

**REGION 7
YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 30, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
Cedar Valley IowaWORKS
3420 University Avenue
Waterloo, IA**

Youth Advisory Council

Marsha Watters
James Fagg
Carrie Snell
Lewis Litzel

Representing

Waterloo Community Schools
Hawkeye Community College
Job Corps
Vocational Rehabilitation

IowaWORKS Cedar Valley Staff

Michele Clark
Steven Schwickerath

Hawkeye Community College
Hawkeye Community College

Michele Clark commenced the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Lewis Litzel motioned the approval of the agenda for today's meeting. Carrie Snell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of YAC Minutes

Marsha Watters motioned approval of meeting minutes from May 21, 2018. Lewis Litzel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Michele updated the committee regarding the youth hiring event that took place this past Spring at East High School. 100 Students for West, East, Expo, Bunker, Carver, and Denver High Schools attended the event on May 10th from 2:30-5:00pm. The ages of the students varied from 13-19 years of age. It was reported that the students that attended were well prepared for the opportunities that were presented to them from the 9 employers who attended.

New Business

Michele shared with the committee that Hawkeye Community College is applying for a Department of Labor Youth Build Grant. We are in the process of obtaining letters of support from various agencies to establish partnerships and support for this program once we are selected. The grant will be submitted in September and we should know whether or not we were selected as a recipient by December 2018. Michele also announced that we are continuing to outreach out of school youth for our Young Adult Program and we have \$37,145.00 for experiential learning activities.

Other Agency Updates

Lewis shared with us that October is National Disability Awareness month and on 10/25/18, there will be an event at Hawkeye Community College acknowledging this milestone.

Lewis told us that Project Search had students complete this past year's program and many of those students are now working at local businesses including Hometown Foods, Masterbrands, and Scheels. One of the participants is now going to Job Corps also. Michele noted that one of those students has been in a paid work experience through the Young

Adult Program at Salvation Army but will be starting a permanent job at UNI next month. Project Search will be starting in August 23 with 12 new students and Parent Orientation will be on August 10th.

Lewis also mentioned that the posting for a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor closed on 07/29/18. This position was left vacant as Lisa Ortner accepted another position with Department of the Blind.

James Fagg introduced himself as the High School Completion Coordinator. He shared with us that High School Completion classes will be starting on August 27th and that will be the final 3- hour long orientation that is offered for this semester. He said all 1st time students are required to go through orientation. James mentioned that Hawkeye would be in the process of applying to offer 4 different pathways to earning a High School diploma. This approval has to be given by the Department of Education and will probably be a lengthy process.

The proposed ways to earn a high school diploma would be that individuals may obtain their high school diploma through the HiSET Program, completing high school credits if they have 3-6 credits remaining, have an Associates degree, or recognized for having a foreign credential (earned an AA degree and are a US citizen or if not a citizen attain a certain score on an assessment, have an AA, and are taking a civic related course).

James also told us how there will be James told us that they are also hiring a part time instructor to teach foundational reading and math (remedial literacy and numeracy). Right now there are is only a full time teacher who instructs writing and math and no one is teaching science and social studies. Students are studying for these subjects through online programming as a part of their study lab. They have recently hired a Lab Instructor too. James also shared that they have received a local grant for \$3000.00 for transportation assistance for students.

Marsha shared that the 3rd round of summer school has started today. Classes are running from Monday through Friday from 8-12pm. Marsha said that they offered a 3-week session in June and then a 2nd session in July too. Summer school for elementary school students ended today. Registration and Orientation for Waterloo Community Schools will take place on August 6 & 7 also. Classes will begin on Thursday, August 23rd.

Marsha mentioned that starting in 9th grade, West High School will be having home visits for incoming freshmen similar to what East High is already doing. They are focusing on students that will be coming from Bunger, Central, and Carver transitioning to West High School. There will also be a new schedule for Waterloo Community Schools. The start time will remain the same but students will attend 10 minutes longer each day so high school will now end at 2:45pm. Staff will be starting their days at 7:00 and end at 3:30 now so that is an extra 30 minutes longer on Mondays, Tuesday, and Wednesdays. This time will allow students to get help from their teachers or make up tests. Marsha also shared that MTTs/Seminar is also built in to the students' day for this same reason.

Carrie Snell informed us of the updates concerning Job Corps. She said that the centers in Denison, Ottumwa, and Pinewood Nebraska are almost full. These are the centers where she typically sends students depending on what vocational training they are interested in but they can go to surrounding states also. Jackson Pierce in the current contract holder for Job Corps here in Iowa.

Future meeting dates

The next Youth Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 24, 2018 at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Marsha Watters motioned to adjourn the meeting and Carrie Snell seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.