

**Youth Committee (Virtual)  
Meeting Minutes  
August 8, 2023**

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		Rob Lenz	X	
Jim Carlson	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Emlee Dooley		X	Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble	X	
Abby Farrell	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Aurora Medina		X	Robin Dedmond Thompson	X	

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

Approval of April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Abby Farrell. 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	X		Rob Lenz	X	
Jim Carlson	X		Dwayne Mentgen	X	
Emlee Dooley			Sarah McFarlane	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble	X	
Abby Farrell	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Teresa Strum	X	
Aurora Medina			Robin Dedmond Thompson	X	

Motion carried.

**Business Meeting**

Since there were new members on the Zoom call, everyone introduced themselves.

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally told members that the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program started a few years. She said that presentations are made to the students at the Safe School in Peru on a monthly basis. Sally said that employers are brought in to talk with students about different careers and soft skills that are needed to succeed in the workplace. Sally informed members that the Safe School is interested in having employers/speakers come in again this year starting in October. Lyndsay Bliss with Carus and Rob Lentz with Walmart offered to have employers make presentation at

the Safe School this year. Sally thanked them and said that she will make sure that they get the information.

### Work in the Real World Update

Sally informed members that Work in the Real World is tentatively being planned for November 3, 2023 at Sauk Valley Community College. She said that meetings are scheduled for the next few weeks so further information will be available at the next meeting. Teresa Strum said that she would like to be a part of the event this year. Sally said that she will keep everyone updated.

### PY 22 Youth Providers Report

Sally provided members with an overview of the end of the year report for PY 22 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 prepared students for their High School Equivalency Certificate as well as career readiness skills to help them maintain employment. Sally told members that Beth Hubbard who ran the program for many years retired and Rhiannon Seible has taken the position and has also joined the Youth Committee. Sally told members that they planned to serve 30 new students during PY 22 and did enroll 30 new students. There were 15 students who received their High School Equivalency Certificate.

The Regional Work Study Program with LaSalle County Regional Office of Education, Sally said works with students that have dropped from high school but want to earn a high school diploma from their district school. The program services youth from LaSalle and Putnam Counties. Sally said that the program planned to enroll 20 new students during PY 22 but enrolled 27 new students. There were 28 students who received their High School Diploma during Program Year 22.

The Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education Program, Sally said, is a GED preparation program for individuals in Bureau County. She said that due to the rural nature of the area, the tutor for this program visits students at local libraries. Sally told members that in terms of the numbers served they planned to enroll 35 new students and enrolled 30 new students in the program. There were 8 students that received their High School Equivalency Certificate.

Overall, Sally told members that the PY 22 Youth Programs did very well.

### PY 23 Youth Providers Report

Sally informed members that contract extensions were entered into for PY 23 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) with the Regional Office of Education #47, LaSalle County Regional Office of Education and Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education. She 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” which mean 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 108 students during PY 23. Contract \$189,456  
Sally commented that the Education Outreach Program not only has a new Director this year, but the Regional Office of Education has moved to a new location and phone number. Sally noted that there may be some challenges getting students to find the services this year, however, Rhiannon is working on an outreach program and creating a new Facebook page.
- Regional Work Study Program – LaSalle County Regional Office of Education is planning to serve 88 students during PY 23. Contract \$129,940.44
- Step Ahead Program – Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education is planning to serve 34 students during PY 22. Contract \$83,357.25

### **Other Business**

#### Member Updates

Sarah McFarlane commented that the Adult Education programs at Sauk Valley Community College are going well. She said that 73 students are enrolled which will start the week of August 21.

Kris informed members that the Sauk Valley Area (Lee, Ogle, Whiteside Counties) is a recipient of a regional grant for the Birth to 5 Program. She said that a Town Hall is scheduled for September and she will get the information to Carrie (Folken) so that the information can be shared.

Rob Lentz informed members that at the Spring Valley Walmart Distribution Center they have a program for their associates to be trained for the CDL so that they can become drivers for Walmart. Rob said that starting pay for drivers at his facility is \$110,000.

#### Public Comments

None

#### Adjournment

With there being no further business, Kris Noble motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jim Carlson and carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson