

**Youth Committee (Virtual)
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Meeting was called to order by Teresa Strum, Chair, at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Lyndsay Bliss	X		Dwayne Mentgen		X
Jim Carlson	X		Sarah McFarlane	X	
Emlee Dooley	X		Terry McGuire	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Aurora Medina		X	Teresa Strum	X	

Others Present: Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Teresa Strum motioned to approve the August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Beth Dellatori. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss	X		Dwayne Mentgen		
Jim Carlson	X		Sarah McFarlane	X	
Emlee Dooley	X		Terry McGuire	X	
Beth Dellatori	X		Kris Noble	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Aurora Medina			Teresa Strum	X	

Motion carried.

Business Meeting

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that she is setting up a schedule to begin the presentations at the Safe Schools in Peru. Sally said that business are invited to come and share information about career opportunities. She said that if anyone had ideas to share or were interested in making a presentation to the students to let her know. She said that the program is generally about an hour.

Work in the Real World Update

Sally told members that tentatively, Work in the Real World was scheduled for November 3, 2023 at Sauk Valley Community College. She said that Sauk Valley Community College reached out to cancel the event saying it was too staff intensive for them right now. Sally

thanked members who volunteered to help with the event. Sally said that there may be another opportunity to host such an event that she will discuss later in the meeting.

PY 23 Youth Providers Report

Sally reported that the PY 23 Youth Projects are going well. Jim Carlson with the Regional Work Study Program told members that they have 17 new enrollments for a total of 25 students. He said that one student has finished her classes and will be receiving her High School Diploma. Jim said that the students work very hard juggling between school, work and their home life. He told members that sometimes it takes time for them to understand the expectations but they eventually come around. Jim said that he is very pleased with the direction that the program is heading and the work that the students are doing. Rhiannon with the Education Outreach Program informed members that they are staying very busy with new and potential students. She said that they are planning to have a new teacher starting soon. Rhiannon said that she has been attending networking groups to spread the word that the Regional Office of Education has moved to a new location and has a new phone number. She said that between attending meetings and putting the information on social media has been very helpful.

Potential Supplemental Funds

Sally told members that Carrie (Folken) was not able to attend the Youth Committee Meeting today but asked her to share information about a potential grant that BEST has applied for. Sally said that Carrie created a list of different projects and the list was included with the meeting materials. Sally noted that BEST applied for a supplemental grant to provide additional services to individuals that do not meet eligibility requirements under WIOA. BEST will not find out until the end of the month if the grant is approved. Sally then reviewed the projects for members.

Project 1, Sally said BEST will provide computers in Homeless Shelters to allow for a more inclusive opportunity for area residents to have an equal playing field with job search needs.

Project 2 will be an Outreach Campaign to bring awareness to the 8-county area of services that BEST, Inc. can provide.

Professional Development in the form of an inclusive conference is listed as Project 3. Sally said that 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.

Project 4, Sally said will be a Work Based Learning in the form of Work Experience for individuals who are not WIOA participants. She said that by 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.

Sally told members, that as she mentioned above, Project 5 will include the “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.

Sally said that once Carrie receives information about the grant, she will send something out to everyone to find out who wants to be involved.

Sally noted that the grant funds will expire on June 30, 2024, so the turnaround time to put the events together is short.

Other Business

Member Updates (Group discussion)

Sally reported that BEST is increasing their outreach activity in Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties. She said that she attending a Manufacturing Day and talked to a lot of students from those areas who were interested in the BEST program. She said that she is targeting 19-20 year olds.

Beth reported that the University of IL Extension has been going to schools presenting the SEL: Social & Emotional Learning program to students in second through fifth grades. She told members that she is finding that the younger youth are really struggling as they are really behind in school. Beth stated that she would like to target the younger youth to get them back on track and would welcome suggestions as to how to do that.

Emlee said that she did not have any program updates, but shared with members that she has been battling colon cancer and is on the road to a successful recovery. Emlee said that she has talked with Jim (Carlson) about the Regional Work Study program as she has students at the middle school in Mendota that may be in need of those services in the future.

Kris told members that the Sauk Valley Chamber is working on Certificate of Employability Workshops with Rockville School and Sterling High School. She said that it's a six-week essential skills training program that brings in employers to talk about the pathways in their industry and then the key essential skills that match up with the essential skills from the Power Act. Kris said that she and staff with various manufacturing industries have been going to the school making presentation on manufacturing. She told members that October is manufacturing month. Kris told members that she is working closely with the CEO program which is an entrepreneur program for juniors and seniors that covers the service area of Whiteside Area Career Center that include 17 high school, which currently there are 8 represented. Kris said that

this program is in their 11th year and has been a success. Kris informed members that with the passage of the Paid Leave for All Workers Act will have an impact on all businesses in Illinois as it requires all employers to provide leave for all workers whether they are part time or full time. She said that the Chamber will be having a workshop on November 11 if anyone is interested. Another legislation change, Kris said would affect salaried workers as the U.S. Department of Labor is proposing to increase the minimum salary to \$55,000/year. Kris noted that this could affect many small businesses and not-for-profits. Kris encouraged members to reach out to their local chambers to keep informed about legislation changes that will affect their businesses.

Teresa told members that they (Northwest AHEC/KSB Hospital) recently provided a Navigating Teen and Adolescent Anxiety Workshop that was very exciting. She said that the speaker provided a lot of tips and tricks of what will work for all age bracket of kids. She told members that they have been doing a Health Jam in conjunction with the U of I Extension for Oregon and Dixon schools. She said that Health Jam is for 4th and 5th graders to introduce them to health careers. Kris said that they had their first KSB University yesterday and had 22 freshman and sophomore students that were exploring health careers. Teresa noted she served 13 counties in Northwest Illinois and they are ramping up to get back into the classrooms to deliver programs. The Birth to Five program initiative continues to work to find childcare whether it be off hours or during work hours.

Sarah told members that Sauk Valley Community College is accepting new students through the end of this week. After this week, the next enrollment will be January 2024. Sarah said that between the ESL and GED program at Sauk Valley Community College they have 120+ enrolled. She noted that during the first quarter they had 2 GED graduates.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there no further business, Emlee Dooley motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Kris Noble. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson