

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes
SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park
Tuesday, May 14, 2019
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie, Chair Patrick Pruitt Susan Stockton

Members Absent

Stephanie Collins Edgar Brown Billy Gibson
Emily Hodge

Staff Present

Meredith Durham Windy Graham

Guests

Mike Cannon Karen Hamrick

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

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 called for introductions.

II. **Approval of the March 12, 2019 Minutes***

The minutes from the March 12, 2019 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet. Chair Gillespie called for any corrections or amendments to the minutes.

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

III. **Committee Education – Foothills CAN**

Mr. Mike Cannon presented the history and services information of Foothills CAN (Collaborative Action Network). Foothills CAN is a collaborative initiative between Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. The CAN concept originally started in Greenville County as an initiative of the Barbara Stone Foundation and is known as Greenville CAN in Greenville County. The shared belief behind CAN is that through collaboration, we can make our communities a better place to live for individuals with disabilities. As more communities start their own CAN initiatives unique to their specific needs, our collective efforts will hopefully impact our region and eventually our state. Foothills CAN's mission is to make our communities a better place to live, work, and play for individuals with all levels of disabilities.

According to the 2010 US Census, there were 45,000 individuals with a disability under 65 years old living in the counties of Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee County in 2010. This number is estimated at 47,000 in 2017. The unemployment rate in South Carolina for all individuals with disabilities in 2017 was 28.70% and up to 90% for individuals with intellectual disabilities. One of the primary goals of Foothills CAN is to reduce the unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities.

Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee County Disabilities and Special Needs Boards serve 2,300 individuals with disabilities and 1,300 individuals with disabilities are served through SC Vocational Rehabilitation for Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee Counties.

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 01, 2018 to April 30, 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.

WorkLink's unemployment rate is 3.2%, and the population of those with disabilities is higher at 6.3%. The percentage of our labor force with a disability is 20.7% (data from US Department of Labor). This information was provided in the front of the committee packet.

IV. **Other Business**

Margaret Camp, Director of Student Accessibility Services at Clemson University application to join the Priority Population Committee was accepted.

V. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be August 13, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Windy Graham