



**SANTEE-LYNCHES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Virtual Youth Committee Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, February 18, 2021 – 10:00 AM**

Minutes

Youth Committee Members Present: Calvin Hastie, Sr., Chairman, Barbara Brown, Jeannine Gamble, Brenda Gardner, Melena Hodges, Sonya Levine, Veronica Robinson, Sharon Teigue

Youth Committee Members Absent: Corp. Fred Brantley, Jade Davis, Penny Dulin, Ramona Lies, Brian Jones

Staff Present:

Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Becky Minegar, Santee-Lynches RCOG Administrative Assistant II

Guests:

Caroline Rogerson, Eckerd Connects – Workforce Development
Ashton Armstrong, Emerging Leader Representative

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introduction

Chairman Calvin Hastie called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's (WDB) Youth Committee meeting to order at 10:05 AM and welcomed everyone.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020 (M)

Chairman Hastie called for a Motion to approve the Minutes from December 10, 2020. **A Motion was made by Ms. Sharon Teigue and seconded by Ms. Barbara Brown.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Youth Performance Update

Ms. Caroline Rogerson with Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development, reviewed their Youth Performance Report for PY'20 through January 2021. The Youth program is at 78% of its enrollment with a goal of 145 participants to be enrolled. As of January 31, 2021, 113 participants have been enrolled. She stated they are on track for their performance measures in enrollments.

Work Ready Services reviewed: Twelve (12) Work Experience contracts have been written with three contracts currently active, 91 resumes made, and 66 participants have completed Career Smart.

Year-to-Date Outcomes reviewed: They have had 183 Measurable Skill Gains, 4 GEDs & Diplomas, 69 Occupational Credentials, and 92 Placements. They also had 53 participants enter training with 19 participants currently active. Nine (9) youth are currently active in Adult Education.

Ms. Rogerson stated they have had an increase of individuals seeking Occupational Skills Training rather than those coming for Adult Education or seeking just employment assistance. She further stated 36% of those individuals have attended or are currently attending training and have received a scholarship from either Central Carolina Technical College or Florence Darlington Technical College for a fully funded training program. Training programs include welding, CDL, Administrative Medical Assistant, CNA, Phlebotomy, and EKG. WIOA continues to assist these individuals by providing supportive services such as transportation assistance, books, uniforms, or any prerequisites they may need for classes. The availability of these scholarships this year have been a great help in serving the youth.

Ms. Rogerson highlighted a new Work Experience (WEX) location: Provalus in Clarendon County is a company that provides IT services that focuses on customer services and support centers for high potential rural communities. Provalus trains their employees on network issues, help desk, data reporting and technical quality assurance. There have been 2 contracts written with Provalus with 2 more individuals expected to start in March.

Ms. Rogerson next highlighted a story of overcoming adversity: Stephen Jackson is in the process of obtaining his high school diploma with Adult Education. Through his partnership with Eckerd and Adult Education, Stephen was able to receive supportive services and additional career services. When Stephen came to Eckerd, he had a desire to obtain his Forklift license but due to current restrictions and facility closings due to the pandemic, the Forklift training he was enrolled in went from in class to hybrid. The hybrid setting required him to do a self-paced online portion before he could sit for his driving portion. Unfortunately, relying on his on instruction to complete that portion, he was not successful. In working with his career coach at Adult Education they reassessed his learning style and determined that he is a hands-on learner and would greatly benefit from face-to-face instruction. Stephen had a second opportunity for a scholarship program with Florence Darlington Technical College with face-to-face learning. Stephen has now received his certification and license as a Forklift Operator.

Ms. Rogerson then shared a youth success story: When Christopher Hearrell came to Eckerd he had lost his job and had no substantial experience or certifications to find other employment. While in the WIOA program, he received work readiness training, forklift training a WEX, and an OJT contract. After he finished forklift training, he passed an interview with BCA in Manning and completed a 480-hour Work Experience contract with them and was offered an On-the-Job Training (OJT) contract to extend his time in training. Christopher is now working full time with BCA.

Ms. Sharon Teigue stated Adult Education is back to having students in the classroom. Ms. Teigue asked if a career coach will be at Adult Education on a regular basis? Ms. Rogerson stated they have split their Sumter and Kershaw County Career Coach between the two counties and will be at Sumter Adult Education now that they have resumed to being back in class.

IV. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the Youth Financial Report thru January 31, 2021 of Program Year 2020:

Chart 1: Program Year 2020 Eckerd Youth Total

Eckerd spent \$278,672 of \$460,000.00 (contract amount) (61% expended), leaving a balance of \$181,328.

Mr. Levy stated they have weekly meetings with Eckerd and are keeping a close eye on financial and programmatic matters.

Chart 2: Eckerd Dislocated Worker Monthly Trends

July 2020 - \$24,628

August 2020 - \$50,692

September 2020 - \$55,599

October 2020 - \$41,542

November 2020 - \$35,702

December - \$38,052

A discussion followed regarding the spikes in spending in August and September. Mr. Levy explained that was due to an influx in tuition.

V. Other Business/Committee Discussion

Ms. Melina Hodges stated the Housing Department of the City of Sumter will open applications for Section 8 housing on February 22, 2021 at 9:00am. She also stated they have two temporary to possible full time Maintenance positions open.

Ms. Barbara Brown stated she is involved with Kettering Foundation and National Issues Forums Institute and hosting public forums. She indicated a new issue of discussion coming up called Youth and Opportunity: What should we do for future Generations to Thrive that is co-produced by the National Issues Foundations Forums Institute and Up to Us. This forum is aimed at high school and college aged students. This forum is Youth and Opportunity: What should we do for future generations to thrive? The idea is to have a forum with three different options: People to Succeed, Give everyone a fair chance, and focus on Economic Security. If you host a forum you will receive \$150 to use as you see fit. If anyone is interested, please contact Barbara Brown.

Ms. Barbara Brown shared that she is currently volunteering with Christopher Beland who operates Crestar Health, which is a counseling and community support clinic out of Norfolk, VA. She stated he has opened an office in Sumter. They are meeting virtually and in person. She continued, he is a believer in corporate social responsibility and has started a 12-week pilot program called Wellness Reentry Program for individuals who are re-entering society after incarceration. This program includes job skills, interviews, guest speakers, and hands-on skills development efforts. There is no cost to participants.

Chairman Hastie announced a scholarship in his sister's name has been created for high school graduates who are going to college or in the military. A parking lot rally will be held at Lincoln High School on Council Street, February 27, 2021 from 12 – 1:30pm.

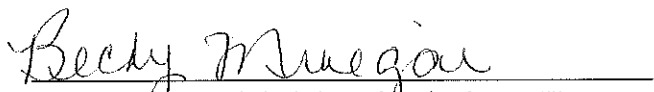
Chairman Hastie shared his concern with liter in our community that is affecting opportunities for Sumter. They are starting liter programs in some of the area schools.

Chairman Hastie announced that the Dream Team will be starting back up soon.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Minegar, Administrative Assistant II
Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments