

**Northwest Central IL Works (NCI Works)
Meeting**

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

12:00 Noon

Business Employment Skills Team, Inc., 4110 Progress Blvd., Suite 1C, Peru, IL

One Stop Center, 406 Avenue C, Sterling, IL

IL Valley Community College, Room C 325, 815 N. Orlando Smith Avenue, Oglesby, IL

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81656843739>

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AGENDA

Call to Order (Patty Head)

Roll Call

Approval of March 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes **(Page 1)**

Business Meeting

Committee Reports

Youth Committee (April 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes) (Teresa Strum) **(Page 8)**

- Approval to Extend Contract with Regional Office of Education #47 **(Action Item)**
- Approval to Extend Contract with Regional Office of Education #35 **(Action Item)**
- Approval to Extend Contract with Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education **(Action Item)**

- One Stop Partner Committee (February 18) (Vanessa Hoffeditz) **(Page 12)**

Oversight Committee Report

- Approval of the Financial Reports Ending February 28, 2025 **(Action Item) (Page 15)**
- Approval of PY 24 Third Quarter Partner Report **(Action Item) (Page 16)**
- Review of the Partner Referral Report **(Page 17)**
- Review of One Stop Partner Customer Satisfaction Survey **(Page 18)**
- Training Program Recertifications from Illinois Valley Community College **(Action Item) (Page 26)**
 - Truck Driving Training

- Training Program Recertifications from Midwest Safe Driver, LLC (*Action Item*) (Page 29)
 - Truck Driver Training
- Training Program Recertifications from Morrison Institute of Technology (*Action Item*) (Page 32)
 - Engineering Technology

Other Business

- Request authority to submit modification(s) for Apprenticeship and Supplemental Grant budget lines as to not exceed the allowable 10% variance (Dianna Schuler) (*Action Item*)
- Request approval to submit modification(s) for WIOA Grants, if needed. (Dianna Schuler) (*Action Item*)
- Request approval for any grant modifications (if necessary) (Dianna Schuler) (*Possible Action Item*)
- Grant Updates

State of Illinois Supplemental Grant

Barrier Reduction – The word is getting out, and it is picking up. This portion of the supplemental grant is to help individual overcome barriers that are in their way of becoming successful in their work journey. Some examples are gas cards, auto repairs, dress clothes, access to phones for job search, tools for work based learning, and other obstacles. **We have had 38 requests and payments of Barrier Reduction. Staff like the idea of this pot of money being available to help customers in need. We will probably ask for something similar to this again next year if this grant is available**

Work Based Learning - Two separate directions in work based learning. One is the Library projects with Streator, Sterling, and Walnut library to help individuals with job search assistance. These three library aids are a work experience with supplemental grant funds. These three individuals work around 20-25 hours a week to help individuals that go into the library with job search. They also, refer individuals to our current program staff if additional assistance is needed. The communities have been very receptive to these workers and they have been seeing success with outcomes. **The communities seem to be very receptive to this program. The individual who was at Streator ended her experience because she was able to obtain fulltime unsubsidized employment.**

The other work based learning is any individual who needs assistance establishing a work reference, in changing direction with their work history or just someone who would like to add some experience to their resume. These individuals work about 25-29 hours a week for a set period of time. They are following a training outline for the occupation they are in so number of hours may fluctuate. **We have had 35 individuals placed in work based learning for this grant.**

Financial Literacy - A financial literacy curriculum was purchased through Conover Online. Incentives are in place to encourage participation of individuals who Career Advisors feel would

benefit from this type of program. Financial Literacy is one of the 14 elements for WIOA so there is a need for this type of training.

Professional Development - A professional development event for staff, partners, providers and employers is being planned around Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Neurodevelopmental disorder as it relates to work. This event will be later in the spring. **JoAnn is working on this and it will be at Mendota Civic Center on June 11.**

- Apprenticeship Activities

This grant period we have had 1 new program signed and added to the ETPL - Borg Warner. We have 3 more in ongoing development: Ottawa Fire Dept. for Firefighter/Paramedic, Jo Daviess Transit for dispatcher, and the ROEs for additional para-pro to teacher.

This grant period we have had 1 new program signed and added to the ETPL - Borg Warner. We have 3 more in ongoing development: Ottawa Fire Dept. for Firefighter/Paramedic, Jo Daviess Transit for dispatcher, and the ROEs for additional para-pro to teacher. Below is the actual planned numbers:

Strategic activities are focused on public sector shortages including: teachers, firefighter/paramedics, and public transit dispatchers. Each sector is being worked with to address these shortages through apprenticeship development and training.

Ongoing conversations have been held with Ottawa Fire Dept., Jo Daviess Transit, and the 4 Regional Offices of Education. Draft of OJL and RTI have been shared with Ottawa Fire Dept. Existing RAP programs have been shared with the ROEs and next steps include holding conversations with each school district within those regions to assess interest. Jo Daviess Transit is in talks with their county board about the development of a dispatch apprenticeship program that would tap an incumbent content expert as their trainer since a local training program is non-existent.

Past reporting issues appear to have been corrected. Current issue is that Bloomboard, Inc., an out of state intermediary, has reached out to our ROEs to provide the same assistance that we have been in discussion about with all 4 of our ROE Superintendents. Bloomboard had previously been informed that they would be invited to the discussion once an assessment of individual school districts had been conducted and a direction for each ROE office was established. Their direct contact of our ROEs by an out of state entity is proving to be problematic in carrying out/following through with the sector strategy for para-pros to teachers.

The most significant accomplishment this quarter is the expressed interest of the Ottawa Fire Department in developing an apprenticeship program that could be shared with other area departments. Rural departments have been experiencing a retention issue once personnel have been fully trained. Non-rural departments have competed with the rural departments for qualified firefighters/Paramedics. An area-wide meeting was held on 25th of March to present the model in an effort to retain more trained responders in the immediate area. In attendance at the MABAS 25 Regional meeting were 22 individuals representing 18 different entities.

- Partner Updates (Partner members) and Member updates (NCI Works members that want to update the board about their business needs)

- BEST Success Stories (Page 35)
- Next Meetings:
 - ✓ NCI Works Executive Committee Meeting – July 1, 2025 (*if necessary*)
 - ✓ NCI Works Meeting – September 2, 2025

Public Comments

Adjournment