**Local Workforce Innovation Area 23 Quarterly Youth Committee Meeting**

**Monday, June 17, 2024 ▪ 03:00 PM**

**CEFS Board Room▪1805 S Banker St. Effingham**

**Chair: Lori Poorman**

**Vice Chair: Kala Lambert**

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| **Members Present:** Casey Burgholzer (video), Kelly Denton (Elaine Nuding),  Carolynne Jorgenson (video), Kala Lambert (video), Cheryl Meyers (Madison LeMay), Chris  Strohl, Ted Walk  **Members Absent:**  Lisa Bloemer, Courtney Conlin, Lori Poorman  **Others Present:** Jamie Corda Hadjaoui, Debbie Whitacre, Nancy Purdy, Joy Fitts, Justin Arnold,  Brenda Ingle (video), Mandy Bernard (video), Kevin Bushur |  |

**Welcome - Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call:**

The regular meeting of the LWIA 23 Youth Committee was called to order at 3:01 pm on Monday, June 17, 2024 by Kala Lambert.

**Approval of Minutes:**

There were no questions or concerns after reviewing the March minutes. Chris Strohl made a motion to approve the minutes, Carolynne Jorgenson seconded. Motion Carried.

**Guest Speaker**

Dr. Justin Arnold, Director of LWIA 17, spoke about the Youth program reorganization his workforce area went through over the last several years. The first step was looking at how to align youth activities and determining how to focus on out-of-school youth. Recognizing the barriers helped identify the intended participants. They then turned to their local plan for target sectors and career pathways. The Youth committee then brainstormed on the best alignment for their area and refocused on what was not being done in their community. At the time, they were a coordinator for nine Youth providers and after a year, decided the best direction to take and new goals to work towards, which included: emphasis on out-of-school work experience, working with alternative and adult education partners, and keeping some of the Youth services in-house.

Ultimately, they procured four Youth providers that aligned with their goals as well as piloted a partial in-house Youth program focused on healthcare and construction. They are also exploring apprenticeships for high school students with disabilities. The Youth Committee members are a pretty focused group and are currently at the stage of getting input from out-of-school youth that have been in the program to see what feedback they can give on the services they have received. A question was asked on where they have had success in finding youth participants and it included: the Community Coalition in Champaign (social services) for referrals; high schools for dropout referrals; pregnancy centers; and probation/juvenile centers.

**Youth Committee Reorganization Update**

Jamie Corda Hadjaoui mentioned that they last left off talking about trying to get input from youth via a potential survey regarding if their needs are being met by the program and feedback on outreach information. A Doodle poll will go out to gauge interest for volunteers for a taskforce to work on the survey.

A side conversation was had on the importance of immediate follow-up with any dropouts and working with ROE’s to not lose touch with these Youth. Also, for Local Workforce Area 17, there is a Career Readiness program through the probation office that can be used in place of community service and if they graduate, can lead into further training. Madison is going to talk to Cheryl about how referrals from the court to CEFS could potentially work for our area.

**Report on Activities and Programs for Youth**

Elaine Nuding passed out an updated Youth recruitment plan. Since April 1st, 25 Youth have been added to the program with 19 still active and an additional 5 or 6 to be added soon. Kelly Denton and Jamie are meeting monthly with DCEO as CEFS continues to focus solely on out-of-school youth.

**Performance Measures Current Status**

Elaine stated we are currently exceeding all Youth measures. Elaine also noted that as of the new fiscal year on 7/1/24, they plan on increasing the mileage reimbursement rate.

**Other Business**

None.

**Public Comment**

Mandy Bernard from SPERO Family Services wants to connect with CEFS regarding potential Youth out-of-school collaboration. They are in 36 counties and are currently involved with Workforce Area 25. They offer a Youth Build program in Marion County but offer wrap-around services in many other counties as well as having a couple of offices throughout our workforce area.

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. Arnold was thanked for giving his presentation.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm. Ted Walk made the motion, Chris Strohl seconded. Motion Carried.