

**REGION 7
YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 29, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.
Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Waterloo, IA**

Youth Advisory Council

Jeff Frost
James Fagg
Lewis Litzel
Kochell Weber-Ricklefs
Brian Sedgewick

Representing

Waterloo Community Schools
Hawkeye Community College
Vocational Rehabilitation
Department of the Blind
Department of Juvenile Court Services

IowaWORKS Cedar Valley Staff

Michele Clark
Steven Schwickerath
Chris Hannan (via conference call)

Hawkeye Community College
Hawkeye Community College
Hawkeye Community College

Jeff Frost commenced the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Lewis Litzel motioned the approval of the agenda for today's meeting. Kochell Weber-Ricklefs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Lewis Litzel motioned approval of meeting minutes from May 20, 2019. Brian Sedgewick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Michele updated the committee on the Urban Youth Corps Grant and what work the Conservation Interns have been doing for the past 6 weeks at the Cedar Valley Arboretum. The DOT grant is scheduled to last 10 weeks and the interns will be finishing up between mid to late August. The interns have been removing invasive species on the trails, laying mulch, and spreading gravels to create a more solid walking path throughout the Arboretum. Last Monday the Department of Transportation visited with the interns and toured the Arboretum. We have requested to use more of the remaining grant money to purchase supplies like gravel and equipment rental since there is more work that can be done before the end of the summer. We are waiting to hear back if this is a possibility or not.

New Business

We are continuing to arrange wage experiences although we have been given a definitive budget for this program year. Currently we have 6 active work experiences that are in progress.

As of June 3rd, Workforce Development and the Iowa WORKS offices have changed over to a new system, Iowa WORKS. There have been many challenges but we are learning how to effectively use the system and figure how to case manage utilizing this tool.

Other Agency Updates

Kochell shared with us that the Department of the Blind offered a 6-week program in Des Moines serving 22 students. These individuals learned how to travel by cane and also completed work readiness training. Kochell mentioned that Joe Weigel is looking at doing some work experiences here in Region 7 through University of Northern Iowa also.

Lewis told us that TAP wrapped up their summer camps the last 2 weeks in June. Project Search also finished up for the year and all participants were able to secure employment but 1. For this one student who didn't find a job, they are currently working at the Hartman Reserve for the summer. August 20th is the orientation for the Project Search Program with the program officially starting on August 26th. 12 students have been selected and are signed up to start this new year.

James reported that there were 68 high school completion graduates at the June 27th commencement ceremonies. This is a 55% increase from the previous year. He also updated us that there are currently 214 enrolled High School Completion students for classes that start on August 26th. A new schedule has been implemented and the program will now run in quarters not semesters. The next quarter will begin on 10/21/2019 and students will be able to begin register for these classes on September 3-October 10th. Orientations for this quarter will be on 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15.

There are also 530 English Language Learning students enrolled for the Fall classes which will remain running in semesters. They have extended the registration for this program on Tuesdays and Thursdays through 08/08/2019.

The 1st I Best Hospitality Management class will be starting this Fall at the Adult Learning Center with 8-9 students beginning this program. The I Best Nurse Aide and CNC Programs will be offered in Spring 2020 as it was this year.

Brian updated us on the Juvenile Court Services reentry grant. They are working with 8 foster group facilities including the state training school. The pre ets classes have started and they are entering the facilities to do eligibility and developing process for returning home so the flow of information is timely. The grant runs out on 09/30/2019 but they are working on a 3 year grant extension to continue working with facilities and support services.

Jeff shared that August 21st the teachers return to school and Monday, August 26th is the 1st day of classes for students. The renovations for the Waterloo Career Center have been completed and they are prepping for the upcoming school year.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2019 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Kochell Weber-Ricklefs motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lewis Litzel seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.