

**Youth Council
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2011**

The Youth Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Co-Chairman Jim Carlson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tera Armstrong, Jim Carlson, Jim Conness, Emlee Dooley, Pam Furlan, Dick Hally, Sally Hanrahan, Margo Stouffer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jan Koch, Terry Madsen, Jeannette Maurice, Dave McClure, Edna McManus, Trina O'Brien, Mary Stouffer

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Wiczorek

Approval of Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Margo Stouffer motioned to approve the August 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Jim Conness and carried.

WIA Update

Pam explained that WIA is operating under a continuing resolution through November 17, 2011. Future funding could result in a 1.5% cuts across the board. Current youth contracts run through December 31, 2011 and could be extended to June 30, 2012 pending available funds.

As for WIA reauthorization, Pam said that California Representative Buck McKeon has proposed a WIA reauthorization bill, but has only five co-sponsors and about fifty are needed. Pam went on to say that any domestic program not reauthorized could face big cuts. A Senate reauthorization bill is still being held up over one issue: composition of the State Workforce Board. Republicans want the same make-up as local workforce boards (51% private sector) while the Senate advocates for only 1/3 private sector representation. Pam also said that Congress is talking about moving the WIA funding year to coincide with the calendar year with a six month transition period from July 1 to December 31, 2011. Pam indicated that Senator Durbin supports WIA reauthorization while Senator Kirk and Representative Adam Kinzinger show no indication of current support. Pam noted that the President's Jobs plan will be politically difficult but proposes increases for WIA funding, particularly for youth.

PY 2011 Youth Program Update

Sally referred members to the Youth Project Update that was included with the meeting materials. She said that the BRIDGE Program (Streator High School) proposes to serve 18 youth and already has 10 students participating. The program is lining up speakers and tours for the fall months.

The LaSalle County Regional Office of recently began classes with two carry-in students and has the possibility of five new incoming youth.

Sally told members that the Step Ahead Program at the Bureau/Henry/Stark Regional Office has started recruitment and Darlene Passini is pleased with the progress of the participants, but more recruitment is needed.

Work In The Real World (WITRW)

Typically two events are held for Work In The Real World. One is for Lee County students with another for LaSalle, Bureau and Putnam County students. Sally shared information about Lee County Work in the Real World. Sally said that the event is scheduled for an all day session Friday, November 4, 2011 at Sauk Valley Community College. Attendees will be high school students recruited by the schools. About 250 students are expected. Sally also said that about 40 to 50 employers are expected to provide presentations and participate in panels.

A change of venue will occur for the other event due to IVCC renovations where the program was customarily held. Pam said that this event will be on November 15, 2011 and will involve two groups of forty students each who will tour one manufacturing and one logistics site for career occupational information.

Work Readiness Certificate Program

Pam introduced this subject by saying that Mary Stouffer had spoken to DePue High School Superintendent, Randy Otto about beginning this program since Superintendent Otto had previous experience in this area. Pam said that each high school would establish its own certificate program. Students must attain certain qualifications in three areas to attain certification. These areas are: academics, attendance and attitude. In return, the local business community could guarantee priority for employment interviews with this certificate. Jim Carlson expressed his interest and enthusiasm for the program and Dick Hally said that perhaps the program could be started initially as a small, local pilot project.

Pam said that perhaps Superintendent Otto could give a presentation of the program at a Private Sector Committee meeting and Youth Council members could attend to hear the information.

Other Business

Pam announced that she presented to the Illinois Investment Board the Logistics DVD which was developed in our area for career awareness. Pam said the Board was impressed by the showing and it was very well received.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Jim Conness motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Dick Hally and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Mary Wieczorek