**REGION 7**

**YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 27, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Cedar Valley IowaWORKS**

**3420 University Avenue**

**Waterloo, IA**

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| **Youth Advisory Council** | **Representing** |
| Joe Weigel  Lucas Plouff  Lewis Litzel  Brooke Olson  Jeff Frost | Department of the Blind  Hawkeye Community College  Vocational Rehabilitation  Together for Youth  Waterloo Community Schools |
| **IowaWORKS Cedar Valley Staff** |  |
| Michele Clark  Steven Schwickerath  Chris Hannan | Hawkeye Community College  Hawkeye Community College  Hawkeye Community College |

Jeff Frost commenced the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

Brooke Olson motioned the approval of the agenda for today’s meeting. Lucas Plouff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Joe Weigel motioned approval of meeting minutes from January 27, 2020. Brooke Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

Michele updated the committee on WE Build and the process in which we are taking moving forward with getting this project implemented. A previous flyer was shared with committee member with a start date of May 4th which then was pushed back to May 18th due to the pandemic. We are confirming a later start date sometime in June with a possible 8-week cohort instead of 12. Michele agreed to share the updated flyer with the confirmed start date once she receives this. We will be using this flyer to recruit interested applicants as we’ll do this virtually through social media, networking, and referrals. Michele will be the point of contact for anyone interested in applying for the program and completing the application process.

The WIOA Youth Program continues to work with our participants virtually to provide assistance with job searching, resume development, and work readiness skills in addition to career counseling and exploration. At this time, all of our work experiences have ended and we are moving forward with other experiential learning activities such as on the job trainings due to COVID-19.

**New Business**

Michele shared that we are now contacting new registrants with Cedar Valley Iowa Works that are ages 24 or younger in attempt to share information about the Young Adult Program and see if there is any assistance they might need. We are seeing about 40-70 new registrants each week within this age group mostly in part to them filing for unemployment benefits. We have had a good response to our calls and emails to these individuals too. We are also offering a daily Zoom meeting for job seekers that may have questions regarding employment. This is offered Monday through Friday from 10-12pm. Michele said that she would send an email out with the link to this Zoom meeting after today’s meeting.

**Other Agency Updates**

Lucas announced that the High School Completion Program is being conducted 100% through online learning. He reiterated that all Hawkeye Community College staff were working remotely from home and the staff will be returning to campus on June 11th. On June 15th the college will reopen with limited in person services. The Adult Learning Center is working on a plan to provide HiSET testing to students after June 15th also. The goal is to offer HiSET testing from 06/15-06/30/20 however this testing is required to done in person. The Spring semester will be ending on May 11th and at this time, there are 30 HCS graduates.

The High School Completion will be offering online classes from 07/11-08/13 and this will be 100% online also. This will be open to current students in the HSC Program that are regularly attending classes. Students can register for these classes now and registration ends on 07/07/20. Fall semester registration will be offered now through 08/07/20 also.

Brooke shared with us that the Health Educator teachers and the Girls Circle Group offered through Together for Youth continue to offer educational health information to students virtually. The Girls Circle Group is for middle school students and Peet Jr. High started their weekly lessons online this week.

Young Parents Together meets on Mondays from 4-5pm and they have been creative with how to provide services to this group. They have been offering a “drive thru” food bar that consists of a food box, gift cards for gas, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and activities for families. To receive this assistance, youth need to complete an intake or have already been a participant in the YPT program. Young Parents Together is continuing to enroll new families for this program even through this pandemic too.

Joe told us that Department of the Blind staff are continuing to maintain contact with their participants through phone and email. Prior to the pandemic, they were offering training on cane travel, braille training, and work experiences. Training on cane travel and braille has been continued over the phone with participants however the work experiences have not really been offered. Counselors are still getting new referrals and are attending IEP meetings too. The weekend retreats have been cancelled also. They are still planning the Summer Leap Program however and this will be offered for transition age youth teaching career and life skill development training. Plans are moving forward for Fall 2020 for the Four Plus Transition Program. This will be offered at The Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs and 8 clients will be served through this program.

Lewis updated us on some changes that have occurred with IVRS. Shelly Prine has left the agency and most of the IVRS staff are remotely from home. The staff are still seeking referrals and completing new intakes however. Project Search has seen interviewed 11 out of the 12 participants that are expected to start this Fall. The Transition Alliance Program continues to stay engaged with their participants as well. They are planning on offering Summer Programs that will be offered 06/15-07/30 Mondays through Thursdays, twice daily with the morning and afternoon session offering the same programming. Each day will have a different emphasis and each will have a different theme as well. IVRS does not have a set date to return to the office and resume in person services yet.

Jeff shared that the Career Center continues to offer online teaching with the program that they are able to do this with. Plans are being developed to figure out how to complete the lab and clinical portions of these programs also.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2020 at 4:00pm via conference call.

Adjournment

Lewis Litzel motioned to adjourn the meeting and Joe Weigel seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.