



**SANTEE-LYNCHES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM
Monday, March 8, 2021 - 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

Members Present via Zoom:

Bobby Anderson, Chairman, George General, John Hornsby, Annette Karlinsky, Stewart Kidd

Members Not Present

Nicole Gardner (Excused), Janice Poplin (Excused)

Workforce Development Staff Present:

Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Freda Amerson, Workforce Development Operations Coordinator
Steve Berger, Business Services Lead
Becky Minegar, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant II

Guests:

Caroline Rogerson, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development
Ray Jackson, SC Works Operator/Center Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development

I. Welcome and Call to Order & Introduction of Committee Members & Staff

Mr. Bobby Anderson, Chairman, welcomed the committee members and called the Santee-Lynch Workforce Development Board's SC Works Committee Meeting to order at 10:08 AM. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda (M)

Chairman Bobby Anderson called for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. John Hornsby and seconded by Ms. Annette Karlinsky. There were no revisions to the agenda; all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2020

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the SC Works Committee Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2020. A motion was made by Ms. Annette Karlinsky and seconded by Mr. John Hornsby. There being no discussion, Chairman Anderson called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. SC Works Performance Update:

Ms. Caroline Rogerson, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development, reviewed the SC

Works Performance Report for Program Year 20 through January 31, 2021.

She reported Enrollments for Adult and Dislocated Worker:

- Adult – Total active enrollments - 178 participants with a goal of 325 participants (55% of goal achieved)
- Dislocated Worker – Total active enrollments - 45 participants with a goal of 50 participants (90% of goal achieved)

Ms. Rogerson continued there have been 83 Adult and Dislocated Worker participants who have been enrolled in training with 26 being active. Truck driving, welding and medical training remain the most sought after. At the completion of welding and medical training programs, the participant is expected to sit for a certification exam which will allow them to practice their craft on the job and collect higher wages compared to those who do not sit for these exams. Ms. Rogerson next reported they have had 119 credentials obtained and 17 On-the-Job Training contracts completed.

Ms. Rogerson provided an Adult/DW success story: Leeana McCray came to the Adult WIOA program after a long career in corrections. Her ultimate career goal has always been to enter the healthcare field, seeking a more stable employment track in order to support herself and her child. She attended Certified Medical Administrative Assistant training at Professional Medical Training Center in Florence. She completed her training in November 2020 and became certified in January 2021. Upon receiving her certification, she was able to gain full time employment with McLeod Health in Florence as a certified administrative assistant.

A discussion ensued concerning job opportunities for the participants who have completed training for welding and truck drivers? Ms. Rogerson explained there are plenty of job openings for these individuals who have completed training. Ms. Rogerson further explained there is high demand for truck drivers due to shipping sky rocketing.

V. SC Works Operator Report

Mr. Ray Jackson provided the SC Works Operator report thru Mid-February 2021.

He provided a comparison of the VOSGreeter (the number of customers visiting the center)

- January/February 2020 (before the pandemic) – 3,878 total number of customers served.
- January/February 2021 – 1,298 total number of customers served.

He next provided a summary comparison for January/February 2020 and January/February 2021:

Master Summary Report -Region/LWIA: Santee-Lynches	1/1/2020 - 2/19/2020	1/1/2021- 2/19/2021
Total number of Individuals that Registered	385	658
Total number of Individuals that Logged In	2,119	3383
Total number of Distinct Individuals Receiving Services	2,910	6274
Total number of Services Provided to Individuals	125,652	130,905
Total number of Internal Job Orders Created	290	251
Total number of Internal Job Referrals Created	3,492	3,631
Total number of Services Provided Employers	744	456

Mr. Jackson stated services provided in January/February 2021 outweigh the services provided in January/February 2020 except for internal job orders and services to employers.

A discussion followed concerning the lower job orders. Mr. Jackson stated due to the pandemic, companies are not hiring as much, and companies are laying off workers.

Mr. Jackson next provided a comparison on Job Placements from 2018 - 2021:

<u>Month</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
January	66	93	74	100
February	87	91	75	94
March	97	103	56	
April	103	92	14	
May	92	108	0	
June	100	97	1	
July	81	113	71	
August	87	96	103	
September	108	101	94	
October	97	98	101	
November	93	101	93	
December	98	78	91	
Total	1,109	1,166	773	

A discussion followed concerning categorizing groups that are being hired i.e., skilled workers, educated, etc.? Mr. Jackson stated it is mainly entry level manufacturing positions. It was then discussed about getting referrals/job requests from small businesses. Mr. Jackson indicated those job requests are picking up.

Mr. Jackson reviewed Job Fairs:

- Honoring our Veterans: Virtual Job Fair Wednesday, February 24, 2021
 - Employers - 90
 - Total registered - 1,767
 - Total logged In - 1,216
- BD (Becton Dickinson) is looking to fill about 120 new positions by May 2021
- Eaton is looking to fill 40-50 positions ASAP
- Pilgrim's Pride is holding a Virtual Job Fair
- TelVista
- City of Camden
- Midlands Fatherhood Coalitions-Bishopville

Closure/Layoff

- Layoff- Sumter Easy Home - 20

A discussion followed regarding helping individuals to get their driver's license reinstated due to not being able to pay their fines which resulted in the loss of their driver's license or help with getting a provisional driver's license. Mr. Jackson stated as this time there is not a program to help financially. Ms. Rogerson stated the DMV has an amnesty week each year.

He next reviewed Unemployment Rates as of December 2020:

- South Carolina 4.6%
- Santee-Lynches Region – 5.0%
- Sumter County – 5.4%
- Clarendon County – 5.5%
- Kershaw County – 4.2%
- Lee County – 6.0%

VI. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the SC Works Financial Report thru January 31, 2021 of for PY'20. He indicated \$288,734 (67% of budget) of \$430,000 (contract amount) of the Adult Contract has been spent leaving a balance of \$141,266. Ms. Levy stated they are on target to meet their goals. Monthly spending has dropped some due to having to monitor training dollars and the ability to stretch those dollars to the end of the program year.

Mr. Levy continued with review of Dislocated Worker for PY'20 thru January 31, 2021. He indicated \$151,261 (47% of budget) of \$320,000 (grant amount) has been spent leaving a balance of \$168,739. Mr. Levy indicated to keep in mind the ability transfer funds back and forth. The amount may change drastically month-to-month depending on what kind of transfers are done internally. Mr. Levy further indicated there are State requirements that must be met by the end of each year. Spending is where it needs to be and staff will inform the committee on any transfers that are needed.

Mr. Levy provided an update on Rapid Response Dislocated Worker Funding. He stated \$100,000 of additional funds was received to help support the demand for Dislocated Worker (DW) services in the Santee-Lynches Workforce Area due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This grant is in accordance with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and is being made available through Rapid Response funds from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The funding is budgeted for Participant Activities and Services. Specifically, Instructional Training (tuition, exams, supplies, and equipment) and Supportive Services (transportation).

VII. Release of RFP for Operator Services

Mr. Levy reported on the release of an RFP for Operator Services. He explained the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board (SLWDB) will be soliciting proposals for SC Works Center Operator Services under Title I of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) in the Santee-Lynches Region (Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter Counties).

A contract resulting from this RFP will be for the period July 1, 2021 and end June 30, 2022. The SLWDB reserves the option to extend the contract for another three years on a year-to-year basis, based on future funding availability, contractors' satisfactory performance, and other factors.

VIII. Other Business/Committee Member Update

None

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Mingar

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