

**Youth Standing Committee
Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2019
Children & Families of Iowa conference room
111 Ave. O West, Fort Dodge, IA**

Members present:

- Kyle Bangert – Workforce Board member – Region 5 & employer
- Tacey Arens – Voc-Rehab
- Teresa Larson-White - Youth Employment Program (Title 1 Youth program)
- Kris Nerem-Lowery – Youth Empowerment Association, INC & Iowa Central Community College
- Ashlee Zimmerman – YEP career advisor
- Erin Habben – Fort Dodge Parks & Rec (Youth Serving Organization) & employer

Members Absent:

- Mary Kenny – TAP – (Fort Dodge Senior High)
- Kim Johnson – TAP – (Fort Dodge Senior High)
- Abby Underberg, Coord. of Adult Literacy, Iowa Central

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm. Motion by Bangert, second by Arens to approve the agenda. Ayes carried. Motion by Bangert, second Arens to approve the minutes of October 24, 2018. Ayes carried.

Introductions: There were no new members to the committee

Youth Program update

1. Staff: Part-time Career Advisor, Cassie Johnson has resigned for a full-time position elsewhere. At this point in the fiscal year, this position will not be filled. The program consists of Career Advisor Ashlee Zimmermann who is 100% FTE, and the Program Manager, Teresa Larson-White who is 66% FTE.
2. Program stats –24 youth participants enrolled. 9 of these are in post program services. Number of referrals are down despite efforts to recruit and make the public aware of the program. Discussion followed on ways to recruit including provider meetings, posters in public areas and social media. There was a discussion on the low unemployment rate in the area and how youth are finding it easier to obtain employment without the program's help.
3. Work experience update: Currently have 3 youth participating in Work Experiences, including one youth in an OJT with Tjaden Electric. One high school youth who completed a work experience is now employed on his own at Wendy's and an older youth is now employed on her own at Menards.

4. 20% Work Experience requirement: As of this date, the program has spent 26% of program expenditures on work experience and is in compliance with the federal requirement.
5. Reverse Job Fair: The YEP staff have been asked to participate in the Reverse Job Fair at the High School. A reverse job fair involves job seekers have a booth with information about their job skills and interests. Employers visit these booths to learn more about the youth and determine if they would be a good fit for their company. These particular youth are part of TAP. Youth from St. Edmonds are also included. Discussion followed on the specifics what is needed to set this up and make it successful.
6. Outreach activities: Discussed ideas to recruit participants as referral numbers have been down. Suggestions were to put information in the virtual backpacks at the HS.

Comments/updates from members:

- Kris Nerem-Lowery- provided information about the Youth Empowerment Association's Kids Choice Awards to be held on April 28th at 5 p.m. at Fort Frenzy. This is an opportunity for area youth to nominate adult mentors in the community for an award. There is also working being done to establish a suicide survivor support group for teens to start in the fall.
- Erin Habbin – reported that there will be a Mandatory Child Abuse reporting class held on April 29th at 6:30 for area coaches as this is a federal law that coaches of youth must know how to report suspected child abuse. Discussion followed on possible job opportunities over the summer for youth with Parks & Rec.

Comments from Visitors: None

Next meeting: September 19, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at Children & Families of Iowa

Action Item: Still need a youth representative from the program.

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

Meet adjourned at 4:15 p.m.