

NCI Works Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 2, 2024
12:00 Noon

KSB Hospital, The Judge Solomon Bethea Room, 403 E. 1st Street, Dixon, IL
One Stop Center, Room C, 1550 First Street, Ottawa, IL
Illinois Valley Community College, Room C325, 815 N. Orlando Smith Avenue, Oglesby, IL
or

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84890616301>
Meeting ID: 848 9061 6301
Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 848 9061 6301

Mission Statement

Northwest Central Illinois Works' mission is to work hand-in-hand with business, service, government, education and non-profit organizations to enable workers to work and businesses to compete.

Agenda

Call to Order (Patty Head, Chair)

Roll Call

Approval of the January 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes **(Page 1) (Action Item)**

Business Meeting

- Review and Approval of the Financial Reports Ending October 31, 2023 **(Page 5)** (Jessica Green) **(Action Item)**
- Approval to Apply for IE Grant (Carrie Folken) **(Action Item)**
- Application for the Trade Case Management Grant (Carrie Folken) **(Action Item)**
- Pre-Planning Guide PY 2024 MOU Modification **(Page 13) (Informational)**
- Request approval to post the PY 24 Regional & Local Plans for Public Review **(Action Item)**
- One Stop Center Location (Carrie Folken) **(Action Item)**
- One Stop Center Reopening Plan (Carrie Folken) **(Action Item)**
- Discussion Regarding NCI Works Committee Structure (Carrie Folken) **(Page 18) (Action Item)**
- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Carrie Folken) **(Possible Action Item)**

Other Business

- Program Services Team Update (Carrie Folken)

A representative from North Central Behavioral Systems joined the group this month. NCBHS recently received a grant to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center, which will allow them to expand their services, including a new Behavioral Health Outpatient Urgent Care Clinic for individuals experiencing mild or moderate psychiatric distress or crisis should be up and running in early 2024.

They also spoke about their other services, who they serve, and how to make referrals.

astone@ncbhs.org

Rick Koshko is the new TCOC staff member covering Ottawa.

Rick's contact information-

Phone: 815-590-7224.

Email: rkoshko@tcochelps.org. Primary office is located at a Servant's Heart in Ottawa.

Adult Ed.

GED registration for spring is ongoing now. Goodwill is no longer holding classes, but will help pay for the testing.

TCOC

Energy assistance program is now in full-swing.

60+ SSDI or households with children 5 and under.

In November, those with disconnection notice or are disconnected will open. Can take up to a week to get back to people.

Homeless Prevention - PADS shelter, etc. Have some funding for rehousing. Have to find housing, which is a stumbling block. A lot of the housing resources are getting filled up.

DHS - Holding workshops for TANF recipients. Will refer to IDES workshops as well.

IDES - RESEA workshops are monthly, about 6-10 attend. Referrals to WIOA are continuing as well.

BEST - Noted that the online referral system would be reviewed. Currently seeing clients by appointment in Ottawa office, but IVCC is open for drop-ins.

- Status Reports for Special Grant:

Apprenticeship Grant

Our signed grant has now been received. It was received October 2nd.

Requirements of the grant:

Monthly grantee meetings – Staff have been attending monthly grantee meetings conducted by NIU and the state's Apprenticeship Mentor. These are held on the first Monday of each month. There are 3 contractors from NIU, in addition to our DCEO Grant Manager, that provide

technical assistance to the grantees. The state mentor provides technical assistance as well. Topics of these meetings include reports by each grantee as to progress and challenges being met. Additional meetings have been scheduled that will focus on meeting DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility) expectations of the grant and will begin in December. Illinois workNet also holds technical assistance sessions concerning the use of workNet for our tracking and reporting of planned and actual numbers. Reporting is done quarterly and we have made good use of this technical assistance for our first reporting period that ended October 31st.

Talent Pipeline Management Training – Training on the US Chamber's TPM tool has also begun since my last report. Tammy Nehrkorn, Laura Olson and I were all accepted into the program. DCEO is paying for the course for grantees so it is not part of our grant agreement or budget. This training meets 2 hours a week and consists of a capstone project. Capstone project teams, of which Tammy is one group and Laura and I in another, meet anywhere from 1 to 3 hours a week to work on the required project. Total approximate time spent in this effort ranges from 5 to 7 hours per week for each of us between the classroom time, project time, and pre-work that is required for each week's class.

Apprenticeship Activities:

Staff have held 3 of our 6 planned events thus far with the most recent being the Healthcare Event at IVCC. These events along with individual meetings with companies has resulted in 74 contacts met out of the 175 planned.

