

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park**  
**Thursday, May 11, 2017**  
**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Members Present

Pat Pruitt                      Chris Sparrow                      Susan Stockton

Members Absent

Billy Gibson                      Lisa Gillespie                      Edgar Brown

Staff Present

Sharon Crite                      Windy Graham

Guests

Neil Collier                      James Batson

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Pat Pruitt, Committee Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and announced a quorum was present for conducting the business of the committee and the meeting was being recorded for processing of minutes. Introductions were made of everyone attending.

**II. Approval of the March 30, 2017 Minutes**

The minutes from the 03/20/2017 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet. Vice-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 Chris Sparrow. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

**III. Committee Education**

Vice-Chair Pat Pruitt introduced Neil Collier, SC Vocational Rehabilitation and James Batson SC Probation, Parole and Pardon.

Mr. James Batson explained that SC Probation, Parole and Pardon mission statement is to prepare offenders under their supervision toward becoming productive members of the community; to provide assistance to the victims of crimes, the courts and the Parole Board; and to protect public trust and safety.

Jerry B. Adger, an Anderson County native, was appointed on January 12, 2015 as Director of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. After he was confirmed by the South Carolina Senate on March 26, 2015, Mr. Adger became the 9th Cabinet appointee to the Department.

He explained the difference between probation, parole and pardon. Probation is ordered by a judge as an alternative to incarceration and allows the convicted person to remain in the community. Parole is ordered by the Board of Pardons and Paroles and allows the convicted person to complete their sentence in the community. A pardon means that the individual is fully forgiven from all the legal consequences of his crime and his conviction.

The Department operates its offender programs within a clear framework of public safety in supervising the 48,835 offenders under our legal jurisdiction. Legal jurisdiction includes offenders who were transferred out of state, absconded with active warrants, and others who are not under the active day-to-day supervision. At the end of the fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016), **28,743** offenders were under active supervision of the Department.

Reentry Program Services Centers located in Columbia and Spartanburg are designed to increase the likelihood that offenders will meet their financial obligations and community responsibilities, as well as successfully complete supervision. Case management classes provided include: Life Skills, Cognitive Thinking, Employability, Conflict Resolution, Substance Abuse and Anger Management. Additionally, outside resources such as the local SC Works, Social Services, Mental Health, and other community agencies provide resource information and assistance with housing and employment. The classes and resources offered not only enhance the offender's adult basic education- but also enable the Department to take greater strides toward offering more specialized services.

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

Ms. Windy Graham referred to pages 5-8 for the targeted population summary reports for the WorkLink region, adding that the community profile was included (pages 9-38).

#### **V. Other Business**

Vice-Chair Pruitt called for other business.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Pruitt adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m., noting the next meeting date of August 10th.

*Respectfully submitted by Sharon Crite.*