

**Youth Council  
Workforce Investment Board of Will County  
Workforce Center of Will County  
2400 Glenwood Avenue, Joliet, IL  
May 2, 2017  
Minutes**

Council Members					
Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Nancy Baldwin	X		Monica Lowe	X	
Colleen Brooks	X		Emilie McCallister		X
Toni Carrera		X	Cheryl McCarthy	X	
Maria DiMuzio		X	Jim Moustis		X
Susan Flessner	X		Amy Murphy		X
Pam Heavens		X	Marieta Pergl		X
Mike Hennessy		X	Caroline Portlock	X	
Mark Jepson	X		Laura Price		X
Neal Kauffman	X		Kim Smith		X
Elizabeth Kaufman	X		Pamela Thomas	X	

Others Present: Sue Davinger, Pat Fera, Mary Gajcak, Keri Peters

***Welcome and Approval of Minutes***

Cheryl McCarthy called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting were approved on a motion by Susan Flessner, seconded by Nancy Baldwin.

***Youth Provider Workshop; First Quarter event:*** Evaluations from the April 27<sup>th</sup> Mental Health First Aid Training and Certification Class were reviewed with 32 people attending the class. The Q2 event will feature Brian Hazard from Stepping Stones Recovery Center; addressing substance use/abuse will take place on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:30 am. The group watched a video highlighting the heroin abuse problem in the western suburbs.

McCarthy asked for topic suggestions for the Q3 workshop and the group discussed options such as gang awareness, digital safety, personal safety, and human trafficking.

***Connect to Your Future youth program:*** Keri Peters presented the Occupational Training report for March, with highlights of the successes of customers due to the support services available to them at Joliet Junior College. She noted that many of the youth are single parents with full time jobs and face many obstacles in receiving their Associates Degrees in the usual time frame of two years. With the support of counselors, students typically complete their AA in three to three and a half years. Peters noted that certified resume counselors are equipping students with effective resumes to use in their job searches. Peters relayed the success story of client Jacqueline Escobedo, in line to receive a Certificate of Achievement for Medical Coding Specialist as well as an Associate in Applied Science in Health Information Technology in May 2018.

Fera reviewed the March GED report. 53 customers are attending training; 73 are in follow-up. There are 12 new participants. Year to date, 26 have received their GED.

***Contract Renewal:*** Fera recommended the continuation of the GED Preparation and Occupational Skill Training Program for Youth contract with Joliet Junior College for one year. The total contract amount is \$1,699,718. Mark Jepson moved to accept Fera's recommendation. Elizabeth Kauffman seconded. Motion carried. Caroline Portlock abstained from the vote.

***Next Meeting:*** The next meeting of the Youth Council will be held on September 5, 2017, at the Workforce Center of Will County, 2400 Glenwood, Joliet at 7:30 am.