

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park**  
**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**  
**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Members Present

Pat Pruitt, Vice Chair	Susan Stockton	Chris Sparrow
Emily Hodge		

Members Absent

Lisa Gillespie, Chair	Edgar Brown	Billy Gibson
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Staff Present

Windy Graham	Jennifer Kelly
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Guests

Karen Hamrick	Felicia Roberson	Jackie Taylor
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I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Pat Pruitt, Vice Chair called the meeting to order, stating that Chair Lisa Gillespie was unable to be at the meeting. Vice Chair Pruitt announced that the meeting will be recorded in order to process the minutes. Chair Pruitt welcomed everyone and called for introductions.

II. **Approval of the October 11, 2019 Minutes\***

The minutes from the 10/11/19 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 Chris Sparrow. The motion carried with a majority vote.

III. **Committee Education – Ripple of One Project**

The scheduled speaker from Ripple of One was unable to attend the meeting as planned. Ripple of One will be scheduled for the next meeting pending confirmation of their availability.

Felicia Roberson, Back-to-Work Coordinator with the SC Department of Employment and Workforce, presented information on this new program offered through the SC Works Centers. This is the first program of its kind in South Carolina and the first graduates came through the program this past fall. At its conclusion, their graduation was featured in the Seneca Journal during the early part of January.

This intense, rigorous program is intended to help those that are unemployed or underemployed. Ms. Roberson worked with these individuals four hours per day over the course of about a month on soft skills workshops and other workforce related activities. They focused heavily on how to market themselves to employers.

There were some key partners involved that made this program a success. Ripple of One referred the three individuals that participated and also provided support services while in the program. Heath's Haven partnered with SC Works to provide some personality testing and personal wellness coaching. Carolina Alliance Bank offered money management skills.

Upon completion of the program, they all had earned at least a Silver WIN Certificate, and graduated in December. Several executives from SC DEW came to congratulate the graduates on their success. Ms. Roberson continues to work with them to place them in employment.

Ms. Roberson is currently working on the next class which is scheduled to start in March. The program will take referrals from other agencies.

#### IV. **WorkLink Data and Community Profile**

Ms. Windy Graham, staff to the WorkLink Board, referenced reports in the packet

Our targeted population WIOA data is found on pages 4-7. Aggregate information is given for July to December of 2018. Some wage data is coming in already. Public assistance information is included.

For individuals with disabilities, those individuals have disclosed that they have one; it is not something that we can observe or say on their behalf. This is the same for Disabled Veterans; staff is not allowed to ask if they have a disability, they must state it themselves.

The Community Profile was also available in the packet, beginning on page 8. Ms. Graham showed the committee members how to get to the community profile through the Labor Market home page on the SC Works website. The profile can be seen for the whole state or can be drilled down to as small as a particular county. The reports are updated every 3 to 4 weeks.

Ms. Graham highlighted a few takeaways from the community profile:

- The Admin, Waste Management Services career cluster includes temporary agencies. There may be more fluctuation in these numbers due to hiring trends of temporary agencies.
- On page 23, companies are listed alphabetically, not by number of employees.
- Mr. Pruitt drew the committee's attention to page 11, regarding the unemployment rate, stating that the people that make up the remainder of the unemployment rate are those that are most in need of our services. SC DEW is making a concerted effort to reach out to those that may not be taking advantage or may not be aware of what our services offer to them.
- Ms. Graham referenced the population, labor force, employed, and unemployment rates seen on page. 38. The Unemployment rate in September was 3.3%.

Although WorkLink may have a 3.3% unemployment rate, the population of those with disabilities is higher at 7.7%. The percentage of our labor force with a disability is 20.21% (data from US Department of Labor). This information was provided in the front of the committee packet.

V. **Other Business**

Ms. Jackie Taylor from SC Department of Employment and Workforce spoke briefly regarding the State's initiatives for the Priority Population Committee on the State Workforce Development Board. They have engaged a Priority Populations Advisory Council, in which Able SC is an active participant. They are currently working on service mapping all populations and services available to them from across the State, including where there may be gaps. One of those populations includes those with disabilities. The Council hopes to provide a statewide perspective.

Ms. Graham mentioned that Hire Me SC will be hosting a job fair/community event on January 16 in Spartanburg, SC.

VI. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be March 12, 2019. Per committee action at the October 11, 2019 meeting, the committee will meet on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays going forward.

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Kelly*