

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Persons with Disabilities Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2016**  
**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Members Present

Pat Pruitt, Chair                      Lisa Gillespie                      Susan Stockton

Members Absent

Edgar Brown                      Billy Gibson                      Chris Sparrow

Staff Present

Trent Acker                      Windy Graham                      Jennifer Kelly

Guests

Karen Craven

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Pat Pruitt, Chair called the meeting to order and announced that there was a quorum for conducting the business of the committee. Jennifer Kelly will be taking minutes. Chair Pruitt welcomed everyone and called for introductions.

**II. Approval of the August 11, 2016 Minutes\***

The minutes from the 8/11/16 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet. Chair Pruitt called for any corrections or amendments to the minutes.

**ACTION TAKEN: Susan Stockton made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Lisa Gillespie. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

**III. Committee Education**

Chair Pruitt turned the meeting over to Ms. Lisa Gillespie for committee education regarding Project Search. Project Search focuses on serving students with intellectual disabilities. For a student to be eligible, they must be 18, have an intellectual disability, be an active Vocational Rehabilitation client, and have secured a reliable method of transportation to their worksite. At this time, there are no income requirements. Typically, eligible students are in their senior year and will be placed in employment by the end of the program. Their training can take place at a variety of locations; for the Anderson area, the 10 week internships will take place at AnMed Health. This year 8 students applied and 5 were accepted. The Pickens/Oconee area began theirs this school year with 6 out of 8 students served; their internships will be based at Easley

Baptist Hospital. Project Search will provide job placement services as this is an employment transition program, but they will also coordinate with other agencies to assist students as well.

#### **IV. WorkLink's Data**

Ms. Windy Graham provided aggregate August and September targeted population reports for the WorkLink region. Ms. Graham stated that some wage data is reflected in the columns on the left side of the chart. Ms. Graham drew the committee's attention to various populations, such as public assistance recipients, underemployment, dislocated workers, runaway youth, individuals with disabilities, and offender. Ms. Graham stated that green training is listed, but not necessarily concentrated on it at this time. Ms. Graham explained that green training is typically classified as training that helps our environment, such as manufacturing solar panels.

Under WIOA, certain races and ethnicities and those facing significant cultural barriers are now considered priority populations, note as an example that Hawaiian has been added. Ms. Graham also stated that English as a Second Language is now known as English Language Learner; pregnant or parenting youth may be male or female; and those aging out of foster care are those that turned 18 that will be exiting the foster care system.

#### **V. Dates for next year**

Ms. Graham provided the proposed committee meeting dates for 2017 in the meeting packet: January 12, March 16, May 11, August 10, October 12. Chair Pruitt requested that the committee review the dates and verify that these dates will be acceptable.

**ACTION TAKEN: Susan Stockton made a motion to approve the committee meeting schedule for 2017 as presented in the packet, seconded by Lisa Gillespie. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

#### **VI. Name Change**

Chair Pruitt brought forth for discussion changing the name of the committee from Persons with Disabilities to Priority of Populations Committee. This was discussed briefly at the previous Committee meeting. Chair Pruitt stated that this name change will be in line with the State Priority of Populations Committee.

**ACTION TAKEN: Susan Stockton made a motion to approve changing the name of the Persons with Disabilities Committee to Priority of Populations Committee beginning in January 2017, seconded by Lisa Gillespie. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

#### **VII. Officer Elections**

Chair Pruitt noted that several members were absent, but recognized that elections needed to occur prior to the beginning of the next calendar year. Pat Pruitt opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Priority of Populations Committee.

**ACTION TAKEN: Pat Pruitt made a motion to approve Lisa Gillespie to be the Chair of the Priority of Populations Committee. Susan Stockton seconded. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

**ACTION TAKEN: Susan Stockton made a motion to approve Pat Pruitt to be the Vice Chair of the Priority of Populations Committee. Lisa Gillespie seconded. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

**VIII. Other Business**

Chair Pruitt called on Amanda Lucas, SC Department of Employment and Workforce, to provide an update from around the State. Ms. Lucas stated that some best practices and updates from around the State included:

- One local area has hosted a forum for Business Service team members, employers, and partner agencies, to come in and learn about services offered to those with disabilities in the community.
- Another local area worked with Business Services teams and SC Works Centers to receive sensitivity training.
- In one area, there is a focus on encouraging employers to include those priority populations in their hiring process. The transit authority partnered with employers to increase transit routes to those employers that specifically hire priority populations.
- Workshops are being offered throughout the State by the Disability Coalition regarding disability benefits and employment. Ms. Graham stated that our area will host the next workshop at the Anderson SC Works Center next month.

Ms. Lucas noted that WIOA focuses on inclusion of priority of populations. The State intends to be an “employment first” State, meaning that if a person wants to work, then we will try to help them with this regardless of barriers.

Ms. Lucas also mentioned that ADA compliance and program accessibility will be focused on in the SC Works Center standards and may be a task the committee could look at. Ms. Graham stated that WorkLink has already begun this process and has completed a walk-thru with AbleSC, Vocational Rehabilitation, the SC Commission for the Blind, and the EO department at SC DEW. We have also received training from AbleSC regarding Sensitivity Training.

Ms. Lucas noted that the State Workforce Development Board’s Priority of Populations Committee meeting will be held at the Walgreens Distribution Center in Anderson on October 20, 2016.

**IX. Adjourn**

Chair Pruitt adjourned the meeting stating that the next meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Kelly.*