

**Youth Standing Committee
Meeting Minutes – September 19th, 2019
Iowa Workforce Center Conference Room
3 Triton Circle, Fort Dodge, IA 50501**

Members present:

- Tacey Arens – Voc-Rehab
- Kris Nerem-Lowery – Youth Empowerment Association, INC & Iowa Central Community College
- Abby Underberg, Coord. of Adult Literacy, Iowa Central
- Ashlee Zimmerman – YEP career advisor

Members Absent:

- Mary Kenny – TAP – (Fort Dodge Senior High)
- Kim Johnson – TAP – (Fort Dodge Senior High)
- Kyle Bangert – Workforce Board member – Region 5 & employer
- Teresa Larson-White - Youth Employment Program (Title 1 Youth program)
- Erin Habben – Fort Dodge Parks & Rec (Youth Serving Organization) & employer

Meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm. Motion by Arens, second by Underberg to approve the agenda. Ayes carried. Motion by Arens, second Nerem-Lowery to approve the minutes of April 3rd, 2019. Ayes carried.

Introductions: There were no new members to the committee

Youth Program update

1. Staff: The program consists of Career Advisor Ashlee Zimmermann who is 100% FTE and the Program Manager, Teresa Larson-White who is 20% FTE.
2. Program stats – 20 youth participants enrolled. 8 of these are in post program services. Number of referrals are down despite efforts to recruit and make the public aware of the program. There was a discussion on the low unemployment rate in the area and how youth are finding it easier to obtain employment without the program's help especially with Prestage now open and operating.
3. Budget Report – Our budget was once again cut for Region 5 due to the low unemployment rates. We have received our funding for July, but we have not received our carryover. We are hoping that will be around \$6,000.00. We discussed how this was cutting into the services we could provide for the youth and if there were any grants or fundraising ideas, we could do to assist with additional funds to cover some of the needs for our clients. Some ideas identified were Scholarship programs through possibly Wal-Mart, sponsorship from local churches, along with Share What You Wear Program for clothing. We discussed our decision to create a hygiene corner for our Youth and the group discussed reaching out to Hy-Vee and Target to see if they would be willing to donate.

Lastly, we discussed the additional services that Amerigroup is willing to provide for clients which one is covering the cost for the HiSET. The group discussed how they wished there was a meeting where all providers in the area could meet to go over all the services in the area and what they provide so everyone is up to date on services in the area.

4. Work experience update: Currently have 2 youth participating in Work Experiences. One high school youth who completed a work experience is now employed on her own at The General Store and attending college at Iowa Central Community College full-time.
5. 20% Work Experience requirement: As of this date, the program has spent 60.77% of program expenditures on work experience and is in compliance with the federal requirement.
6. Outreach activities: Ashlee has been attending additional meetings to speak about the Youth Employment Program, been going to Promise Jobs twice a week, along with attending HiSET classes each time to reach new potential clients. We also continue to meet with companies to explore new work experiences, job shadows and possible OJTs.
7. New Business: Clients are finding employment and are starting to be more willing to attend college or certification classes. The biggest barrier for all clients continues to be transportation. That seems to be the biggest area that is causing a concern for clients and no one is sure how to assist with this at this time.

Comments/updates from members:

- Kris Nerem-Lowery- provided information about the Youth Empowerment Association's Kids Choice Awards to be held on April 28th at 5 p.m. at Fort Frenzy. This is an opportunity for area youth to nominate adult mentors in the community for an award. Boxes are now going out in Manson, Southeast Valley, Fort Dodge and also at Fort Frenzy. There also will be a Youth Forum being held on Saturday November 16th at 10:00 am at the VHS Auditorium. They will be inviting students from local high school in the area to present questions to.
- Abby Underberg – Informed us that the ESL Program is growing significantly, and they had to add another teacher to the Eagle Grove area to cover the program. HiSET numbers are also up and things seem to be going well.

Comments from Visitors: None

Next meeting: December 12th, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at Iowa Workforce Center

Action Item: Still need a youth representative from the program.

Motion to adjourn by Arens, second by Nerem-Lowery. Ayes carried.

Meet adjourned at 4:25 p.m.