Wolf Line Construction Update: We have the training information for Wolf Line and will be meeting with them weekly now to finalize the standards. Illinois has 2 additional requirements that we will be inserting: training in safety relevant to the occupation and anti-sexual harassment training. This fall in order to keep employees on track we covered some training through our regular WIOA Incumbent Worker Training while we awaited our final signed grant.

Jo Carroll Energy: We are waiting on a good amount of information from Jo Carroll energy so that this project can move forward. We need company and union information for the standards in order to submit them. We have received the training information from the National Broadband Association and once we receive the company information we can draft the standards and get them to DOL Region 5 Office of Apprenticeships.

Morrison Technical Institute Train the Trainer and Training Materials – We have all the information necessary to provide the train the trainer training for the instruction at MIT for the Jo Carroll project. However, the standards need to be completed and signed before it would be prudent to finalize train the trainer plans. Training materials, which were included in our grant budget, would also need to be purchased once the standards are finalized. Jo Carroll Energy volunteered to procure the materials through their established providers and the grant will either pay for them upfront on a net 30 basis or reimburse Jo Carroll for the costs.

For the virtual reality career exploration goggles, we are waiting for the completion of procurement on 2 sets of goggles and 10 virtual experiences. Jo Carroll Energy volunteered to complete this task and once done those can be purchased and placed at the Whiteside CTE and the CTE Academy in Elizabeth.

Healthcare Summit

On Tuesday, November 14th BEST, Inc with the partnership of IVCC brought in Pat Schou to give her expertise in providing valuable perspectives on the transformations occurring within the healthcare industry, particularly in rural settings. 23 individuals were present for the meeting.

Looking ahead, we are enthusiastic about building on the conversations initiated during the event. The potential for collaboration between local healthcare entities and IVCC/BEST is substantial and holds the promise of creating positive change within our region! Meetings will be conducted twice a year for input and feedback of workforce needs.

Supplemental Grant

Project Number 1

The local area had communication with homeless shelters and other community based organization to discover that a lack of computers to be used in the growing population of the shelters was a big issue. In one shelter particularly, they have seen an increase of over 20 people for a longer time span then in previous years at this time. Computers would be used for job search, online interviews, and education to better advance the residents to be job ready. In this project 2-3 computers would be purchased for each shelter or community based organization with the grant funds along with essential supplies needed for the job search. Some essentials supplies would consist of resume paper, printer, ink, and envelopes.

The very nature of a shelter indicates that most of the population will be accessing these tools in the evening and overnight hours which little to no access in the community would be available during those times. It is vital to our declining workforce pool to put the tools in the hands of individuals that could increase that population.

Project Number 2

Professional Development in the form of an inclusive conference is needed in rural Illinois. Although workshops are offered online for a reasonable amount, some workforce professionals do not have in their budget, money for an in-person rural professional development opportunity to network with like professionals to aid in common workforce needs. This conference would be centered on Workforce Professionals, Educators and Business that have common needs to help assist today's and tomorrow's workforce. Some examples may include; mental health, job coaching, substance abuse, rural resources, and barriers to overcome. This conference would be paid for in total by this grant to allow for more individuals to participate on a very limited budget. Increasing the network to work together in a rural community will benefit all the interested parties.

Project Number 3

Work Based Learning in the form of Work Experience for individuals who are not WIOA participants. This was brought up in conversation with the homeless shelters, the older workers, and also with individuals who may be involved in the court system. Allowing for a more structured staff assisted work experience to gain that positive work reference for individuals with all types of barriers. This would allow for individuals who may be having a hard time finding

that perfect job/career to test the waters before jumping in. It also allows for the employer to invest without having 100% of the cost. Wages, Workers Compensation and FICA would be paid out of this grant. Number of hours, length of agreement and pay would depend on the occupation and the individual experience.

Project Number 4

“Work in the Real World” career exploration. This event would be located in two areas of the Local Workforce Area. It would be a career exploration event with presentations from local businesses to attract young local talent to stay or return to our local area. Careers in occupations that are in demand or are facing a large number of openings due to retirement will be represented as well as the military. This event will target high school students and college enrollees. Cost of the event will be paid for by this grant along with transportation, giveaways, and lunch. Administration costs in the amount of 10% of the full grant amount would allow for overseeing and managing this grant.

Total Grant \$452,153.39

Trade Grant

Since Trade is a mandated partner for WIOA, Department of Labor has issued funds to maintain staff through reauthorization or a change in WIOA mandated partners. The CEOs will be voting on the initial Trade application for 13,799.06 (10/1/2023 to 9/30/2024)

BEST Success Stories (Page 22)

Next Meeting: July 2, 2024

Public Comments

Adjournment