

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting: SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie, Chair Susan Stockton Emily Hodge Pat Pruitt
Edgar Brown

Members Absent

Stephanie Collins Billy Gibson Margaret Camp

Staff Present

Windy Graham Meredith Durham

Guests Present

Karen Hamrick

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 August 4, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes from the 8/4/2020 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet.

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

III. **Committee Education – Center Update**

Ms. Valeska Gioia, Educational/Assistive Technology Specialist and Autism Consultant for South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Technology unit spoke to the committee about services that her agency offers. She reviewed the process for obtaining possible assistance with Vocational Rehabilitation services. Referrals are received from counselors and research is done to evaluate the needs of the consumer (individual). An evaluation is completed on each individual. She works primarily with school to college and school to work consumers who need assistive technology. She shared many devices with the group. Below is a list of some of the technology shared:

- Ramps and doorways widened
- Car modifications (ex. Wheelchair mods) Consumers are to purchase the vehicle.
- Home modifications-keyboards and desks

- Keyboards for vision
- One-handed keyboards
- Standup electronic desks
- Armrests
- Technology pens for reading back and for scanning
- Watches with timers and phone devices

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 August 2020. Ms. Graham reviewed the demographics and disability data. Military information is listed on page 5.

The Community Profile was 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 5.1%, and the population of those with disabilities is higher nationwide at 13.2%. The percentage of our labor force with a disability is 20.6% (data from US Department of Labor).

IV. **Other Business**

Ms. Lisa Gillespie stated the proposed 2021 meeting dates are as follows: January 5, March 2, May 4, August 3, and October 5.

ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Emily Hodge made a motion to approve the 2021 meeting dates as presented, seconded by Ms. Susan Stockton. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

V. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 5, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Meredith Durham