

LWIA 21  
Workforce Development Board  
Youth Committee  
May 22, 2025

Chuck McEvers called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

**Roll Call** by self- introduction and sign-in sheet.

**Roll Call:**

Robert Heape	Jennifer Russell
Matt Jones	Ben Beckwith
David Lacey	Chris Casey
Marsha Mueller	
Dr. Val Harris	
Chuck McEvers	

**Approval of Minutes**

Chuck asked the board to approve the February 27, 2025, meeting minutes included in the meeting packet.

**Motion:** It was moved by Val Harris, seconded by Robert Heape to approve February 27, 2025, Youth Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. All votes aye. Motion carried.

**Discussion Points**

Matt reminded the Youth Committee that new members are still needed to serve on the Youth Committee. Members discussed maybe getting a student or parent involved. Jennifer Russell suggested contacting Keri Mason, the Lincoln Land Representative from Jacksonville. Matt also suggested Josh Collins from Lincoln Land. Chuck will see if one of his students would be interested in serving on the committee.

Ben Beckwith went over the budgets and gave an update. Ben stated Illinois will be getting a 4% increase to the Youth Budget, we don't know what will be passed down. We currently are a little short of the 80% Goal, the outside paid work experience will help increase these numbers. Chuck has eight students committed, with one on the fence, 2 in Bunker Hill and Shelby County, 1 in Litchfield. Matt stated that the funding may be available in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. Chuck told

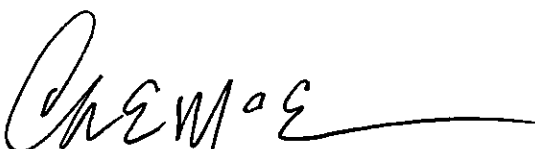
, his kids they are good until the end of June. Matt stated we are pushing forward and staying positive. Chuck stated there is a need for Paraprofessionals and he stated we could "grow our own". The Daycare in North Greene was discussed, they have posted positions available and have filled the Directors position. Chuck stated the daycare will be for district employees and the program will not affect any local daycares. Matt stated that DCEO would likely be interested in looking at this as a rural pilot program.

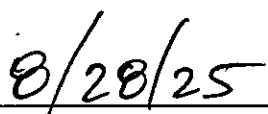
Jennifer Russell stated she met Ryan Seely, Plant Manager with Bunn in Whitehall, Ryan is a local and has many plans for the White Hall facility. Jennifer and Chuck discussed Bunn being the number 1 company for growth in the White Hall area.

Matt discussed Transfer Trek/Virtual Reality Headsets, explained what the program does and what it allows the students to experience. There are Supplemental Grant/GRF dollars available that can be used to pay for the lease and headset. Chuck stated there is a copy Visa Tab that they can gain a certificate. Transfer Trek/Virtual Reality will be beneficial to middle school and early high school students; it will allow them to review and experience different occupations in high growth sectors.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

**Adjournment at 4:54 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date