

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 21, 2016, 3:00pm

WorkLink Conference Room, Clemson, SC

Members Present

Pamela Smith

Brooke Dobbins

Edgar Brown

Susan Stockton

Pat Pruitt

Members Absent

Billy Gibson

Staff Present

Trent Acker

Windy Graham

Patty Manley

I. Call To Order/ Opening Remarks

Pamela Smith, Committee Chair called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was being recorded for processing of minutes. Chair Smith introduced new member Susan stating Ms. Stockton will be presenting Committee Education for the meeting.

II. Approval of 10/15/2015 Meeting Minutes

Windy Graham explained the minutes from the October 15, 2015 meeting was included for Committee member review and called for a vote to approve.

Committee Action: Pat Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes from the 10/15/15 meeting as submitted, seconded by Brook Dobbins. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

III. Committee Education

Chair Smith deferred to Ms. Stockton to provide information on veteran's services for the SC Works Centers. Ms. Stockton provided information on her role in the SC Works Centers as the DVOP (Disabled Veteran Outreach Program) representative. Ms. Stockton stated the main purpose for the DVOP is to work one-on-one with veterans who have significant barriers to employment through job development and training opportunities with special emphasis on Veterans with military service-connected disabilities. Once she has processed the participant they are then turned over to LVER when participant is ready to re-enter the job force. Time frame for participant to be ready for work depends on each individual and their circumstances and/or disability. Ms. Stockton noted she works with Alston Wilkes Society for those who are homeless to initially get them into a shelter then proceed to get their case management to appropriate agencies. Ms. Stockton also works with the

annual Upstate Stand Down event for Veterans across the Upstate which is a one day event to provide a variety of services and assistance to all veterans. Ms. Stockton reported 434 Veterans participated in the 2015 event.

IV. SC Works Center Update

Ms. Graham provided an update on the ADA upgrade to the SC Works Clemson Center stating the threshold at the front of the center has been addressed and leveled. Ms. Graham reported those items recommended by SCDEW signage, parking space lines, etc. have been completed as well stating she will continue to monitor the ADA items routinely and address as issues arise.

V. WorkLink's Data

Ms. Graham referred to the attachment to the back of the meeting packet which is an EEO/Disparate Impact Report on WIOA application process for Adult and Dislocated Workers that she submits to DEW quarterly as requested. The application is self-completed by the participant, therefore if an applicant has answered no to a disability it can sometimes be identified at the income portion if they are receiving reportable disability income.

Ms. Graham has requested from DEW a report that specifies disabled persons in WIOA & Wagner-Peyser (WP) due to the numbers in this report seeming to be low.

Pat Pruitt stated the WP Act was formed to re-educate and assist persons by supplying them with the requirements to re-enter employment adding they are enrolled in WP more for re-employment than training. Through WP intake process, individuals may be identified as a veteran; have a disability, etc. and will also be referred to a Career Development Specialist or the DVOP. These participants may be self-serve only which means they are primarily doing job searches online. WP participants can be referred to WIOA depending upon each customer.

Ms. Graham stated persons enrolled in WIOA are enrolled primarily for skills training and/or education.

VI. Goals Discussion

Ms. Graham informed Committee members that we as a local Workforce Development Board have a Strategic Plan stating that this Committee has no "addressable" goals in the current Plan due to being a new Committee noting this Committee will have valuable information to include in the current Strategic Plan and would like the Committee to consider identifying some goals and objectives to address and include a way to ensure persons/participants with disabilities being served are adequately addressed in the Plan.

Mr. Brown inquired/recommended the SC Works Center/System have a list of employers that will employ persons with a disability as a tool to use for referrals.

Mr. Acker recommended a quarterly meeting, for inter-agency information sharing and partnering with resources, for case management staff of various agencies who work with persons with disabilities.

Mr. Acker noted if Committee members would be interested, a walk-through of the SC Works Center could be arranged in an effort for members to see the items addressed for ADA compliance.

Chair Smith offered to host the March meeting and provide a tour of their facility to raise awareness of their services for Committee members. Chair Smith will check to ensure there is no conflict on the calendar and will communicate to Ms. Graham.

Ms. Graham reminded members as part of Committee Education, having someone attend to present on etiquette when working with a person with a service animal. Mr. Brown stated he would inquire if anyone from the Commission of the Blind office would be open to presenting at one of the future meetings as educational item.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Smith informed committee members of the VR meeting on Friday, 1/29 at 9am in the Community Meeting Room of Clemson City Hall facility. Vocational Rehabilitation's Rehab Engineer will be Presenting on employer accommodations available.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Patty Manley