

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes
SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park
Tuesday, May 5, 2020
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie, Chair
Emily Hodge

Patrick Pruitt

Susan Stockton

Members Absent

Stephanie Collins
Edgar Brown

Billy Gibson

Margaret Camp

Staff Present

Windy Graham

Meredith Durham

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 March 4, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes from the 3/4/2020 meeting were emailed with the meeting notice and included in the meeting packet.

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

III. **Committee Education – SC Department of Employment and Workforce COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Patrick Pruitt, Regional Manager of the WorkLink DEW region, reported that there has been an unprecedented jump in unemployment in South Carolina since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Mr. Pruitt stated that 31,786 initial claims were filed for the WorkLink region on the week ending April 25. From March 30- May 1, SC Works staff have answered 8,846 phone calls in the local centers. There are an additional 500 staff answering phones on the UI TelClaims line. Mr. Pruitt stated that future updates will be provided as additional data is released.

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.

Our targeted population WIOA data is found on page 34. Aggregate information is given for July to March 2020. Demographics and disability data has stayed the same. Military information is listed on page 35. Nine veterans have been enrolled into the WIOA program this program year.

WorkLink's unemployment rate is 2.6% statewide, and the population of those with disabilities is higher nationwide at 8.3%. The percentage of our labor force with a disability is 21.0% (data from US Department of Labor).

IV. **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Meredith Durham