

**Youth Committee (Virtual)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2025**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Meeting was called to order by Teresa Strum, Chair, at 4:03 p.m. Roll call was taken.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Jim Carlson		X	Terry McGuire		
Emlee Dooley	X		Shayne Miller	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Rob Lentz		X	Teresa Strum	X	
Sarah McFarlane	X		Dawn Roalson Zavada		

**Proxies:** Terry McGuire to Sarah McFarlane; Dawn Roalson Zavada to Sally Hanrahan

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sarah McFarlane motioned to approve the February 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Sally Hanrahan. Roll Call vote was taken.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Jim Carlson			Terry McGuire	X	
Emlee Dooley	X		Shayne Miller	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Rob Lentz			Teresa Strum	X	
Sarah McFarlane	X		Dawn Roalson Zavada	X	

Motion carried.

**Business Meeting**

Update on Career Preparation/Life Skills Programs

Sally informed members that the presenter for this month was a recruiter from IL Valley Community College. Sally said that with the students input, she developed a list of what they wanted to learn about at IVCC. The recruiter, Sally said, used the Perkins money and brought the kids to the IVCC Campus for a tour and provided them with the information that they were interested in. Sally told members that it was a great time and the students were excited for the experience. Sally said that there will be one more presentation from Moore Tires and then the program will be done for this school year.

### PY 24 Youth Providers Report

Sally informed members that the Youth Provider report was included with the meeting materials. She said that all of the programs have stopped recruiting new students since the program will end on June 30. Sally said that these last few months allows the contracted programs to work on measureable skill gains.

### Review & Approval of PY 25 Youth Request to Extend Contract Proposals

Carrie informed members that each of the current providers submitted a Request to Extend Contract for Program Year 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). She said that a team of reviewers read and rated each of the projects and their recommendation was included with the meeting materials. Carrie pointed out that due to providers spending being historically under budget that some of the recommendations is contingent on funding availability. Carrie told members that BEST has not received the allocation for next year so all of the contracts will need be approved pending contract negotiation and funding availability.

Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education – Teresa Strum motioned to approve the Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of Education Request to Extend Contract depending on funding availability. Motion was seconded by Sarah McFarlane. Roll Call vote was taken.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Jim Carlson			Terry McGuire	X	
Emlee Dooley	X		Shayne Miller	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Rob Lentz			Teresa Strum	X	
Sarah McFarlane	X		Dawn Roalson Zavada	X	

Motion carried.

Regional Office of Education #35 – Sally Hanrahan motioned to approve the Regional Office of Education #35 Request to Extend Contract depending on funding availability. Motion was seconded by Emlee Dooley. Roll Call vote was taken.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Jim Carlson			Terry McGuire	X	
Emlee Dooley	X		Shayne Miller	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Rhiannon Seible	X	
Rob Lentz			Teresa Strum	X	
Sarah McFarlane	X		Dawn Roalson Zavada	X	

Motion carried.

Regional Office of Education #47 – Sarah McFarlane motion to approve the Regional Office of Education #47 Request to Extend Contract depending on funding availability. Motion was seconded by Emlee Dooley. Roll Call was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Jim Carlson			Terry McGuire	X	
Emlee Dooley	X		Shayne Miller	X	
Sally Hanrahan	X		Rhiannon Seible	Abstain	
Rob Lentz			Teresa Strum	X	
Sarah McFarlane	X		Dawn Roalson Zavada	X	

Motion carried.

### Supplemental Funds Update

Carrie provided an update on the supplemental grant projects for this program year. She said that the grant will expire on June 30, 2025. This year's project, Carrie said, include Work Based-Learning for about 35 individuals. Of those individuals, 3 of them were placed at separate libraries (Walnut, Streator, and Sterling) to provide job search assistance. She said that a web based Financial Literacy Program (Conover) was purchased to help youth gain financial knowledge. Incentives will be given to individuals who complete the modules along with a larger incentive for individuals who complete the whole curriculum that we assign. Carrie told members that a Barrier Reduction Fund program will provide supportive services to help individuals be successful: physicals, shots, anything required by the worksite, transportation, child care, bus tokens, uniforms, professional clothing for work or any other need that the customer will have. Carrie told members that a Professional Development workshop will focus on working with individuals with Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and/or Autism in an education and workplace setting will be held in June at the Mendota Civic Center. She said that the conference is in the beginning planning stages and further information will be forthcoming.

Carrie told members that the supplemental grant for this year was about half from the previous year. She said that DCEO bases the allocation on a formula and they give us the dollar amount and we come up with the different projects. Carrie told members that if they had any suggestions for future projects to let her know as she will be writing the grant for next year in August.

Teresa asked Carrie about the WIOA Re-Authorization. Carrie said that the Re-Authorization was part of the Continuing Resolution that did not pass. She told members that there is bi-partisan approval for the Stronger Workforce of America legislation, however, she does not think it will be in place by July 1. Carrie told members that BEST has funding until September 30, 2025.

### **Other Business**

### Member Updates

Rhiannon told members that ROE #47 has been seeing more housing issues with the students. She said that she is getting more contacts/referrals from community organizations. Rhiannon told members that they have 2 events coming up. She said that she is working to reach the project goals.

Sally told members that she is planning a couple of workshops for next week using the financial literacy platforms. She said that she has speakers scheduled to talk with these students who will be earning incentives for completing the different modules.

Sarah said that she is looking forward to the end of the year. Sauk Valley Community College Adult Education is not accepting new referrals at this time. She said that she is working with the current students to meet the performance goals. Sarah said the Orientation for new students will be in August. Sauk Valley Community College, Sarah said, is running a summer program. Sarah announced that May 15 is graduation and awards night. As of now, she said there will be 9 graduating, but hoping it will increase to 20+. Also, Sarah told members that students will be wearing caps and gowns this year. Sarah said that she has started writing the grant for next year and she was instructed to plan for budget level funding.

Shayne told members that the Department of Rehabilitation has several individuals that have graduated and in need of assistance. She said that both the Bloomington and LaSalle offices are moving along as planned.

Emlee told members that she has been recovering from surgery and apologized for missing the last few meeting. She said she is interested in hearing more about the conference being planning in June.

Teresa told members that they are gearing up for their summer preceptorship program that starts May 22 and ending in June. She is also working on career trajectory to create a pathway for success. Teresa said that she is excited about opportunities for the community.

#### Next Meeting

Teresa said that the next Youth Committee meeting will be June 10, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

#### Public Comments

None

#### Adjournment

With there being no further business, Emlee Dooley motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Shayne Miller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson