

**REGION 7
YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 20, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.
Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Waterloo, IA**

Youth Advisory Council

Jeff Frost
Brooke Olson
James Fagg
Lewis Litzle
Nickole Dillard
Kochell Weber-Ricklefs via conference all

Representing

Waterloo Community Schools
Together for Youth
Hawkeye Community College
Vocational Rehabilitation
UNICUE
Department of the Blind

Michele Clark
Chris Hannan

Hawkeye Community College
Hawkeye Community College

Jeff Frost commenced the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Chris Hannan motioned the approval of the agenda for today's meeting. Lewis Litzle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Chris Hannan motioned approval of meeting minutes from March 25, 2019. Brooke Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Michele reiterated that Hawkeye Community College was not selected as a recipient for the Youth Build grant however there have been discussions regarding other funding possibilities to start a scaled down version of a Youth Build program. All the agencies that provided letters of support for the Youth Build Grant were contacted regarding possible commitment for this program. The responses were very favorable in moving forward with this opportunity. The plan is to apply for community grant money and other resources that could help fund and sustain this program until Hawkeye Community College could apply for another Youth Build grant in a few years.

Michele reported that the 3rd Annual Mayor's Summer Youth Hiring Events in the month of April were well received and attended by students and businesses. They are reviewing surveys from businesses that were there for these events and taking their input into consideration for future events like this. The following dates were when these events took place: April 11th at East High, April 18th at West High, and April 25th at the Waterloo Career Center. These events were open to any students in the surrounding area and not just for the Waterloo School District. The event times at each location was from 2:30-6:00pm and it was open to students that are 13-19 years of age.

There is still money available for experiential learning activities that remains for use before 07/01/19.

New Business

Michele updated the committee that Hawkeye Community College was awarded monies for the DOT Urban Youth Corps Grant. The program's objectives are to provide transportation-related work projects and training opportunities to youth between the ages of 16 and 25 and to accomplish meaningful and productive improvements to transportation facilities. Priority will be given to projects that focus on youth who face barriers to employment. Our plan is to employ young adults in experiential learning activities at the Cedar Valley Arboretum where they can work on some transportation related work projects there. Michele distributed flyers to members to help in the recruiting efforts to employ these interns.

Other Agency Updates

Brooke shared with us that Allen's Women Health is celebrating their 50th year anniversary. They are having an ice cream social to celebrate this on Tuesday, June 11th from 3:30-6:00pm at Allen Women's Health, 233 Vold Drive in Waterloo. This event is open to the public.

James reported that there are currently 46 graduates from the High School Completion Program that will be recognized on June 27th in a graduation ceremony at the Van G Miller Adult Learning Center between 7-8:30pm. He also told us that there are students still working towards testing and it is expected that there will be more graduates to come prior June 27th. James shared that High School Completion classes will be switching to quarter this Fall instead of semesters and will be offered in 8 week terms. This is changing in hopes of retaining more students in the High School Completion Program.

The I-Best CNA and CNC graduation took place on May 15th at the Adult Learning Center too. A new I-Best Hospitality Program will be starting in Fall 2019 also.

The ELL or English Language Learning Program Next Step ceremony was on May 16th to recognize these students and their accomplishments. ELL will continue to offer ongoing registration now.

Lewis said that Project Search graduation will take place on Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:00pm at Allen College. There are 10 graduates and many of them have secured employment at businesses such as UNI, Jiffy Lube, New Aldayas, Waterloo Community Schools, and Allen Hospital. There are 12 new participants signed up for next year's Project Search. Lewis also shared that the Transition Alliance Program or TAP will be having summer camps the last 2 weeks in June.

Nickole shared that UNI will offer their annual Student Achievement Luncheon on Friday, June 21st from 11:30-1:00pm recognizing high school and college graduates. Chiquita Loveless will be the guest speaker at this event.

Talent Search and Upward Bound will be offering summer programming starting in mid-June. The Upward Bound Program is for incoming 9th graders that will be spending 6 weeks on campus at UNI. Talent Search will be hosting their participants in a number of different activities on the main campus at Hawkeye Community College.

There is also summer programming for incoming 6th graders at UNICUE that will be teaching them soft skills and leadership skills as well as the opportunity to go on a number of field trips.

Kochell reports that the Iowa Department of the Blind will offer 6-week summer programming in Des Moines to students transitioning out of school to learn more independent living skills. The Office of Apprenticeship is also looking for Trade Jobs for those individuals needing blindness skills. The regions they are looking for this is in Region 10, Cedar Rapids, and Region 7, Waterloo. There may be options for Registered Apprenticeships possibly.

Jeff gave us figures for the number of students that will be graduating in the upcoming week. He said there are 700+ graduates that will be recognized from Expo, East, and West High Schools. Expo's graduation ceremony is on Thursday, May 23, East High's graduation ceremony is Friday, May 24, and West High is on Monday, May 27th.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2019 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Lewis Litzle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Nickole Dillard seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.