

**REGION 7
YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 25, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Waterloo, IA**

Youth Advisory Council

Marsha Watters
Nancy Kehoe
Jeff Frost
Brooke Olson
Karri Miller
Brian Sedgewick
Lewis Litzel
Laura Gray

Representing

Waterloo Community Schools
Hawkeye Community College
Waterloo Community Schools
Young Parents Together
Hawkeye Community College
Juvenile Court Services
Vocational Rehabilitation
Vocational Rehabilitation

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 4:04 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of YAC Minutes

Nancy Kehoe motioned approval of meeting minutes from July 24, 2017. Lewis Litzel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Our focus is working with disconnected out of school youth through placing them in experiential learning activities and providing training needed for employment. Our budget for this fiscal year shows there is money available to assist youth in Work Experience placements. We are continuing to work on co enrollments with internal programs here at our office (Promise Jobs, GAP, DEI, Vets, and SPNEG). We are co enrolling with other programs to assist with educational training assistance as we currently have limited funding for this.

New Business

Chris Hannan discussed the Into to Health Careers and 3D Printing & Additive Manufacturing workshops that are being offered at our office in October. He distributed some flyers regarding these events along with the Manufacturing Week flyer that will be held here in our office during October 2nd-6th.

Laura Gray also announced that she has accepted a new position in Des Moines and this will be her last meeting here today. Lewis Litzel will be taking over many of Laura's job responsibilities and he has agreed to serve as the representative from Vocational Rehabilitation for the WIOA Youth Standing Committee.

There were 4 new members here today so we made introductions and welcomed Jeff Frost as our new Chair. It was also the first meeting for Karri Miller, Brian Sedgewick, and Lewis Litzel .

Other Agency Updates

Brian reported that Juvenile Court Services will be partnering with the WIOA Young Adult Program to assist with transitioning youth from foster group facilities and placements at state training school back in to their local community. Youth Team Decision Making will be formed for youth that are transitioning and the goal is for these teams to meet 3 separate time; 30 days after admission, 30 days prior to discharge, and 30 days after discharge. These teams will provide resources and some guidance to help transition these youth back to school and work.

Brooke discussed that the Young Parents Together meetings are being held at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank now instead of the YWCA. Transportation is being provided if needed by The Loop and Dolly's Taxi. Young Parents Together is a group for pregnant and parenting teens ages 19 or younger. Meals are offered to these youth and informal support is provided. A play area is also available for their children to use during these meetings. There is 1 hour of educational group meeting; one for prenatal and the other for parenting youth. The young people also have access to the food pantry as well. There is also a group that meets at Expo High School and they are in the transitioning phase of joining the YPT group that is already formed.

It was announced Project Search has 12 students that are participating in this program and it's in the 2nd year of programming. This program is for students with disabilities and they are provided vocational exploration along with work experience opportunities that may lead to employment. This program is being held at Allen College. Currently for Vocational Rehabilitation there is a 60 day waiting list based on the current date of intake. For individuals that are categorically determined Most Significantly Disabled, there is no waiting list however.

Marsha shared with us that Kirk Smalley will be doing a presentation called, Stand for the Silent, to the Waterloo School on 12/03/17. On Tuesday, October 3rd Manning Scott, The Original Freedom Writer presentation, was held at West High School from 5:30-7:00pm. He also presented to Waterloo Intermediate students that day also. He had a powerful presentation about his life and how we all can have an impact on others.

Marsha also announced that there was some transitioning being done with English Language Learners at West High School. Sheila Houston will be a part time counselor and teacher now. The Counseling Department is now going through some changes including using the RAMP process where curriculum and programming for school counseling is being revised based on the American School Counseling Association Model Program that is being recognized.

Nancy said that the new semester started for the High School Completion Program in August. This is now a 16 week long program and they will offer intakes twice a year; once in August and the other in January. This is considered a structured program where a student has 2 semesters to work through the studies. Ongoing registration is offered throughout the semesters on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9-7pm at the HCC Metro Center. Math and reading assessments are done and math placement will depend on a student's score. Nancy shared that 12 students registered for the classes starting in January.

The High School Completion program offers classes during the daytime between 9-11:50 or 10-12:50 Monday through Thursday. Evening classes are also available on Tuesday and Thursday between 5:30-8:30pm. Students will be assigned to a Language Arts class, a Math class, and a study lab for the 3 hour block they are registered for.

Karri started her new position at Hawkeye Community College in February 2017. She is working with high school students that have disabilities and need assistance transitioning to school or work. Currently this program is offered in 6 high schools starting last year. Waterloo and Cedar Falls are the exceptions since they already have the Transition Alliance Programs implemented in those school districts. This program is focusing on providing job shadows for these

students this fall. In the past year over 600 job shadows have been arranged for youth. Karri is trying to implement a summer program but transportation seems to be an issue for many of her students.

Jeff shared with us that there will be a Northeast Iowa Family Stem Event on November 7, 2017 from 4-7:30pm at the Sullivan Convention Center. He also mentioned that the Waterloo Technical Education Center is offered 2 programs, Nursing and Digital Graphics. The Nursing program is already full and the Digital Graphics Program had 56 students last year. The new programs they are looking to offer are Early Childhood, Information Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing. These programs are currently serving 140 students this semester.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 27, 2017 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Lewis Litzel motioned to adjourn the meeting and Marsha Watters seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.