

**Youth Council
Workforce Investment Board of Will County
Joliet Township High Schools Administration Center
November 5, 2015
Minutes**

Council Members					
Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Nancy Baldwin		X	Monica Lowe	X	
Dale Evans	X		Emilie McCallister	X	
Susan Flessner	X		Cheryl McCarthy	X	
Beth Gonzalez	X		Jim Moustis		X
Pam Heavens	X		Marieta Pergi	X	
Mike Hennessy		X	Caroline Portlock	X	
Mark Jepson		X	Laura Price		X
Neal Kauffman	X		Jerry Staley	X	
Elizabeth Kaufman	X		Anika Todd		X

Others Present: Pat Fera and Mary Gajcak,

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Cheryl McCarthy called the meeting to order. She asked each member to introduce themselves and then provide some background on how they got interested in youth services.

The minutes of the January 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Dale Evans, seconded by Susan Flessner.

Youth Council Action Plan

Pat Fera presented the final Youth Council Action Plan for the next two years. Members had a discussion about the details of the plan. Caroline Portlock volunteered to touch base with Crisis Line about the Willfinduhelp.org website to get the details on how to update/change information on their website. The success story process was discussed and it was suggested to include testimonials and videos in the activities undertaken. The action plan was approved on a motion by Elizabeth Kaufman, seconded by Dale Evans.

Connect to Your Future Program

Fera reviewed the two components to the youth Connect to Your Future Program: GED Preparation and Occupational Skill Training Program. Council members received the program reports prior to the meeting. It was suggested that the Occupational Skills Training report be modified to include the program outcomes (number of youth who completed training by occupation, and number of youth who got a job by occupation). On the GED preparation report, it was suggested that the age breakouts provide more detail (under 18, 18-21, 21 and over).

The group had a discussion about the total number of youth dropouts in Will County and how many of those these programs reach. Fera indicated she will look into that and provide the group with that information in the future.

Youth Provider Summit

Mary Gajcak updated the group on the Youth Provider Summit to be held on September 30, 2016. The Summit task force is working on the specific plans for the event. Gajcak asked for suggestions on potential motivational speakers for the event. It was suggested that she try to obtain a speaker with a similar background as the youth we serve.

Career Awareness Event

Fera updated the group on the Careers in Energy career awareness event that was held in October. While the attendance was not as large as expected. The idea of hosting career awareness events for both youth and WIOA adult customers is something that the Youth Council is continuing to pursue as part

of the current Action Plan. A task force made up of Dale Evans, Susan Flessner, Mary Gajcak, Cheryl McCarthy, and Caroline Portlock will meet after the new year to discuss the project.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Youth Council will be the held on January 7th at the Workforce Center of Will County, 2400 Glenwood, Joliet at 7:30 am.