

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Zoom

01/29/2026

Attendees:

Amber Shields

Vera Jones

Lisa Atkins

Staff:

Lee Reese

Brenda Boggs

Sandy Billhartz

The meeting was called to order by Lee at 1:36 P.M. With no public comment on the agenda, a motion was requested to approve the 07/17/25 meeting minutes. Lisa made the motion, and it was seconded by Amber. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The committee discussed the renewal of Southwestern Illinois College's contract for youth services, which provides GED and high school equivalency education. Lee presented the contract details, noting that the college has performed well and is requesting a \$10,000 increase to address rising costs. The committee agreed to recommend the contract renewal with the proposed increase to the full board. A motion was made by Lisa and seconded by Vera to recommend a \$175,000.00 Youth Services Provider Contract with SWIC to the Executive Committee and Board for approval. The motion was unanimously approved.

Brenda shared performance metrics and training outcomes. Lee highlighted that measurable skills gains and median earnings had increased since transitioning the youth program from MERS Goodwill. The group discussed the upcoming IWDS 2.0 system launch on July 1st, with Sandy and Hallie Beckman being selected as trainers for Region 21, 22, and 24.

Brenda discussed the location and types of work-based learning the Youth Program is engaged in highlighting some recent successes.

Having no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Vera and seconded by Lisa. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.