Aurora Medina		X
Rachel Curry	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Emlee Dooley		X	Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble		X
Abby Farrell	X		Maryann Rice	X	
Randy Freeman	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		X
Beth Hubbard	X				

Others Present: Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the February 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Sarah McFarlane. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss			Rob Lentz	X	
Jim Carlson			Aurora Medina		
Rachel Curry	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Emlee Dooley			Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble		
Abby Farrell	X		Maryann Rice	X	
Randy Freeman	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		
Beth Hubbard	X				

Motion carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that she will be meeting with the students at the Safe School in Peru one more time this school year. She said that she brought in some employers this year to talk with the students about different careers and what employers are looking for in employees. Sally said that the program went very well this year and will probably be back next school year.

Update on PY 21 Youth Providers

Sally told members that the update (7/1/2021 – 03/31/2022) on Current Youth Providers was included with the meeting materials. She said that the 2 GED programs are behind in new enrollments for their respective programs. Sally noted that for some reason those that need their HSE/GED are not coming in for services. Sarah agreed. Sally told members that programs have seen an increase in traffic and calls. Sally reported that the Regional Office of Education program for LaSalle/Putnam counties has been very busy with their credit recovery program as schools are taking advantage of that program.

Review & Approval of PY 22 Youth Providers

Sally then presented the Request for Proposals that were received for Program Year 22 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). She told members that 4 providers submitted a proposal and provided an overview of each of them for members. Sally told members that there were 6 readers/raters with 3 of them being from the BEST, Inc. staff, one from the Youth Committee and 2 Partners from NCI Works.

Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education

Sally told members that the Step Ahead program is the same project that they have had for a number of years. They assist students in Bureau County to obtain their HSE/GED. Staff from the Regional Office of Education go to the local libraries to meet with the students. At that time, Sally said, they disseminate career information and once they get their HSE/GED they work with them on either returning to school to further their education/career or find employment. Sally said that they also work with the students on resume writing. Sally told members that 5 out of 6 readers/raters recommended funding this proposal based upon contract negotiations. Sally informed members that the reason the one person did not recommend funding is because they felt they had to pick one out of the 4 projects and not that they were concerned about the project. The Step Ahead program did not change their Scope of Work from previous years, Sally said. She also noted that it is an expensive program due to traveling to the rural communities to meet with students.

Randy Freeman motioned to approve the Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education program for PY 22 based upon contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Abby Farrell. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss			Rob Lentz	X	
Jim Carlson			Aurora Medina		
Rachel Curry	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Emlee Dooley			Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble		
Abby Farrell	X		Maryann Rice	X	
Randy Freeman	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		
Beth Hubbard					

Beth Hubbard abstained from discussion and voting due to her submission of a Request for Proposal. Motion carried.

Regional Office of Education #35

Sally informed members that the Regional Work Study Program is a credit recovery program that serves students who dropped out of High School in LaSalle and Putnam Counties. She said that they have sites at IL Valley Community College Ottawa Campus, IL Valley Community College Oglesby Campus and Mendota Library. Sally said that their Scope of Work has not changed from previous years and they are getting good successes from the program. She told members that they are expecting a lot of graduates in May and many of the students are also working. Sally said that Jim Carlson intends to work with the students on additional training and college preparation for those that are interested. Sally told members that all raters recommended approval of the Regional Work Study Program based on contract negotiations.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss			Rob Lentz	X	
Jim Carlson			Aurora Medina		
Rachel Curry	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Emlee Dooley			Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble		
Abby Farrell	X		Maryann Rice	X	
Randy Freeman	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		
Beth Hubbard					

Beth Hubbard abstained from discussion and voting due to her submission of a Request for Proposal. Motion carried.

Regional Office of Education #47

The Educational Outreach Program, Sally said, has been around for over 20 years. She said that the Educational Outreach Program is a HSE/GED preparation program that serves students in Lee, Whiteside and Ogle Counties. Services for the students are located at Wallace School (Sterling), Sauk Valley Community College, and the BEST, Inc. Office (Oregon). Sally told members that the Educational Outreach Program also includes job search assistance, supportive services, career counseling, follow-up services and a lot of one-on-one to assist the students succeed. Sally said that 5 out of the 6 readers/raters recommended approval of the Educational Outreach Program based on contact negotiations.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss			Rob Lentz	X	
Jim Carlson			Aurora Medina		
Rachel Curry	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Emlee Dooley			Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble		
Abby Farrell	X		Maryann Rice	X	
Randy Freeman	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		
Beth Hubbard					

Beth Hubbard abstained from discussion and voting due to her submission of a Request for Proposal.

Motion carried.

SRAVTE

Sally informed members that although this is the first year that SRAVTE has submitted a Request for Proposal, they have been around since the 1980s. Sally told members that their proposal is for a work-based learning class for in-school students. She said that the guidelines for the Request for Proposal stated that projects were to serve out-of-school youth and therefore they did not meet the specifications of the proposal. However, Sally did say that the readers liked the idea of the project. Sally did tell members that BEST, Inc. does work with in-school students and in theory we can provide opportunities for work experience to those that meet the federal guidelines. Sarah, as one of the readers, noted that she had some confusion as to when the program was going to start but thought that idea for this type of program was great.

Sally Hanrahan motioned to not approve the SRAVTE Project as it did not meet the minimum specifications of the RFP. Motion was seconded by Teresa Strum. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss			Rob Lentz	X	
Jim Carlson			Aurora Medina		
Rachel Curry	X		Dwayne Mentgen		
Emlee Dooley			Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth 'Dellatori	X		Kris Noble		
Abby Farrell	X		Maryann Rice	X	
Randy Freeman	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		
Beth Hubbard					

Beth Hubbard abstained from discussion and voting due to her submission of a Request for Proposal. Dwayne Mentgen abstained from discussion and voting as he submitted the SRAVTE Request for Proposal. Motion carried.

Other Business

Member Updates

Sarah informed members that Sauk Valley Community College is getting ready for the end of the school year. She said that the GED classes will be ending on June 30 and she has stopped accepting new students for this year. Sarah said at this point there are 11 GED graduates, but more are expected. The Awards Ceremony, Sarah said, will be held on May 19 at 6:00 p.m. with no restrictions. Sarah also commented that she is beginning to plan for next year.

Sally told members that BEST, Inc. is accepting applications for 16-24 year olds who need assistance with getting a job. She said that staff are also looking for worksites for both the summer and year round programs. Sally told members that planning is underway for the summer program and it is anticipated that a Youth Leadership Conference will be held this year.

Beth informed members that their program has seen an increase in students interested in work experience and job shadowing. Beth thanked Sarah for including the Regional Work Study Program students with the Sauk Valley Community College students for the Awards Ceremony in May. To date,

Beth told members that her program will have 14 GED graduates. Enrollments, Beth said, will stop at the end of the April.

Maryanne informed members that she and Rachel Curry will be participating in committee meetings until a supervisor is hired to assume the membership role.

Teresa told members that there are still openings in the AHEC Virtual Job Shadowing Program if anyone is interested. She also said that a virtual training option has been developed for high school and college students to view open heart surgery. Teresa said that this program will be conducted through a Zoom presentation and students will be allowed to ask questions of the medical staff during this process.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Randy Freeman motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Beth Hubbard. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson