

**Youth Standing Committee
Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2018
Children & Families of Iowa conference room
111 Ave. O West, Fort Dodge, IA
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

Members present:

- Jerry Patterson – ICC/Prison Life Skills program
- Kyle Bangert – Workforce Board member – Region 5 & employer
- Tacey Arens – Voc-Rehab
- Cassie Johnson – YEP Career Advisor
- Teresa Larson-White - Youth Employment Program (Title 1 Youth program)
- Mary Kenny – TAP – (Fort Dodge Senior High)
- Kim Johnson – TAP – (Fort Dodge Senior High)

Members Absent:

- Ann Wayner – Adult Education/Literacy
- Makenzey Hanson – Youth Participant
- Erin Habben – Fort Dodge Parks & Rec (Youth Serving Organization) & employer
- Kris Nerem-Lowery – Youth Empowerment Association, INC & Iowa Central Community College

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm. Motion by Bangert, second by Patterson to approve the agenda. Ayes carried. Motion by Bangert, second by Patterson to approve the minutes of January 25, 2018. Ayes carried.

Introductions: Three new members were introduced to the group – Mary Kenny and Kim Johnson who are with the TAP program at Fort Dodge Senior High as well as Cassie Johnson who is the new part-time Career Advisor for YEP.

TAP: Kenny and K. Johnson shared some information about TAP and what they do at the high school. They work with youth from 9th grade up to age 25 who are in special education. They are a part of Voc-Rehab and focused on supportive employment and self-advocacy. The group discussed that most youth in TAP do not drop out of school or if they do, they generally return to the high school. Rarely do they seek a HISED. There are only 8 TAPs in the state of Iowa and the one in Fort Dodge is the only one in Region 5.

Youth Program update: Larson-White provided an update on the Youth Employment Program. There are currently 52 youth in the program with 28 of those in post program services and 24 who are active participants. There have been 6 new referrals since the committee last met. Of those 1 was enrolled, 4 in process and 1 who was not appropriate for the service and was referred elsewhere.

Larson-White updated the committee on staff changes. Cassie Johnson was hired to work part-time in YEP. Ashlee Zimmermann who previously worked for CFI was hired as the full-time career advisor.

Larson-White also provided information regarding the budget, particularly the 20% requirement for WEP. The audit done in January showed that the program has \$24,000 in Work Experience funds to use by the end of the year. Since it is not likely we will spend all of this, it will most likely go back to the State. Staff are working hard making connections with employers to get job sites in place when we have youth who are ready for work experiences. Right now with so many youth in jobs already or who are in post program services, they have not been willing or able to participate in WEP. With new participants starting this summer, the program will focus on developing cohorts that will complete pre-employment workshops and placement in work experiences, internships and on the job trainings.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: Voc-Rehab reported on the Summer program they are doing with their participants. It will be over the course of 6 Wednesdays. YEP staff will be assisting with a small portion of one day.

Comments from Members: Jerry Patterson will be retiring at the end of June and is not sure he will be able to continue with the committee.

Comments from Visitors: None

Next meeting: Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Action Item: None

Motion to adjourn by Bangert, second by Patterson. Ayes carried.

Meet adjourned at 4:15 p.m.