

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

Youth Advisory Council

Marsha Watters
Jeff Frost
Lewis Litzel
Brooke Olson
Carrie Snell
Brian Sedgewick

Representing

Waterloo Community Schools
Waterloo Community Schools
Vocational Rehabilitation
Young Parents Together
Job Corps
Juvenile Court Services

IowaWORKS Cedar Valley Staff

Michele Clark
Chris Hannan

Hawkeye Community College
Hawkeye Community College

Jeff Frost commenced the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Marsha Watters motioned the approval of the agenda for today's meeting. Brian Sedgewick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Marsha Watters motioned approval of meeting minutes from May 18, 2020. Chris Hannan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Michele updated the committee on WE Build and that the first cohort had started on June 22nd. There are currently 5 participants, 2 of them are enrolled in Title I with the Young Adult Program. This cohort will run through August 14th and the next cohort will start on August 17th. The August cohort will run Monday through Friday from 7:30-12:30pm and participants will spend 2 days in the classroom working on the NCCER curriculum and then the next 3 days at the worksite. Michele explained that we are accepting applications now and want referrals from anyone who might be interested in finding out more information about WE Build.

Each participant will learn high demand construction skills along with OSHA-10 and the core curriculum through the National Center for Construction Education & Research, which is a great foundation for 13 construction trade apprenticeship fields.

Michele included this flyer in the distribution of the meeting minutes and agenda for today's meeting. We will be using this flyer to recruit interested applicants, as well as doing 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. Michele reported that we have started one on the job training with Croell Trucking with a recent graduate of the CDL program.

New Business

Michele reported Steven Schwickerath has accepted a position with the Waterloo School District and his last day with Hawkeye Community College Cedar Valley Works will be August 7th. There are no plans to fill his position right now. Budgets are tight for Title I programming during the pandemic so we will do our best to serve customers however we are able to.

We are continuing to contact 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 on average 50-60 new registrants each week within this age group mostly in part to them filing for unemployment benefits. We have had some response to our calls and emails to these individuals but mostly they are looking for answers regarding their unemployment benefits.

Other Agency Updates

Brian shared that they are continuing to work with kids remotely as most of the Juvenile Court Officers are working from home right now. There are phone hearings for court as judges are doing court hearings from home. There are state and Federal requirements to keep up with but court cases have slowed down and have been prioritized.

Lewis reported that the VR counselors are staying out of the office and work remotely for the most part. Their office is open and there are front line staff there to assist customers. They are mostly meeting with job candidates in an effort to make resources available to them through Zoom and by phone. Counselors can meet in person with customers but it is not encouraged.

The Transition Alliance Program is offering a summer program over the next 2 weeks from August 4-6 and then again from August 11-13. This will be offered to TAP students in Waterloo and Cedar Falls schools and it will be done through Zoom. This will be an hourly session each day.

Marsha had no updates at this time. She did mention that the Return to Learn plan will be finalized on August 3rd and registration for school is being conducted virtually only.

Jeff said that there will be a virtual option to take classes online and that students can sign up right now through August 10th for this. He also shared that they would be offering a hybrid model for classes too.

Lucas was unable to attend today's meeting but wanted me to share some information with the committee.

- Summer HSC classes began on July 13th and will end on August 14th
- Summer classes are being taught remotely
- Fall registration is two parts: one online and the other over the phone; individuals must complete both to be in our system
- Fall registration is ongoing, but there are currently 250 people in the process of being registered for 60 in-person spots
- New students registered prior to the start of Q1 need to complete a two-step digital orientation prior to joining classes
- Q1 will begin August 24th and end on October 15th
- Q2 will begin October 19th and end on December 10th

Brooke reported that health education has been provided to middle and high school students through Success Street but the staff were furloughed so it is now being run through Allen Hospital. Young Parents Together is providing a weekly support group to pregnant and parenting youth at the Food Bank on Mondays. This includes a drive through for weekly groceries, diaper and wipes, etc for those in need. Participants are case managed and mental health counseling is available through Zoom. There are prenatal groups offered through Mercy One and there are an average of 13-15 participants each week for weekly groups.

Carrie updated us that all campuses through Job Corps are closed. All curriculum is being offered online however. They are offering Google classroom to prospective students and there are limited staff with most working from home. No travel is allowed for Admission counselors but they are still taking applications. No in person meetings are being offered right now. The plan is to transition former students back to campus in September and October. There were 4 students sharing a room but now it has been reduced to 2 students to room. Carrie cover 23 counties in Iowa at this time including the Mason City, Decorah, Waterloo/Cedar Falls, and Dubuque communities.

A discussion took place regarding the platform we are using to conduct our committee meetings. It was decided that the majority of representatives would like to meet via Zoom. Agreed that the next meeting will be held via Zoom on September 28th and that committee members would receive an invitation to attend.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2020 at 4:00pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

Lewis Litzel motioned to adjourn the meeting and Brooke Olson seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm.