

**Youth Committee (Virtual)
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025**

The NCI Works Youth Committee Meeting was called to order by Teresa Strum, Chair, at 4:05 p.m. Roll call was taken.

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

Proxies: Dawn Roalson Zavada to Sally Hanrahan, Sarah McFarlane to Sally Hanrahan

Others Present: Carrie Folken, Jo Ann Johnson

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Terry McGuire motioned to approve the April 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Teresa Strum. Roll Call vote was taken.

Name	Yes	No	Name	Yes	No
Jim Carlson			Terry McGuire	X	
Emlee Dooley			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 reported on the Career Preparation/Life Skills Program, nothing that they wrapped up the school year in April and will reach out to the Safe School in September to set up a schedule for continued presentations. She mentioned the success of a student who toured the community college as a result of the Life Skills Program. Sally said that it was good to hear of successes from outside individuals.

PY 24 Youth Providers Final Report

Sally informed members that the PY 24 Youth Providers Final Report was included with the meeting materials. She said that all three programs ended successfully.

PY 25 Youth Providers Report

Sally told members that each of the Youth Programs have started enrollments for Program Year 2025. A summary of this year's projects was included with the meeting materials.

Supplemental Funds Update

Carrie provided an update on the supplemental funds, which ended on June 30th, and highlighted the outcomes of the various projects offered, including barrier reduction, work-based learning, financial literacy, and professional development.

Carrie told members that she has applied for Supplemental Funds for Program Year 2025 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) in the amount of \$245,611. She told members that projects for the coming year include: 3 CPU upgrades for Freedom House, Work-based Learning opportunities, Barrier Reduction Program, Financial/Workplace/Life Skills programs that offer incentives; 6 lunch and learn programs including professional development and replaced of Accessibility Computers at the One Stop.

Carrie said that she has not heard back from DCEO as to whether the projects were approved, but she anticipates hearing something by the end of the month.

Other Business

Member Updates

- Rhiannon reported a successful first day of classes with 6-7 students attending math, including 3 new enrollments. She discussed plans for collaborative activities with nearby teachers and families. Rhiannon also said that today was some of their students' first day of college classes at Sauk Valley Community College.
- Sally told members that BEST, Inc. has a little more funding this year and staff are busy recruiting individuals in the various programs. She said that she and Diamond have been working on different programs to get students involved and if anyone had anyone age 16-24 to refer them to either Sally or Diamond. Sally also mentioned the additional funds in the adult program were available.
- Shayne said that the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation has restructured the STEP program into the PECT program which is expanding to include more students with disabilities in Illinois, offering pre-employment services and increased financial support for training and job coaching. She said that financial assistance services no longer require applicants to meet low income guidelines. This means they are able to provide a wider range of services, including tuition, books, supplies, room and board and transportation.
- Carrie mentioned that the Local Workforce Board (NCI Works) will be recertifying in the coming months. She said that BEST, Inc. is working on outreach to increase awareness of their services.
- Teresa announced her departure from NCI Works and the Youth Committee due to changes in her employment at the end of the month.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business Sally Hanrahan motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Rhiannon Seible. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson