

**Youth Standing Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 25, 2018 at Children & Families of Iowa conference room  
111 Ave. O West, Fort Dodge, IA  
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

Members present:

- Jerry Patterson – ICC/Prison Life Skills program
- Kyle Bangert – Workforce Board member – Region 5 & employer
- Makenzey Hanson – Youth participant
- Jodi Ricklefs – Youth Employment Program (Title 1 Youth program)
- Erin Habben – Fort Dodge Parks & Rec (Youth Serving Organization) & employer
- Tacey Arens – Voc-Rehab
- Kris Nerem-Lowery – Youth Empowerment Association, INC & Iowa Central Community College
- Teresa Larson-White - Youth Employment Program (Title 1 Youth program)

Members Absent:

- Ann Wayner – Adult Education/Literacy

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm. Motion by Bangert, second by Patterson to approve the agenda. Ayes carried. Motion by Bangert, second by Patterson to approve the minutes of October 26, 2017. Ayes carried.

Two new members were introduced, Kris Nerem -Lowery with the Youth Empowerment Association and Tacey Arens from Voc-Rehab who will replace Lori Kolbeck.

**Youth Program update:** Ricklefs and Larson-White provided an update on the Youth Employment Program. There are currently 57 youth in the program with 28 of those in post program services and 29 who are active participants.

Larson-White updated the committee on staff changes. A part-time career advisor was hired in December however she quit after a month due to needing full-time employment. She reported that the program will not try to fill this position this fiscal year but will move forward with just Jodi and herself. In July it is anticipated that most of the current post program participants will exit completely from the program so the program is seeking new referrals.

Larson-White provided an update on the current budget. As of the end of December the program had utilized 41% of the WIOA funds allotted and in January they received their United Way allocation of \$10,000. The program is in on target budgetwise and should be able to carryover funds into the next fiscal year.

**Old Business:** The issue of focus groups was reviewed. Larson-White gave an update on the Survey Monkey idea to get feedback from the current youth participants. This was not successful. Discussion on other ways to get feedback from 16-24-year olds was discussed. Nerem-Lowery provided information on the Youth Empowerment Association youth forum and

how that was put together. She explained that the association is made up of all volunteers. Youth volunteer to be ambassadors in their schools, elementary to high school, to provide peer support and make referrals to adults when needed. The association assists youth who are being bullied or who have mental health needs. Nerem-Lowrey gave some examples of what they have done in communities such as having a Rap Room in Gowrie at the public library where youth can come to talk, share experiences and get support. They also have the mentor awards where youth can nominate a special adult who has been supportive to them. They have also done 5ks and fishing days.

Ricklefs reported that YEP recently tried to get all participants together to discuss YEP activities and get feedback and what they needed from the program and ideas of where they would like to do job shadows or work experiences. All were notified, 12 confirmed but 3 showed up.

There was also discussion about how to reach those youth who have dropped out or were thinking about dropping out. Arens suggested getting Mary Kinney and Kim Johnson from the TAP at the high school involved.

**New Business:** No new business

**Comments from Members:** Habben reported that Fort Dodge Parks & Rec has will be taking applications for summer employment.

**Comments from Visitors:** None

**Next meeting: Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at Children & Families of Iowa**

**Action Item: Tacey Arens will invite Mary Kinney and Kim Johnson to the next meeting.**

Motion to adjourn by Patterson, second by Bangert. Ayes carried.

Meet adjourned at 4:15 p.m.