



C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation

“Community Action Agency”

Youth Committee Meeting
September 15, 2025
3:00 PM

Location: C.E.F.S. Building
1805 S. Banker Street
Effingham, IL

Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83384597913?pwd=4bbO0oabHasB83XeZsmn3bonbofu2X.1>

Meeting ID: 83384597913

Passcode: 008551

- I. Welcome – Call to Order/Roll Call – Chair Tracy
- II. Approval of Minutes of the 6/16/25 Meeting –**Page 2** (Action Required) – Chair Tracy
- III. Goals and Direction of Committee **Page 4** – Cindy Mayer, Workforce Development Director
 - a. Develop a plan to move forward (prioritize actions/focuses on strategies)
 - b. Review samples of resource guides (Strategy 1)
- IV. Report on Activities and Programs for Youth – All programs
- V. Public Comment – Chair Tracy
- VI. Closing Remarks – Chair Tracy
- VII. Motion to Adjourn – Chair Tracy



Email : cefs@cefseoc.org
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LWIA 23 QUARTERLY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 16, 2025

at

CEFS – 1805 S Banker, Effingham

Chair: Carol Tracy

Vice Chair: Kala Lambert

Attendance:

In Person: Kelly Denton, Casey Burgholzer

Virtual: Carolynne Jorgenson, Kala Lambert, Ed Dowd, Carol Tracy

Absent: Ted Walk, Courtney Conlin, Cheryl Meyers, Lisa Bloemer

Others Present: Cindy Mayer, Joy Fitts (virtual), Elaine Nuding

Welcome – Call to Order:

Chair Tracy called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Roll call read by Cindy Mayer. Quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes for the March 17, 2025, Youth Committee meeting was approved as is. Kala Lambert made the motion to approve the minutes. Kelly Denton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Goals and Direction:

Cindy Mayer proposed a mission statement and strategies for the committee based on the result of the survey committee members completed. The group liked the mission statement and strategies and felt we should proceed in this direction with the committee.

Mission:

Collaborate with businesses and community resources to create opportunities that support youth, from all walks of life, to enter the workforce through education, skill building, and work experience.

Strategies:

1. Coordinate youth services and put forward eligible youth service providers
Discussion was held on creating a referral guide for partners, utilize a link on LWA23 Website, and build from the asset map that already exists.
2. Develop an outreach plan that will reach youth, particularly those less likely to engage, to inform them of services available
Discussion included Kelly Denton offering the outreach plan used by her staff that was successful in recruiting youth. Carolynne suggested collaboration with DCFS and is willing to look into this collaboration. The group then brainstormed other potential resources for recruitment of youth including probation, substance abuse treatment centers, church groups, mental health providers, hospitals, police, and

housing authorities. The idea of hosting periodic Zoom chats for youth to join to learn about services was also mentioned.

3. Recruit businesses willing to assist youth in gaining work skills and experience
Ed shared he thinks Chambers would be willing to help recruit businesses. He shared his experience with someone placed in his office and it was successful. It was also suggested we utilize Chamber Newsletters to recruit and the use of testimonials from businesses that have had youth through one of our programs would be powerful.

Youth Programs and Activities:

Kelly Denton shared the WIOA program is exceeding their benchmarks after implementing their recruitment plan last year and the program is receiving an increase in funding for PY 25.

Joy Fits shared information about Kaskaskia's manufacturing certification program that will be for 1 semester and is 16 credit hours. Additionally, courses will transfer into other programs.

Kala Lambert provided information on the Clean Energy Career Pathway Program which is a grant opportunity and focuses on "in-school youth".

Carol Tracy, shared ERBA offers a program that assists youth in paying for extra-curricular activities such as camps and sports. This is offered through their CSBG funding.

Carolynne shared DRS is transitioning their high school graduates into the adult program. All services provided by DRS are still available and doing well.

Public Comment:

None

Closing Remarks:

None

Motion to Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm. Casey Burgholzer made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Kelly Denton. Motion carried.

Mission:

Collaborate with businesses and community resources to create opportunities that support youth, from all walks of life, to enter the workforce through education, skill building, and work experience.

Strategies:

1. Coordinate youth services and put forward eligible youth service providers
(Ideas: Referral system or shared Release of Information)
2. Develop an outreach plan that will reach youth, particularly those less likely to engage, to inform them of services available
(Ideas: Resource fairs, youth services brochures, truancy officers, etc.)
3. Recruit businesses willing to assist youth in gaining work skills and experience
(Ideas: Utilize chambers to recruit, ???)