

**Youth Standing Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Children & Families of Iowa conference room
111 Ave. O West, Fort Dodge, IA
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Members present:

- Jerry Patterson – ICCC/Prison Life Skills program
- Kyle Bangert – Workforce Board member – Region 5 & employer
- Makenzey Hanson – Youth participant
- Jodi Ricklefs – Youth Employment Program (Title 1 Youth program)
- Erin Habben – Fort Dodge Parks & Rec (Youth Serving Organization) & employer
- Ann Wayner – Adult Education/Literacy
- Teresa Larson-White - Youth Employment Program (Title 1 Youth program)

Members absent:

- Lori Kolbeck – Voc-Rehab

Meeting began at 3:00 p.m. with introduction of members, including two new members.

Larson-White led the meeting and began by reviewing the purpose of the Youth Standing Committee of the Region 5 Workforce Board. Handouts included a description of what the committee is tasked with under WIOA and a definition of “disconnected youth”. Larson-White provided some statistics on disconnected youth in our area. A full report of this can be found at <http://www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2017/> Members discussed the webinar **Coming Together at the Table-The Power of Youth Committees to Convene, Coordinate and Collectively**. A power point and recording can be found at <https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2017/09/20/07/06/Coming-Together-at-the-Table-The-Power-of-Youth-Committees-to-Convene-Coordinate-and-Collectively>

Discussion on how the webinar focused on large urban areas which is hard to replicate in our small region however, some of the ideas mentioned could be useful in our region including having more youth involved, more youth serving providers and perhaps doing some focus groups with youth.

Youth Program update: Larson-White updated the committee on staff changes since we last met. Two staff left in July to take positions with the adult program at Iowa Central. One new staff was hired in August, Jodi Ricklefs. She is currently case managing 38 youth and young adults 28 of which are actively involved receiving intensive services and 10 are in follow-up which requires less case management. Larson-White reported that she has a case load of 22 young adults, all of which are in follow-up.

The program did receive less funding this fiscal year which meant the second position to be filled is only part-time, 20 hours per week. This is still vacant.

The program is continuing to focus mostly on out of school youth per the requirements of WIOA. Referrals for in-school youth are not being taken. Wayner asked if we were still taking referrals. Ricklefs is attending the orientation for HISED on Monday and will provide information about YEP to eligible students. YEP can take referrals and will assess appropriateness.

Ricklefs reported on her efforts to recruit more employers for our Experiential Learning activity which includes job shadows, internships, work experiences and on-the-job training (OJT). She has connected with employers in health care, manufacturing and construction including Woodruff Construction which has agreed to provide an OJT to one of our participants. Habben indicated that during the summer she can use very part-time help for Parks & Rec and also the Forestry Department can use help.

Larson-White provided an overview of the new outcome measurements required under WIOA which include: Employment Rate in the 2nd Quarter after Exit (which also includes enrollment in education), Employment Rate in the 4th Quarter after Exit (including education), Median Earnings in the 2nd Quarter after Exit, Credential Attainment Rate, Measurable Skills Gain and Effectiveness in Serving Employers.

Old Business: Discussed the idea of focus groups. There is a focus group for high school students scheduled for November 4th at the college put on by the Youth Empowerment Program which is an anti-bullying group in the area. The committee discussed trying to learn more from those disconnected youth in our areas – what they need, what are the barriers they face, etc. Decided to set up a survey monkey survey to send out to current participants to start with some basic information. Committee members asked Hanson what made her decide to drop out and get her HiSED instead. She informed that she has a learning disability and was bullied in school and felt she didn't get any help from the teachers or principal at her school. She had attended 11 different schools as her family moved a lot. She is currently working on getting her diploma and is working at Wendy's.

New Business: Discussed who else to invite to the table. Jen Johnson with Youth Empowerment has been approached and will check with her board about having a representative participate. Also mentioned were Mackenzie Hayley with ICCC and Erik Hovald at Fort Dodge High School. The committee would like more youth involvement.

Action Steps:

- Larson-White will create and send out a survey to current participants
- Larson-White will contact suggested individuals and more youth to be involved on the committee.

Next meeting: The committee agreed to meet quarterly for now. Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the Children & Families of Iowa conference room.

Information of interest will be emailed to committee members as they become available between now and the next meeting.

Meet adjourned at 4:30 p.m.