

**Youth Council
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2010**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tera Armstrong, Jim Carlson, Pam Furlan, Sally Hanrahan, Terry Madsen, Edna McManus, Jeanette Maurice, Carole Sekula, Margo Stouffer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bernie Anderson, Carol Baness, Jim Conness, Emlee Dooley, Dick Hally, Jan Koch, Dave McClure, Trina O'Brien, Mary Stouffer.

Approval of Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Pam Furlan motioned to approve the February 9, 2010 minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Tera Armstrong and carried.

Approval of Planning/Organizational Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

Pam reported that the Planning/Organizational Resources Committee that was scheduled to meet at the same time was cancelled. No motion to approve the October 19, 2009 minutes was made.

WIA Reauthorization Update

Pam stated that WIA Reauthorization had not yet occurred as Congress has not made this a priority at this time.

PY 2009 Youth Program Update

Sally Hanrahan referred members to the Youth Program Update Report in their meeting packet. She said there were concerns with two of the projects which would be addressed later in the meeting.

Proposed Youth Activities

Sally pointed out that the proposed youth activities list in their meeting packet is annual and is re-newed every year unless changes are made. Items on this years' list included: Career Exploration Field Trips, Unpaid Job Shadowing, Dale Broadway Leadership Conference, Work Readiness and Basic Academic Skills Training. She stated that the Unpaid Job Shadowing and Work Readiness Stipends were new to the list. In addition, she explained that the Basic Academic Skills Training stipend was tentative and is based on possible future funding. Jeanette Maurice motioned to approve the proposed youth activities. Motion was seconded by Edna McManus and carried.

PY 2010 Youth Proposals Approval

Sally introduced the five proposals that were received by Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. Two providers, Hall High School with the "Step Ahead" program and Bureau, Henry and Stark Regional Office of Education (ROE) with the "Workplace Transitions" program are applying for extension of their current projects. Two providers, Streator Township High School with the "Bridge" program and Lee/Ogle ROE with the "LINC" program were not eligible for

extension, but submitted new proposals for their respective projects. LaSalle County ROE submitted a new proposal for their “Regional Work Study” program.

Sally said that the total cost of the proposals came in at about \$266,000 and that BEST, Inc. had approximately \$199,000 to allocate to projects this year. She stated that in addition to budget negotiations that BEST, Inc. recommended some design changes for three of the proposed projects which Pam would discuss further in the meeting.

Pam referred committee members to the cover sheet in their meeting packet on the Request for Proposal (RFP) rating form. She stated that BEST, Inc. recommended approval of all proposals pending successful negotiations. Change recommendations were made for: Bridge (Streator High School) – cost negotiations, LINC (Lee/Ogle ROE) – cost negotiations and program management/design negotiations, Step Ahead (Bureau, Henry, Stark ROE) – cost negotiations and program design negotiations, Workplace Transitions (Hall High School) – cost negotiations and a computational error and Regional Work Study (LaSalle County ROE) – cost negotiations and program design

Pam stated that BEST, Inc. was particularly concerned about low enrollment numbers and a staffing issue with the Step Ahead Program in Bureau, Henry, and Stark ROE Program. She also said that more description and details are needed from the LaSalle County ROE Program. Jim Carlson said he would be willing to pull the proposal for LaSalle County ROE if it meant other programs could be more fully funded. Pam expressed her appreciation for his graciousness and concern. She pointed out that proposal readers rated LaSalle County ROE proposal high and said that the proposals are routinely trimmed each year.

Tera Armstrong questioned whether the cost per participant is a consideration. Pam replied that we do not have a suggested cost per participant because projects differ in the kinds of services they offer and deliver.

Pam questioned members as to how they would like to proceed and a discussion took place amongst committee members as to how to motion. It was decided that the motion would be to approve proposals pending successful negotiations. Jeanette Maurice made the motion to approve proposals pending negotiations. Motion was seconded by Tera Armstrong and carried. Jim Carlson abstained from the motion.

Tera questioned how negotiations would take place. Pam responded that Becky Lambert was leaving BEST, Inc. and that Carrie Folken may be a part of the process this year. She said members would be updated on the status of the proposals at the June Youth Council meeting.

2010 TANF Summer Program Update

Pam explained that we tentatively could have three different summer programs this year:

- **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** - would operate similar to last years' summer program where crew leaders would be hired to supervise a work crew of 4-5 youth in state parks and historical sites. This project served 16-20 youth last year and Pam said she believes BEST, Inc. has a 90% chance that this program will operate again.
- **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)** - Pam said this program has a 60-70% chance of operating this year and could potentially serve 125 youth in our area. The chances of this program operating are dependent on legislation which has passed the House but has not passed the Senate yet. **Put Illinois to Work**- This is a program targeting youth, adults and dislocated workers who are eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) was asked by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to help administer this program. This grant could bring about 2.5 million dollars into our four-county area and is expected to begin on May 1, 2010 and end on September 30, 2010.

Pam stated that programs may change from what was originally introduced and there is a possibility that the programs could be divided into two separate programs with one program serving adults and dislocated workers and the other program serving youth. She said that if that should occur Heartland Human Care Services may handle the adults and dislocated workers and BEST, Inc. may serve the youth program, which would operate similar to last years' program where youth are placed into private and public sector worksites. She said she would be attending a meeting later this week and anticipates gaining additional information.

Pam explained that once funding and details become available, the Youth Council will need to approve the summer program plan. She said that due to time constraints, she was not recommending that the Youth Council wait to approve plans in June. Committee members discussed the need for the Planning & Organizational Resources Committee to approve the summer programs as well. It was decided that a joint meeting would take place between the Youth Council and the Planning & Organizational Resources Committee although concern was expressed by committee members about the ability to have a quorum at this joint meeting. Margo Stouffer motioned to pre-approve that any future planning of summer programs be done by the Planning & Organizational Resources Committee. She requested that the Youth Council be invited to any future Planning & Organizational Resources Committee meeting in reference to any summer program to be held. Motion was seconded by Tera Armstrong and carried.

Approval to pay \$8.25/7.75 effective first day of Summer Youth Program

Pam informed committee members that minimum wage will go up to \$8.25 for 18 year-olds and older on July 1, 2010 and up to \$7.75 for youth younger than 18. She asked Youth Council members to approve the changing of the pay rate effective on the first day of the summer program, as opposed to waiting until July 1, 2010. Edna McManus made the motion to approve the pay rate of \$8.25/7.75 the first day of the Summer Youth Program. Motion was seconded by Jim Carlson and carried.

Approval for line item modification change for Bridge program

Pam referred committee members to a memo in their meeting packet by Streator High School to move \$600.00 from their mentoring line item to their instructional aide line item. Jeanette Maurice motioned to approve the change. Motion was seconded by Edna McManus and carried.

Update on Local Coalitions

Terry Madsen updated the committee on youth coalitions in Bureau and Putnam counties. These included coalitions on suicide prevention, substance abuse and a coalition for the discussion of Church vs. State and School in Princeton. He mentioned that Community Works had used equipment from BEST, Inc. in the past for the WYB-TV projects that broadcast town hall meetings. He said changes are expected to take place within University of Illinois Extension offices and programs.

Pam updated members on the recent Work in the Real World which was held at IVCC in conjunction with SRAVTE's Career Fair. She said evaluations were very positive and they would be shared at a future meeting adding that 54 students attended, there were 15-16 presenters and 7 teachers participated this year.

Discussion of Youth Council Goals

Pam explained that our work readiness activities and job shadowing activities were recently added to our list of youth activities and clearly support the Youth Council's goal.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

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

Sally Hanrahan