

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Summary**

**May 12, 2016, 3:00pm**

**Conference Room, Clemson Comprehensive Center, SC**

**Members Present**

Pamela Smith Susan Stockton Pat Pruitt

Edgar Brown Brooke Dobbins

**Members Absent**

Billy Gibson

**Staff Present**

Trent Acker Windy Graham Patty Manley

**Guests Present**

Reneé Alexander George Pullie Chris Sparrow

1. **Call To Order/ Opening Remarks**

Pat Pruitt, Committee Vice Chair called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was being recorded for processing of minutes. Introductions were made from all in attendance.

1. **Approval of 01/20/2016 Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair Pruitt noted the minutes from the 03/10/16 meeting were included for Committee member review and called for a vote to approve.

**Committee Action: Susan Stockton made a motion to approve the minutes from the 03/10/16 meeting as submitted, seconded by Pamela Smith. Motion carried with unanimous vote.**

1. **WorkLink’s Data**

Windy Graham provided an update on the report regarding demographics of participants using the SC Works services by age, ethnicity and disability for each of the WIOA programs. Ms. Graham stated these are the individuals served that identified with a disability.

1. **Able SC, Chris Sparrow**

Mr. Sparrow, Independent Living Specialist, provided an overview and presentation on Able SC which is a Center for Independent Living. AbleSC is an organization built on a central concept of self-empowerment. Mr. Sparrow stated AbleSC is a nonprofit, community based; consumer driven (participant decides goals & services for themselves) agency adding they also provide accessibility assessments for clients and make recommendations for removing physical barriers.

1. **Recommendation from Able SC for the Clemson Center**

Ms. Graham informed Committee members that Mr. Sparrow was onsite on 04/16/16 for staff training and made an informal assessment of the Center during his visit.

Ms. Graham reported on the following issues which were recommendations made by Mr. Sparrow:

* Ramp at front entrance is 5” (recommended height is 3”)
* Entry Door – extremely heavy
* Threshold into resource room should be removed (potential to cause trouble for wheel chair)
* Hand sanitizers are more than 4” from the wall (need a way to identify for persons with sight issues)
* Information in Resource Room was too high for a person in wheel chair to reach
* Copy of informational pamphlets should be kept at reception
* Doorway at Jennifer Kelly’s office too narrow for a wheelchair to enter
* Document pockets on WorkLink hallway walls are extended more than 4” (need a way to identify for persons with sight issues)
* Fire extinguishers are extended more than 4” ( Ms. Graham reported a box has been placed under the extinguisher)
* Signage for directions/restrooms needed
* Men’s room on WorkLink hall has access bar and hand towel issues
* Restroom in rear of building is not accessible at all
* Vending machine coin slot is too high for person in wheelchair

1. **Adjournment**

Chair Smith informed Committee members she will be retiring from Vocational Rehabilitation on 06/30/16.

Trent Acker reported 2 school districts in our area are getting involved with Project Search which is a business-led school-to-work transition program focusing on developing internships for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their last year of high school with a goal of long-term employment with a sustainable wage. The program is targeted to students whose main goal is competitive employment. Mr. Acker stated WorkLink and SC Works are investigating how we can be involved via enrolling them and tracking their progress. As more information is learned and the project moves, this Committee will be kept informed and possibly be involved for our area.

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

*Respectfully submitted by: Patty Manley*