

**Youth Council  
May 8th, 2023  
706 N. Victory Drive  
Mankato, MN**

**Those Present:** Sara Carrigan, Jon Nowak, Kim Mueller, Sarah McDonald, Heather Anderson, Jocelyn Hartman, Amanda Mackie, Laura Attenberger, Frank Rutt, Caleb Watson, and Sarah Longtin

**Guests:** n/a

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Jon Nowak called the meeting to order at 1:32PM.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Jon Nowak called for the approval of the March meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Kim Mueller and seconded by Heather Anderson. The motion carried.

**III. Carl D Perkins Career & Technical Education Plan – Laura Attenberger, SCC**

Laura reported the Perkin's application was submitted on May 1st and the estimated award is expected to decrease of approximately \$6,000 compared to prior years' submissions. The final award amount will be given in July. Laura gave a summary of the recently submitted application noting the 11 narratives aligned with the five elements in the comprehensive local needs assessment. Laura shared some of the specific goals within the application such as student performance, program size, scope, and quality, recruitment and retention, and progress towards equal access to students. Other updates within career exploration included the health science mobile lab enhancements and statistics on the Career Navigator program that will persist.

**IV. Youth & Young Adult Program Walk Through – Sarah McDonald, MVAC**

Sarah shared the intake and enrollment process for the youth and young adult programs. As an overview, all participants will complete the same enrollment and intake forms. The first meeting is when paperwork is started, and staff will determine eligibility and level of interest from the student. Youth staff work to provide intentional programming for each participant, this is indicated in the Individual Service Strategy (ISS), in addition to referrals to other programs to support the participant and their families to combat other barriers. The second meeting is made up of the TABE (math and reading assessment), youth competencies (development by Youth Council), interest and skill assessment, practice application, career and labor market exploration, and expectations and case manager agreements. After the second meeting, each participant receives those intentional services, such as getting started in a work experience, building

foundational skills in preparation for work, or gearing up for additional training or courses to obtain credentials. Each plan has their own set of tasks and checkpoints. Typically, participants stay with the MVAC program from 6 months to 1 year depending on what is indicated in their ISS.

**V. Updates**

WIOA and Minnesota Youth Quarterly Reports:

Sara Carrigan reviewed a summary of the WIOA and Minnesota Youth programming. WIOA Youth has served 61 youth and Minnesota Youth has served 265 youth. WIOA Youth and Minnesota Youth activities, performance outcomes, and budgets were reviewed.

Youth Grants Quarterly Reports

Sara Carrigan reviewed a summary of youth grants. The Youth at Work grant is a grant focused on serving BIPOC communities. There have been 87 youth served on this program. The YIP grant is focused on serving individuals who are or have been in out of home placements and there have been 15 youth served on this program. The TANF youth program is a grant to serve children in homes receiving MFIP or young parents receiving MFIP and there have been 18 youth served on this program. The Youth Support Services grant focuses on serving BIPOC or students with disabilities providing them with work experiences and/or driver's education and there have been 34 students served on this program.

Youth Services Update:

Sarah McDonald shared that there are 258 youth currently being served with 95 in a work experience, as well as 9.61 academic credits awarded this year. In comparison to numbers pre-pandemic, Sarah shared that the participation is comparable to participation from 2015-2018. New partnerships for worksites were discussed and included Uniquely Abled Academy and MRCI. Staff continue to partner with Mankato Area Public Schools to provide work experiences for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders, there will be a group intake on Monday. Sarah also mentioned they are excited to host a Mentoring Event in June for their BIPOC Youth in the Youth at Work program. Still looking for worksites to place 14- and 15-year-olds, continuous brainstorming and partnering is welcome.

Regional Career Coordinator:

Sarah Longtin reported Teen Connect will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Mankato West high school for students who are looking to connect to employment, volunteer opportunities, and enrichment (camps) for the summer. Mock interviews are taking place throughout school districts this spring, specifically MAPS, Waseca, and Maple River. Skills for Success presentations continue in the schools – in preparation for those mock interviews. The field trip to Local 49's training facility was a success bringing 37 students from five school districts. All filming for the Career Passport project has been captured, in the strategic planning phase to role

that out to the public. Scrubs Camp and Transportation Works will take place in June.

South Central Service Cooperative Updates:

Kim Mueller shared that Future Ready CTE grant award letters were sent out to 13 school districts totaling \$325,000. The pilot of the Health Science Mobile Lab has been successful, looking for volunteers for next Friday's event at Maple River. There will be a training on May 20<sup>th</sup> for Future Forward, a free product to connect schools and industry partners on one platform, all are welcome. The Mankato Career Expo took place at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center and Crave took place at MSU for students interested in the culinary field. Save the date for Mankato Career Expo happening April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and CRAVE happening April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. South Central Service Cooperative has been one of 80 to be awarded between \$15,000 and \$18,000 for the Career Z Challenge, a grant to expand work-based learning (WBL) opportunities. If accepted into the next phase of the Career Z Challenge, South-Central Minnesota can anticipate \$350,000 of unincumbered money.

On behalf of Gwenn, Kim shared that Perkins dollars are reaching the most underserved population with the development of the Uniquely Abled Academy and hosting career exploration experiences at South Central College in small group settings. This year they hosted 90 students from 11 school districts. Currently, there are 9 teachers seeking teacher externships for this summer, some include partnerships with Crystal Valley and area math teachers.

Youth Directories:

It was repeated that with printing costs rising there will need to be discussion about how to proceed with the Youth Directories as it is not feasible for the WorkForce Council to fund them in their entirety. Feedback is welcome.

**VI. Other Business**

Member Updates:

Heather Anderson shared that Adult Basic Education (ABE) will be hosting the GED Boot Camp again, this year participants will have to achieve a certain score by taking the GED Ready test before they can take the GED. If additional studying is needed, ABE is providing a GED preparation course. There will also be a ServSafe class offered by ABE for credential.

Caleb Watson shared that Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS) has enjoyed piloting the Boot Camp on early release days, and they are looking forward to

Teen Connect happening May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Fair happening on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Frank Rutt was grateful to see Sarah McDonald and her Youth Staff in Mankato East High School, with their social worker out, they have been a great help. Frank shared that there are plans to pilot a truancy program next year. MAPS received grant dollars to provide a truancy program out of the cities with truancy counselor's on-site to help figure out the barriers for students.

Joeclyn Hartman of YWCA shared about their four current youth programs. They have two running during early-release days, one exploring the trades and the other textiles and clothing. They are looking forward to their summer programs: Trades Trailblazers and Sewing for Success.

Jon Nowak from the Carpenters Local 464, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, shared that business is steady but slow. They are anticipating \$5 billion worth of work starting in the fall, but navigating how to keep the large number of youth interested in joining the union to stick around until fall. Their Career Connection programs has been going well and he is working with ABE to provide their seminars: one-week roofing seminar and two-week intro to construction seminar.

Sara Carrigan shared that the Adult Career Pathway (ACP) Networking Day will occur Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It is a structured networking event where you will meet colleagues from partner agencies, explore these agencies and the resources available to our shared Adult Career Pathways participants, and learn about the upcoming ACP grants for next school year. If interested, reach out for the registration link.

**Next Meeting: October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Jon Nowak called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heather Anderson. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned.