

**REGION 7
YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 23, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.
Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Waterloo, IA**

Youth Advisory Council

Jeff Frost via teleconference call
James Fagg
Lewis Litzle
Kochell Weber-Ricklefs
Marsha Watters

Representing

Waterloo Community Schools
Hawkeye Community College
Vocational Rehabilitation
Department of the Blind
Waterloo Community Schools

IowaWORKS Cedar Valley Staff

Michele Clark

Hawkeye Community College

Kochelle Weber-Ricklefs commenced the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Marsha Watters motioned approval of meeting minutes from July 29, 2019. Lewis Litzle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Michele gave a report out on the Department of Transportation Urban Youth Corps grant. There were 3 young adults and one team lead that provided supervision for the conservation interns that were working at the Cedar Valley Arboretum. This group provided assistance with invasive species removal, constructing a bridge for a walking pathway, and laying gravel to all existing walking pathways for accessibility. All 3 interns and the Team Lead completed the internship which started in June and ended in late August. Plans are being made to reapply for this grant again next year.

Michele also shared with the committee the number of participants we served over the last year. They were as follows:

- 51 new enrollment (28 of these enrollments were co-enrolled with PJ, DEI, GAP, or WIOA Title I Adult Program)
- 28 OSY WEP's started
- 1 Registered Apprenticeship
- 29 credentials earned
- 10 OST started; 9 successfully completed successfully

There is still money available for experiential learning activities that remains for use before 07/01/20.

New Business

Michele reiterated that we are continuing to provide outreach to out of school, disconnected youth in Region 7. Steven and Michele have been attending high school completion orientation sessions at the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center as well as receiving many referrals from the staff there. We have also spoken at many different outreach events such as AEA 267, Young Parents Together, Waterloo Women's Center for Change, and House of Hope. An online referral form was developed by the Partners (Cedar Valley Iowa Works, Van G Miller Adult Learning Center, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Department of the Blind) that has streamlined the referral process between agencies and programs.

Other Agency Updates

Lewis reported that Project Search is up and running and that they started with 12 participants but now 11 are attending. Out of last year's cohort, all of those participants that stayed here locally are working also. Lewis reminded us that the National Disability Employment Awareness Month event will take place on Thursday, October 24th from 8-11:30 at Hawkeye Community College. He shared with us that Stephanie Meyers is now a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and she started there on 09/19. Rosemary Fitzpatrick was also hired at VR as a Typist Advanced.

James announced that Laura Hildebaugh is the new Director at the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center and her first day was today. Sandy Jensen's last day will be October 4, 2019. James shared that they have already received 6 age waivers for the month of October which officially releases students from high school. He explained that students must be 17 to be able to take the HiSET testing however. James said that most of these students that have been referred to the High School Completion Program are from Waterloo however he has seen one from Webster City and Jesup too.

James told us that there are 3 more Americorps members between 10/18/19-11/11/20 to be housed at the Van G Miller Adult Learning Center. They will be assisting with the Adult Education Literacy Program, the High School Completion Program, and with DeAnn Nixt in the testing center. Laura's position as former English Language Learning Coordinator may be filled but that hasn't been confirmed. James also mentioned that there are 3 different ways for individuals to earn a high school diploma equivalency but this application has to be approved. They are: completing HiSET program, taking specific classes for graduating, having Associate's Degree classes, and a 4- year college degree as a Foreign credential.

Jeff shared with us that the Waterloo Career Center grand opening is on October 10 and many dignitaries will be present for this. Also, the 14th Registered Apprenticeship in that State was approved for the Career Center in Advanced Manufacturing.

Marsha reported that the Department Chair from West High School retired so she will be taking on these responsibilities. She also mentioned that Jennifer Gray, one of our Cedar Valley Iowa Works Business Engagement Team members, has been coming once a month to work with 11th and 12th graders during seminar at West High. Jennifer is present all day on Tuesdays to provide this assistance. In October, college planning and transitioning after high school begins. Students will be working on selecting their classes for next year before the winter break. Staff with UNICUE, specifically from the Talent Search program, will be assisting with FAFSA events and FAFSA Ready Iowa in the upcoming months. So far there is an event scheduled on 10/22/19 from 3-6:30 at West High and another at East High on 11/19 from 3-6:30. Another event will be held at the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, UNICUE, or at Hawkeye Community College as well.

Kochell shared that there will be a 2-day event in Coggon for 30 students where they will be learning interviewing techniques, life skills, and college planning. The event will take place on 10/4 & 10/5 and 11/4 & 11/5. Five of these

students are from Waterloo with 2 of them transitioning from high school and another 2 from college. The event is being paid for with a grant from Dale Carnegie that will help with the expenses and another grant will assist for the food & lodging for the participants.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2019 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

James Fagg motioned to adjourn the meeting and Marsha Watters seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.