

**Youth Committee (Virtual)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 11, 2022**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Teresa Strum at 4:00 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	X	
Jim Carlson	X		Aurora Medina		X
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		X

**Others Present:** Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Emlee Dooley motioned to approve the August 9, 2022 Youth Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan. 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		Aurora Medina		
Emlee Dooley	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Beth Dellatori			Sarah McFarlane	X	
Abby Farrell	X		Kris Noble	X	
Randy Freeman	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Justin Wiggins		

Motion carried.

**Business Meeting**

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that she will be going to the Safe School in Peru in about 2 weeks to provide the students with career information. Sally said that the Safe School is currently providing work readiness type of programs so she was asked to share information about careers and the trends going forward. She told members that she is going to give students a multiple choice questionnaire asking them about the interests and preferences of what types of careers they want to learn about. Sally said that local employers will provide information to students about careers and work expectations.

## Update on the PY 22 Youth Provides

Referring to the PY 22 Youth Providers report that was included with the meeting materials, Sally informed members that for the most part the programs have just started so numbers may be somewhat low. In regards to the Educational Outreach Program, Sally said that they are seeing an uptick in younger youth (age 16) interested in the program. Sally noted that students age 16 are not eligible for the program since they cannot test for their High School Equivalency until age 17. The key, Sally said, is to keep the students in school so that they can obtain their High School Diploma. Sarah McFarlane commented that she too has seen an increase in younger youth wanting to attend the Adult Education Program at Sauk Valley Community College. Members discussed the issue commenting that during the pandemic many students fell behind and are now being pressured to get their High School Diploma/Equivalency.

Sally informed members that the Regional Work Study Program with the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education did not start until after Labor Day which is why there were no enrollments on the report provided. Jim Carlson reported that as of today, they have 18 new enrollments in addition to the 13 students that were carried forward. Jim stated that some of the carry-in students have been placed on hold due to their lack of attendance. He told members that he will be reaching out to them to encourage their involvement to obtain their diploma. Sally asked Jim if the students enrolled were currently working or if they would need any type of Job Shadowing to help them succeed. Jim replied that most of them are working but he will make a note that the Job Shadowing program is an option. Emlee Dooley asked Jim about a possible enrollment for the Regional Work Study Program for a student that has only earned a half credit. Jim responded that the student should contact the Guidance Counselor to determine if the student would be better off staying in school or attending his program. He commented that most students who are enrolled in the Regional Work Study Program are only missing a few credits which will allow them to receive the High School Diploma in a short time frame.

## **Other Business**

### Member Updates

Kris Noble informed members that as part of the Whiteside County Healthy Choice program they received a grant of ARRA funds to help get kids back in school by addressing mental health issues. She stated that the school system is seeing more mental health issues and childhood trauma as students return to the school.

Randy Freeman commented that LaSalle County is also going through the distribution of ARRA funds.

Kris Noble asked Sarah and Beth if the reason they were seeing an the increase of seeing 16 year olds wanting to attend their High School Equivalency programs was due to the pandemic. Sarah replied that enrollment is up overall, but she is starting to see an increase in 16 year olds and she cannot provide the services they need and they lack motivation. Beth agreed with Sarah by saying that the 16 year olds are better off attending a full day of school so that they can stay engaged to complete and receive their diploma. Kris noted that many students are marked as

truants and yet they have not been in a school building. Overall, members expressed concern about the younger youth and the effects it has caused them.

Sarah McFarland informed members that Sauk Valley Community College is starting a Manufacturing Bridge program tomorrow. She said that it is an 8-week class with 7 enrollments. Sarah said that this program will give students an idea of what to expect in the manufacturing industry.

Kris mentioned that the Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce offers a Manufacturing Scholarship of \$500 that helps cover the costs employment expenses (clothing, boots, etc.) for an individual hired in a manufacturing position. Kris said that Sarah may want to let her students know that this opportunity is available to them upon completing of the program and starting a job in the manufacturing industry.

#### Public Comments

None

#### Adjournment

With there being no further business, Abby Farrell motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Randy Freeman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson