



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes
SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park
Tuesday, January 5, 2021
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie, Chair

Margaret Camp

Pat Pruitt

Members Absent

Danny Brothers

Edgar Brown

Billy Gibson

Emily Hodge

Susan Stockton

Staff Present

Windy Graham

Meredith Durham

Guests Present

Karen Hamrick

Ashley Swift

Jackie Taylor

Teri Gilstrap

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Lisa Gillespie, Chair, called the meeting to order. Chair Gillespie announced that the meeting will be recorded in order to process the minutes. Chair Gillespie welcomed everyone and committee members gave introductions.

II. **Approval of the October 6, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes from the 10/6/2020 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet.

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Pat Pruitt made a motion via electronic vote to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Margaret Camp. The motion passed with a unanimous electronic vote.

III. **Committee Education – Center Update**

Ms. Ashley Swift, Re-entry Navigator with Anderson County Economic Development shared information about the Re-entry Navigation grant program. Ms. Swift shared that she is currently housed in an Anderson County office 4 days and the Anderson SC Works center 1 day a week. Ms. Swift has been employed in the Re-entry Navigator position for almost 3 months. The Re-entry grant began mid-2020 and will serve individuals who have a criminal background and a barrier to employment. At this time, the grant will only serve adults 18 and up. Ms. Swift will be concentrating on serving participants who reside in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Ms. Teri Gilstrap added that a hodgepodge of collaborative groups worked together to obtain the grant. Ms. Swift is currently

reaching out to partners and is beginning to receive referrals for potential participants. COVID-19 has hindered Ms. Swift's ability to visit the detention centers, so she is focusing on visiting the SC Works centers and Vocational Rehabilitation centers in the meantime.

Ms. Karen Hamrick, OneStop Manager with Eckerd Connects, provided an update on the status of the SC Works centers. All WorkLink SC Works centers are currently operating with normal hours of 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and a 1 hour closure for lunch. Masks and temperature checks are required upon entry into the centers. SC Works orientations are virtual right now. Ms. Hamrick can provide interested individuals with a schedule. The Clemson center is sanitized twice per day. The satellite offices also have cleaning staff that sanitize throughout the day. SC Works staff also sanitizes after each customer leaves.

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

The Community Profile was available in the packet, beginning on page 4. 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.

The targeted population WIOA data is found on page 34. Aggregate information is given for July to December 2020. Ms. Graham reviewed the demographics and disability data. Twenty nine offenders (self-disclosed) have been enrolled into WIOA as of July 1, 2020, as noted on page 36.

WorkLink's unemployment rate is 3.7%, and the population of those with disabilities is higher nationwide at 12.3%. The percentage of our labor force with a disability is 20.4% (data from US Department of Labor).

IV. **Other Business**

Mr. Pruitt stated that SC Works centers phone lines are busy. He encouraged individuals who are calling to be patient and staff will answer as quickly as possible.

Ms. Camp stated that Clemson University is allowing students, staff, and professors to choose based on their comfort level whether to attend virtually or in person. All classrooms are outfitted with cameras.

V. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Meredith Durham