

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes
SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park
Tuesday, January 7, 2020
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie, Chair	Susan Stockton	Margaret Camp
Emily Hodge		

Members Absent

Stephanie Collins	Billy Gibson	Patrick Pruitt
Edgar Brown		

Staff Present

Windy Graham	Meredith Durham
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Guests

Dana Wood	Jackie Taylor (via Zoom)	Karen Hamrick
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I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Lisa Gillespie, Chair, called the meeting to order. Ms. Gillespie announced that the meeting will be recorded in order to process the minutes. Chair Gillespie welcomed everyone and stated that the meeting is informational only. All voting items will be sent electronically.

II. Approval of the October 8, 2019 Minutes

The minutes from the 10/8/19 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet.

ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Margaret Camp made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Emily Hodge. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

III. Committee Education – Priority Populations Coordinator, SCDEW

Ms. Jackie Taylor, Priority Populations Coordinator with SC Department of Employment and Workforce, introduced herself. Ms. Taylor shared that the Priority Populations Committee was formed in 2016 and the focus of the committee was on 7 priority populations. The committee aimed to examine outreach to the populations. An advisory council was formed this past program year to have better insight in the strength and need of the workforce system. The Council has gone through asset mapping and gap analysis processes. The committee aimed to fill in gaps for each of the populations, but they also found that there are a few key barriers that overlap: transportation, affordable housing, and access to vital records. In the past program year, the committee has looked at ways to close the gaps with local workforce areas through grants and other opportunities. The Advisory Council is looking at communication tools to have targeted conversations, relaying information to supportive services, and enhancing the SCWOS online system for individuals with limited or no transportation. The committee is working to develop a statewide survey on transportation to receive innovative practices and update the SC Works jobseeker resources for transportation in the local workforce areas. The Advisory Council is

working on a pilot transportation program to be used in rural and urban areas for the month of February for 4 local areas. The Priority Populations committee has an upcoming meeting on February 12. The committee plans to analyze data of WIOA and Wagner-Peyser participants to review the engagement rates for the program year. There will be upcoming technical assistance and follow up questions shared with local areas as a condition of the Re-entry Navigator grant award. An updated WIOA plan draft is being formed with statewide partners for the future of workforce, who are looking collaboratively and tangibly about where South Carolina wants to be in regards to workforce.

IV. **Committee Education – Upstate Workforce Board, Dana Wood**

Ms. Dana Wood stated that the initial focus of the Upstate WDB's Priority Populations committee was on serving individuals with disabilities instead of referring them to other agencies. The Upstate Workforce Board's staff was sent through training to help them feel more comfortable with serving these individuals. The trainings were done in 2 separate sessions. The first training was from AbleSC on an overview of their services. The staff also received training on Overview of Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Misconceptions in Inclusion Barriers, General Consideration: Enable vs Empower, and strategies for working with people with disabilities. The next year's session was a panel of individuals who had disabilities, who spoke about their disabilities and things they experience on a regular basis. In 2017, the group hosted an employer luncheon to educate employers on breaking down barriers- focusing on accommodations. The luncheon included an employer panel with those that have hired individuals with disabilities. The event in 2018 was on Invisible Disabilities in the Workplace. Ms. Wood provided the agendas for each of their events. In 2019, the Upstate Workforce Board created a site with disability resources on the Link Upstate site. The plan for 2020 is to create a 2 minute video to send to employers and partners to raise awareness on individuals with disabilities.

WorkLink's next staff training will be April 3 on Sexual Harassment, Labor Market Information, and Disabilities, Etiquette, and Sensitivity training.

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

Our targeted population WIOA data is found on page 4. Aggregate information is given for July to December 2019.

The Community Profile was also available in the packet, beginning on page 8. Ms. Graham stated that the Community Profile shows economic, demographic, industry, occupation, and education data for the Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens area. The report can be revised to show individual counties and is updated approximately every 6 weeks.

WorkLink's unemployment rate is 2.1%, and the population of those with disabilities is higher at 6.9%. The percentage of our labor force with a disability is 21.3% (data from US Department of Labor).

V. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be March 3, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Meredith Durham