

**REGION 7
YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 21, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Waterloo, IA**

Youth Advisory Council

Marsha Watters
Nancy Kehoe
Brooke Olson
Nickole Dillard
Brian Sedgewick
Lewis Litzel
Karri Miller

Representing

Waterloo Community Schools
Hawkeye Community College
Together for Youth
UNICUE-EOC
Dept of Juvenile Court Services
Vocational Rehabilitation
Hawkeye Community College

IowaWORKS Cedar Valley Staff

Michele Clark

Hawkeye Community College

Michele Clark commenced the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of YAC Minutes

Nancy Kehoe motioned approval of meeting minutes from March 26, 2018. Lewis Litzel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Michele shared with the committee that there was a meeting held on April 4 with Dr. Jane Lindaman, Cedar Valley Iowa WORKS staff, and Eric Bertch from Lost Island Water Park. A discussion took place regarding whether a summer youth program could be offered still this year. It was decided that there would be effort to have a youth hiring event at one of the area high schools for employers that are looking to hire young adults for summer employment this year. The Waterloo School District would send automated voicemail messages to the district's high school parents notifying them of the event. Cedar Valley Iowa WORKS staff would connect with employers to see if they would be interested in participating in this event.

New Business

On May 10, a Summer Youth Program Hiring Event was held at East High School from 3-5pm. 9 different employers from the community were there for this and over 100 students attended this event. It was well received by both the businesses and students. Many students completed applications for job openings and a few were offered interviews for these positions upon further review of their applications.

Other Agency Updates

Nancy shared with us that the High School Completion graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 28th at Hawkeye Community College Tama Hall. Mayor Quinton Hart and Alex Harris will be the guest speakers for this event. She also updated us that the new Adult Learning Center will not be ready to move in to this August as was previously expected. Some items will mover over in October 2018 but the official opening of the center will not be until January 2019 when Semester 2 classes will start.

Registrations for both English Language Learning and High School Completion will take place in July however ongoing registration will be taken between now and then for High School Completion. Nancy said this will be offered on Tuesday and Thursdays between 9-7pm at the Hawkeye Metro Center. Classes for both these programs will start on August 27th.

There will be a new I Best Class that starts in August also. It will be an IT course that will run between August and December. The CNC I Best Class will be offered again next Spring of 2019 and CNA I Best will be offered in Fall 2019. They are also considering a I Best class for Child Care but not until later since there will be a childcare center in the new Adult Learning Center. Nancy said that there will be a new café in the Adult Learning Center as well so Hospitality students from HCC's Hospitality Program will operate and run this business.

Karri told us that Svjetlana Jovic, is the new VR worker hired for Grundy/Buchanan counties. There is also a new Business Developer position that is in the process of getting filed for the Work Based Learning Program. This position is a part time between 10-20 hours per week and the position involves developing partnerships with businesses in smaller communities. A big part of what this will involve developing job shadows for students that have an IEP or 504 plan.

An appreciation breakfast for students and employers was offered including a student panel that discussed internships and job shadowing. There was also a Transition fair on April 24th for AEA at Hawkeye Community College for students transitioning to postsecondary or employment. Topics were centered around teamwork, communication, and leadership opportunities. This event was for high school juniors and seniors that have significant disabilities.

Lewis reported that this year's Project Search Program will be graduating 11 students. Several of these students have already found employment at different businesses including their home town local hospital, Bertch and Omega Cabinets, and University of Northern Iowa. There are 12 students signed up for this upcoming program year which begins in August. Not all of these students are from Waterloo as some are from Cedar Falls, Waverly, and LaPorte. Ideally this program is for senior year students.

They are looking to have summer programming for TAP (Transition Alliance Program) students this summer from June 20,21, and 22 as well as June 24-29. These participants will go on 2 business tours and have a variety of guest speakers that will come to speak with them

Brooke told us about the Graduation Open House for Youth aging out of foster care on Tuesday, May 29th from 4:30-6:00pm at Hawkeye Community College Brock Student Center. She also shared with us that May is Women's Health months so their focus has been on Pregnancy Prevention and offering low or no cost services for women particularly those working within Allen Hospital.

There will also be a state summer summit offered called Eyes Open Iowa. A teen panel will be there to discuss the realities of teen parenthood and this will consist of 2 or 3 of their students. Brooke shared with us that all 10th graders at East, West, and Expo High School will go through 6 sessions of Rights, Respect, and Responsibilities curriculum. This is taught by health educators who also provide programming to all middle school students.

Marsha informed us that the deadline for arranging transportation for summer school's 1st session is Friday, May 25. This session will begin Monday, June 11 and will go through Friday, June 29th. Classes will run Monday through Friday

from 8-12pm. Applications have been available since April and the deadline will be Friday, May 25. There will also be online classes offered on Wednesdays in July to these students that need to catch up. Students can get an application for summer school through their PBDA coordinator at East and West or through their counselor at Expo.

Nickole shared that UNICUE is getting ready to start their summer programming for youth. Classic Upward Bound is for 8th graders entering in to 9th grade. These students will spend 6 weeks of college at UNI starting at the end of June. Talent Search is offering camps at Hawkeye Community College this summer. They will have 2 sessions that will each be 2 weeks in length. There will also be a Leadership Academy for 5th grade students entering 6th grade in the Fall during this summer. 40 students will participate in learning leadership skills, going on field trips, and hearing from a variety of speakers. Megan Holbach is the Coordinator of this program. EOC will be having their student achievement program on June 29th from 11:30-1:00pm. There will be a meal provided along with a keynote speaker and 2 or 3 EOC participants will share their stories.

Brian updated us on the Youth Transition Decision Meetings that are taking place for youth reentering the community after leaving the State Training School or other foster care facilities. These meetings are youth centered and currently IWD & VR are providing some training opportunities in the Cedar Rapids area. They are looking to explore partnering with Bremwood and the State Training school also. Currently they have 3 facilitators that are trained in conducting these meetings. Michelle Cooper with DHS is helping develop a comprehensive plan with each individual transitioning out of the state training school.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 30, 2018 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Nancy Kehoe motioned to adjourn the meeting and Brian Sedgewick seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.