

**Youth Committee (Virtual)
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Meeting was called to order by Teresa Strum, Chair, at 4:03 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: Carrie Folken, Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Teresa motioned to approve the October 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Jim Carlson. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Lyndsay Bliss			Dwayne Mentgen		
Jim Carlson	X		Sarah McFarlane	X	
Emlee Dooley			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 provided an update on the career preparation/life skills programs with Safe School noting two successful presentations were held with five more planned for the semester. She expressed a need for a military recruiter and a car or diesel mechanic for future presentations. Jo Ann suggested Sally contact Art Kudelka at IL Valley Community College. Kris suggested contact Bill Zens with the IL Valley Area Chamber of Commerce since he is getting more involved with Pathway programs. Sally stated that the ideal length of presentations is between 20 and 45 minutes.

Work in the Real World Update

Sally reported that due to some staffing issues, Sauk Valley Community College will not be taking on this project this year. She said that Carrie will be giving information on a similar program under the Supplemental Funds update.

PY 23 Youth Providers Report

Sally provided updates on the Youth Project’s progress since the last meeting. Rhiannon Seible from the Education Outreach Program ROE#47 highlighted the challenges students face in juggling work, childcare, and class, and shared their focus on helping students transition into careers rather than just finding a job. Jim Carlson discussed his efforts to motivate students to strive for more, and mentioned a student who was significantly behind but decided to come back to the program.

Regional of Office of Education #47 Contract Modification Request

Carrie Folken proposed a modification request for the Regional Office of Education #47, Education Outreach Program to purchase 2 laptops. Carrie said that it is not an increase in funds, but rather a move in line items. She said that the policy states that any modification of 10% adjustment required the Youth Committee and NCI Works approval. Jim Carlson motioned to approve the request to purchase 2 laptops and adjust the budget accordingly. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan. Roll Call vote was taken with Rhiannon Seible abstaining.

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

Motion carried.

Supplemental Funds Update

Carrie Folken provided an update on the Supplemental Grant projects. She outlined several projects the funds were used for, including a limited work experience program, a Mental Health Awareness Conference and the purchase of computers, printers and job search resources for homeless shelters, Safe Journey and Perfectly Flawed. Carrie told members that staff are working with the Sauk Valley Community College and SRAVTE to assist with their career exploration programs this summer. She said that they are planning field trips to apprenticeship schools where students will learn about careers in pipefitting, carpenter and electrician. If we are successful, Carrie said that we may have the opportunity to apply for additional funds if they become available. Kris Noble discussed plans for integrating essential skills training into their current workshop programs, which are currently running in three high schools. Looking ahead to the fall of 2024, Kris suggested a networking luncheon for manufacturers and students aged 18 to

24. The aim would be to discuss career pathways in the manufacturing industry. Kris Noble inquired about the allocation period for the funds, to which Carrie responded that there isn't one, as all funds must be spent by June 30, 2024.

Other Business

Member Updates

Carrie informed members that the PY 24 Request for Proposal for Youth Programs will be released on February 14 and will be available on the BEST and NCI Works websites. She said that Jo Ann would be contact members asking them to review/rate the proposals received.

Kris Noble reported that their essential skills or certificate of employability program has impacted around 150 students and 25 employers, with plans to expand. Kris also mentioned their scholarship program and the reinvestment of \$68,000 in youth-focused education programs.

Rhiannon Seible said that she did not have any update, but juggling time management.

Beth Dellatori informed members that they are focusing on school enrichment and getting into the schools. She provided members with information about their programs focusing on the importance of guiding kids on the right pathway to success. (Copies attached).

Sarah told members that Sauk Valley Community College will be registering students this week and then they will not enroll any more students until March. To date, Sarah said she has 170 enrollments.

Teresa informed members that their Camp is coming up and applications are available. She said that it is a 3 day, hands on, camp with opportunities for scholarships. The goal of the camp, she said is to help students learn about a profession before they enter college.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Jim Carlson motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Terry McGuire and carried.

Jo Ann Johnson