

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Priority Populations Committee Minutes**  
**SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park**  
**Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie (chair)                      Emily Hodge                      Patrick Pruitt                      Chris Sparrow

Members Absent

Edgar Brown                      Billy Gibson                      Susan Stockton

Staff Present

Meredith Durham                      Windy Graham

Guests Present

Mary Jeffers

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Lisa Gillespie, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded for processing of minutes. Introductions were made of everyone attending.

**II. Approval of the August 9, 2018 Minutes**

The minutes from the August 9, 2018 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet.

**ACTION TAKEN: Patrick Pruitt made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Chris Sparrow. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

**III. Committee Education**

Chair Gillespie introduced Ms. Mary Jeffers, with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Ms. Jeffers shared the NAMI website with committee members. The NAMI website has resources and information on mental health. The committee watched a video on Mental Illness stigma ([www.curestigma.org](http://www.curestigma.org)). Local NAMI meetings are held in Pendleton, SC the first Tuesday of each month, and in Anderson, SC the second Tuesday of each month. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. Ms. Jeffers discussed the NAMI Basics, Family-to Family, Homefront, Peer-to-Peer, Provider Education, and Ending the Silence programs. NAMI's

website averages more than 900,000 visits per month. NAMI's toll-free helpline is 800-950-6264. The helpline responds to over 200,000 calls, emails, social media, and postal requests each year and is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteer associates. Ms. Jeffers distributed cards for instructions on communicating with someone who has a psychiatric illness. NAMI holds an event each year called NAMIWalks, to raise awareness on Mental Illness.

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

Ms. Windy Graham referred to the Targeted Population Reports, which shows how many WIOA participants have been entered by demographics. The barrier listed as Individuals with Disabilities are only those who've identified as having a disability. Ms. Graham referred to the Community Profile for the WorkLink area beginning on page 9. The Community Profile is published through the Labor Market Exchange. To see the Community Profile Report, visit [www.scworks.org](http://www.scworks.org) and click on Labor Market home. The reports can be broken down by county, metropolitan, or workforce development area. Ms. Windy Graham stated that temporary staffing agency jobs are part of the Administrative and Support and Waste Management industry. The unemployment rate for the WorkLink region is 3.8%, and for those with disabilities is 8%.

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

**ACTION TAKEN: Patrick Pruitt made a motion to move the 2019 Priority Populations meetings to Tuesdays, seconded by Chris Sparrow. The motion carried with a majority vote.**

The Disability Benefits and Employment Workshop will take place on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Easley SC Works Center.

October is Disability Employment Awareness month. Anderson Manufacturing Alliance will hold an event featuring Disability Employment Awareness month on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Other events will take place around the community in October.

AbleSC will be hosting a South Carolina's Workforce Empowering All training in October. Mr. Chris Sparrow will send out a flyer to committee members.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

Chair Gillespie adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Meredith Durham*