

**Youth Committee (Virtual)  
Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2022**

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Lyndsay Bliss		X	Beth Hubbard	Proxy	
Jim Carlson	X		Terry McGuire	X	
Rachel Curry	X		Aurora Medina		
Emlee Dooley	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Beth Dellatori		X	Sarah McFarlane		X
Abby Farrell	X		Kris Noble	X	
Randy Freeman		X	Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		

Proxy: Beth Hubbard to Sally Hanrahan

**Others Present:** Carrie Folken, Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Emlee Dooley motioned to approve the April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Kris Noble. Roll Call vote was taken.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Lyndsay Bliss			Beth Hubbard	X	
Jim Carlson	X		Terry McGuire	X	
Rachel Curry	X		Aurora Medina		
Emlee Dooley	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Beth Dellatori			Sarah McFarlane		
Abby Farrell	X		Kris Noble	X	
Randy Freeman			Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		

Motion carried.

**Business Meeting**

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally reminded members that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program started a few years ago with the Safe School in Peru. She said that since then staff have been meeting monthly with the students providing them with information on careers and how to succeed in the workplace. Sally also told members that she recruits employers to visit with the students based on their interests. Since the

presentations coincide with the school year, Sally said that they will start going back to the Safe School probably in October. Sally asked members if they or someone they know would be willing to talk with these students sometime in the future. Kris Noble told members about the program that Sauk Valley Chamber is providing to students in her area similar to the one at the Safe School. The difference, Kris said is that their program is for 6-weeks and students are provided with a certificate of employability once the program is done. Kris said that she may have some businesses that may be interested in traveling to Peru to provide information for the students. She will let Sally know if anyone is interested. Abby Farrell volunteered Starved Rock Lodge & Convention Center staff to provide presentations. Sally commented that the students enjoyed the presentations done previously by Starved Rock Lodge staff. Sally commented that the number of students vary between 12 and 19. She said that it just depends on the month, presenter and topic. Emilee suggested Sally contact the Educators of Beauty as a possible presenter noting that some students may want to attend a vocational school.

Teresa commented that AHEC has plenty of seats available and offered to allow the students to attend the virtual job fair they offer.

#### Update on PY 21 Youth Providers

Sally provided members with an overview of the end of the year report for the PY 21 Youth Providers. The Education Outreach Program with the Regional Office of Education #47, Sally said, provides services to out of school youth between the ages of 17-24 who reside in Lee, Ogle or Whiteside Counties. She said that this program prepares students for their High School Equivalency Certificate as well as career readiness skills to help them secure and maintain employment. Sally told members that they planned to serve 30 new students during PY 21 but only served 20 new. The numbers, Sally said, were not as high as expected, but their program was successful for those that were enrolled. As a bright note, Sally said, that this year's program is getting a lot of interest.

The Regional Work Student program with LaSalle County Regional Office of Education, Sally said works with high school students that have dropped from school but want to earn a high school diploma from their district school. The program serves youth from LaSalle and Putnam Counties. Jim Carlson told members that 27 students received their high school diploma representing 5 different high schools. Jim said that he recently met with some of the students that will be returning and they are full of enthusiasm and have a positive attitude. He told members that staff meet with the students at the IVCC Ottawa Campus and Mendota Library. Jim also told members that their program had 5 students received their CNA certificate from IVCC while completing their credit recovery program. For PY 22, Jim said that staff are working with IVCC to see if some of the students can enroll in the nursing program pre-reqs. Sally commented that the number of students served by the Regional Work Study Program exceed their planned number which was great to see.

The Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education Program, Sally said, is a GED preparation program for individuals in Bureau County. Due to the rural nature of the county, instruction is provided, usually one-on-one, at the local library in each of the youth's community. Sally told members that in terms of the numbers served, they were lower than projected, but the program is doing okay.

Overall, Sally told members that the PY 21 Youth Programs did very well.

## Update on the PY 22 Youth Providers

Sally informed members that new contracts were entered into for PY 22 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) with the Regional Office of Education #47, LaSalle County Regional Office of Education and Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education. Sally provided an overview of the report noting that each of the programs will serve new enrollments plus carry-ins. She stated that carry-ins are broken out as to “active”, which means they are still attending the program; “case management” means that they received their diploma/certificate but need some additional support; and, “follow-up” means that they have been exited from the program but due to the legislation needs to be tracked to make sure they are doing okay. Sally then went on to provide the number of students to be served and contract amounts for each of the youth contracts.

- Education Outreach Program – Regional Office of Education #47 is planning to serve 117 students during PY 22. Contract \$182,935
- Regional Work Study Program – LaSalle County Regional Office of Education is planning to serve 75 students during PY 22. Contract \$125,075.84
- Step Ahead Program – Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education is planning to serve 35 students during PY 22. Contract \$83,357.25

Sally told members that some of the programs have not fully started yet as they coincide with the school year. She said that at the next Youth Committee meeting she will provide members with updated numbers.

## **Other Business**

### Member Updates

Teresa informed members that she will be attending the Illinois Rural Health Association Annual Educational Conference this week and is hoping to learn more opportunities to bring students in to health care. She said that she is excited to develop new partnerships from this Annual Conference.

Kris told members about she presented the Chamber’s pathways for young people at the National Chamber of Commerce’s Conference recently. She reiterated the need to share this information not only with students in the high schools but starting with the middle schools.

Kris informed members that the Sauk Valley Partnership sent letters to surrounding county governments and municipalities requesting for ARPA funds. She told members that they received \$30,000 from the City of Sterling to address truancy. She encouraged members to reach out to county governments and municipalities for funding as there is very few parameters to use the ARPA money.

Carrie informed members that the OSF Medical group and the 708 Board for Mental Health also submitted a request for ARPA funds and she will find out Thursday if their funding request was approved. She agreed with Kris saying that there is a lot of money available.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business Jim Carlson motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Terry McGuire and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson