

LWIA 21
Workforce Development Board
Youth Committee
February 27, 2025

Chair Chuck McEvers called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was done by self-introduction and sign-in sheet

In-Person

Ben Beckwith
Chris Casey
Dr. Val Harris
Robert Heape
Matt Jones
Chuck McEvers
David Lacy
Betty Scheldt

Remote

Approval of Minutes

Chair Chuck McEvers ask if there were any comments or corrections on the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet. There being none:

Motion: It was moved by Dr. Val Harris and seconded by Robert Heape to approve the November 20, 2025, Youth Committee Minutes as presented. All votes aye. **Motion Carried.**

Discussion Points

Chair McEvers first item of discussion was the recruitment of new Youth Committee members. Matt suggested finding a youth person to join to add a youth's perspective to the committee. There may be a youth on one of the Paid Work Experience programs that would be interested in joining. Matt stated they could attend the meeting virtually if needed.

Fiscal Report

Ben Beckwith reported on the status of the Youth Paid Work Experience projections. As of today, in the Summer Youth Work Experience we will be able to accept approximately ten to twelve participants at \$15 an hour for eight weeks at twenty-nine hours per week, which amounts to \$35,000 to \$42,000. If they work less than twenty-nine hours per week, we could place more youth in the program. Chuck asked about Hillsboro starting up a program for youth. Chris explained there are a couple of potential students that may want to sign up. Chris has met with Southwestern High School, and he knows potentially two in Bunker Hill. Matt would like to see Carlinville take on one or two students. Chuck mentioned that when he's looking for students to

put on his program, he looks for the ones that have long term interests and that especially show real interest in the trades.

Old Business

Matt stated he had not given up hope in working with Carlinville on their community garden. He's had very little contact with the city lately, mainly because they have been busy with the Energy Transition Grant. They have public property near Blackburn College and have talked about starting a community garden there, but there's been no updates lately. Matt thought that it might be a place that Carlinville could place youth to assist with the project. He is going to check with Carlinville again to see where they are on the project. There was also a brief discussion on classes on fresh food preparation.

Chuck updated everyone on the day care facility at North Greene School District. They need ROE 40 to commit to the day care project. The school district has posted the position of Day Care Director and Assistant Day Care Director. The day care will be for district employees only, at least at the start. By offering day care for the district, it will free up other local day cares for parents seeking day care for their children. Chuck's goal is to take junior year high school students interested in working in day care and have them enroll in Early Childhood Development classes. Then during their senior year, they would be taking classes for half a day and the other half will be working in the day care through the Paid Work Experience program. The best-case scenario is to open the day care in Fall 2025. Next week is the Skills USA Amplify at the state capitol. The students will go and spend the day and a large portion are staying the night. They go up on Tuesday and get their program of work put together, basically their story. Wednesday, they go to the capitol to present it to the state legislators, talk about CTE programs and how they were positively affected by these programs.

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.


Chuck McEvers, Chair

5/22/2025
Date