

**Youth Committee (Virtual)
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Teresa Strum at 4:05 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Lyndsay Bliss		X	Terry McGuire	X	
Jim Carlson			Aurora Medina		X
Emlee Dooley	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Sarah McFarlane	X	
Abby Farrell		X	Kris Noble	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Beth Hubbard	X		Justin Wiggins		X

Proxy: Jim Carlson to Sally Hanrahan

Others Present: Carrie Folken, Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Teresa Strum motioned to approve the October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Dwayne Mentgen. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss			Terry McGuire	X	
Jim Carlson	X		Aurora Medina		
Emlee Dooley	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Sarah McFarlane	X	
Abby Farrell			Kris Noble	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Beth Hubbard	X		Justin Wiggins		

Motion carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that speakers have been presenting to students at the Safe School. She told members that recently a representative from the Carpenter's Union was very interesting and the students were engaged with learning about the trade. Sally said that presentations will be given by HVAC, culinary and Carus Chemical in the coming months. Sally told members that the students this year seem to be interested and asks lots of questions.

Update on the PY 23 Youth Providers

Sally referred members to the Youth report that was included with the meeting materials. She said that the reported information was through December 31, 2022. Sally told members that she recently conducted mid-year monitoring and the numbers for all of the contracted programs are going well in comparison to the last 2 years.

Update on Request for Proposal (RFP) and Request to Extend Contract (RTEC) Proposal

Carrie informed members that the Request to Extend Contract for current providers was released on February 10. She said that the document was revised so that more details could be given in terms of successes and how they will relate to the performance measures of WIOA. Carrie said that staff have heard back from some of the providers that the fillable forms are easy to complete. Carrie told members that the Request to Extend Contract Proposals are due back on March 10.

Carrie also told members that the Request for Proposal for new programs was released today (February 14) with a due date of March 14. Carrie asked members if they would be interested in reading and rating the proposals and if so to let her or Jo Ann know. Sally Hanrahan, Sarah McFarlane, Teresa Strum and Dwayne Mentgen volunteered to read and rate the proposals.

Other Business

Member Updates

Kris Noble shared some information about a recent article she came across. She said that women are leaving the workforce at the highest rate since World War II. The issue appears to be related to the lack of available child care. However, the new data also showed that the number of men, ages 18-30, who are not working or are underemployed is growing. Kris said that they surveyed a group of young people and although she didn't have the report available, she recalls that the disparity between the view of underemployed males of their potential and those of college educated males is like null. The author of the article said that it is going to get worse unless we can capture these young men and let them know their value and that they do not need a four-year college degree to contribute to society and to make a living wage. Kris said a concern is finding those males and then engaging them. Most often, Kris said, these individuals are working for cash and living at home. The article, she said, did not mention if there were substance abuse or mental health issues. Kris said that when she finds the article she will pass it along to members as she found it to be very interesting.

Carrie told members that at a recent Chief Manufacturing Executives meeting there was great communication between the manufacturing executives and educators about some of the challenges they are facing. Carrie noted that they acknowledged that nothing was fixed, but it was a great discussion.

Sarah said that last fall Sauk Valley Community College ran a manufacturing bridge class and it started with 6 students that were between 17 and 20 years of age. By the end of 8 weeks, she said, they had to drop all the students because they were not showing up for class so no scholarships were awarded.

Teresa told members that one person she knows tried to attend college but was not good in math so he is no longer attending. The other person, she said, just not care to work on a regular basis. Teresa said that these individuals want to feel a part of the organization and want to be needed but she struggles with getting them to the door.

Sarah commented on a positive note that the GED program at Sauk Valley Community College enrollment is up. She said that they have eliminated virtual learning for GED learners. Sarah said that virtual learning does not work for them. They need a structured classroom setting. Since some students are still uncomfortable with the classroom setting, Sarah said that they are using smaller class sizes so that there is one-on-one learning opportunities for the students. Sarah said that students are struggling to make the transition to college or look into a better position in the workforce. She said that it should be easy since they are attending classes at the college, but it seems to be an uphill struggle. Carrie asked if it appeared that they cannot afford it. Sarah answered by saying she thinks that they feel they need a break and just cannot do it right now. Beth Hubbard agreed noting that she has ran into the same situation with her students. Beth said that it is a real frustration because the students have the ability but lack the confidence.

Beth Dellatori told members about the "Ready for Work" program that the University of Illinois Extension has that teaches students how to dress for an interview to make a good appearance, how to write a cover letter, develop a resume, etc. She said that maybe a solution is starting a bit earlier to teach them new skills. Beth told members that she has grant money available if members are interested in targeting younger youth on this topics.

Sally told members that BEST has 4 youth starting work soon and 3 of them are getting help with anxiety issues. Sally said that staff have been seeing an increase in anxiety issues over the past year. She said that the majority of them are either getting help or are aware that it is holding them back. Agreeing with other comments that were made, Sally said that youth with health challenges are OK with working part-time so using the work experience program to ease into work is a good fit.

Teresa told members that she oversees clinical nursing students and when they discuss goals, the students want to learn how to talk with patients. Teresa said that she found that goals somewhat surprising but it is something that the students want included in the goals. She said that we have a long way to go on a lot of different levels.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Sally Hanrahan motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Terry McGuire. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson