

**REGION 7
YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 27, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.
Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Waterloo, IA**

Youth Advisory Council

Joe Weigel
Lucas Plouff
Lewis Litzel
Brooke Olson

Representing

Department of the Blind
Hawkeye Community College
Vocational Rehabilitation
Together for Youth

IowaWORKS Cedar Valley Staff

Michele Clark

Hawkeye Community College

Michele Clark commenced the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Brooke Olson motioned the approval of the agenda for today's meeting. Joe Weigel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Weigel motioned approval of meeting minutes from November 25, 2019. Lucas Plouff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Michele reported they have continued to receive many new referrals from the High School Completion Program, GAP, and from the Cedar Valley Iowa Works Center. She updated the committee on what assistance they have been providing their participants and new referrals to their program. Due to limited funds they have not started any new work experiences since October. They are assisting their participants with job searching, resume development, and interviewing skills in addition to career counseling and exploration.

Michele updated the committee on WE Build and how we are moving forward with getting this project implemented. There was a meeting held earlier this month with Waterloo Community Development to discuss how they can partner with us in our efforts to get WE Build Waterloo started. We are looking to start this project in Spring but will update the committee members at the next meeting since we will need to recruit potential young adults for this program.

New Business

Michele asked Joe Weigel to share about The Beautiful Lives Project. Joe had sent out an email to the committee members about this project last week and how more participants are needed for the participant in this event. The event is for people with disabilities to have the opportunity to perform with the University of Northern Iowa dance team during the women's basketball game on February 20th. The Beautiful Lives Project, was developed to encourage people of all disabilities be able to live their dreams taking part in programs in sports, art, cheer and dance, as well as other programs across the country. The event is open to people of any disability of any age.

There is a mandatory practice with the Northern Iowa dance team and their coaching staff on Tuesday, February 18 from 6-7:30pm. Everyone needs to register and fill out the electronic waiver by February 6 and also email Bryce Weiler, cofounder of the project, know how many tickets they would need for the game

The Beautiful Lives Project and UNI Athletics strive to promote an inclusive environment, where people of all abilities can experience sports first-hand, work as a team, and build new friendships.

Michele also reported that Hawkeye Community College has applied for a grant called Job Corps Scholar Program. The Job Corps Scholars Program is designed to provide job training to 1,600 students over the course of two years. The grant period of performance for this funding opportunity announcement is 39 months, and the maximum amount of each grant is \$1,186,900. The Department anticipates grant awards in spring 2020.

Other Agency Updates

Lucas introduced himself as the new High School Completion Coordinator at the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center. He is also still teaching the Nurse Aide I Best class as they have not hired his replacement for his previous position. Lucas reported that the High School completion classes started on 01/21/2020 and that open enrollment will begin on 02/11/2020. The registration dates and times will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-7pm as well as on Wednesdays from 9-4pm. Lucas shared that the next 8-week quarter will start on 03/23/2020 with the next High School Completion orientation being held on 02/25/2020.

He said that currently they have 19 graduates of the High School Completion Program and the graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 25, 2020.

Brooke shared with us that Young Parents Together is a program for young adults 19 and younger that are pregnant and parenting. They meet at the Cedar Valley Food Bank on Mondays from 4-5:30pm. Transportation and a meal is provided to those participating. There is a prenatal group that meets as well as a parenting group and they both give incentives to participants that are attending.

Joe will be replacing Kochelle as the representative from Department of the Blind. He explained how Department of the Blind is part of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and they serve those that are visually impaired. Joe said they starts working with youth as young as 14 and they are usually referred to Department of the Blind. There is no waiting list however an individual must be determined legally blind or have functional blindness to qualify for their services.

Joe shared that they have a summer youth program that serves 20 participants over 7 weeks. They work on soft skill development as well as braille/cane travel. They also offer 2 weekend retreats that are funded through the Coggin YMCA and the Dale Carnegie Foundation. These programs are for transitioning students that are 14-21 years of age.

Lewis reported that Project Search will hold a reverse job fair on February 27th from 9:30-11:30am at the Waterloo Center for the Arts. Currently they have 10 interns that they are trying to place in employment opportunities. Last year there were 2 participants that were hired by Cook Construction and UNI Dining Center. The targeted outcome for Project Search is for participants securing employment of atleast 16 hours or more within 3 months after their training is finished. There will be summer programming again and instead of being offered over 2 weeks, it will be held over multiple days and will include bus training, soft skills, and other related employment topics.o. As of now, there are 8 graduates for the High School Completion Program this semester.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Lewis Litzel motioned to adjourn the meeting and Joe Weigel seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.