



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

MINUTES

Members Present via Zoom:

Bobby Anderson, Chairman, Nicole Gardner, George General, John Hornsby, Annette Karlinsky

Members Not Present

Stewart Kidd (Excused), Janice Poplin (Excused)

Workforce Development Staff Present:

Areatha Clark, Deputy Executive Director and Chief, Workforce Development
Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Steve Berger, Business Services Lead
Becky Minegar, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant II

Guests:

April Ragin, 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 10:03 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 – March 8, 2021

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the SC Works Committee Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2021. 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. April Ragin, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development, reviewed the SC Works Performance Report for Program Year 20 through April 20, 2021.

She reported Enrollments for Adult and Dislocated Worker:

- Adult – Total active enrollments - 239 participants with a goal of 325 participants (74% of goal achieved)
- Dislocated Worker – Total active enrollments - 66 participants with a goal of 50 participants (132% of goal achieved)

Ms. Ragin continued with Performance Outcomes through April 30, 2021. She stated participants have enrolled into the following training programs: 66 - healthcare, 8 - construction/welding, 28 - logistics, and 2 -Information Technology. This brings the total to 104 individuals enrolled in training with 30 currently active. Ms. Ragin next reported they have had 133 credentials obtained, 400 measurable skills gains, and 17 On-the-Job Training contracts completed.

Ms. Ragin provided an Adult/DW success story: Tyron Muldrow entered the WIOA program seeking training as a Commercial Truck Driver. He attended training at Palmetto Training Inc. in Sumter and successfully completed training in December 2020. Tyron gained full time employment with Jordan Carriers. He stated that he is grateful for his time in WIOA for preparing him for a career that he enjoys. His employment affords him the opportunity to work during the week to provide for his family and be home on the weekends.

V. SC Works Operator Report

Mr. Ray Jackson provided the SC Works Operator report thru April 30, 2021.

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

- July 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020 – 19,335 total number of customers served.
- July 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 – 10,924 total number of customers served.

He next provided a summary comparison for July 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020 and July 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021:

Master Summary Report -Region/LWIA: Santee-Lynches	7/1/2019 - 4/30/2020	7/1/2020- 4/30/2021
Total number of Individuals that Registered	6,995	4,599
Total number of Individuals that Logged In	9,041	10,984
Total number of Distinct Individuals Receiving Services	13,046	23,536
Total number of Services Provided to Individuals	699,008	1,167,976
Total number of Internal Job Orders Created	1,698	1,475
Total number of Internal Job Referrals Created	17,740	36,879
Total number of Services Provided Employers	3,798	3,564

Mr. Jackson stated healthcare, manufacturing, retail, and accommodations/food service are 4 top industries in the Santee-Lynches region in terms of employment opportunities through quarter 3 of 2020. He stated over the last 60 days CDL, retail, frontline, and healthcare occupations are the top jobs being posted in the Santee-Lynches region. He continued with top Job Orders created in the Santee-Lynches region over the past 60 days: CDL, manufacturing, and food service. There are currently 188 positions posted between four employers. Mr. Jackson reiterated that CDL drivers are still in great demand.

Mr. Jackson stated they had three different hiring events during the month of April: SC Department of Corrections, PSSI, and The Budd Group. However, attendance by jobseekers was very low for all three events.

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

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	66	93	74	100
February	87	91	75	94
March	97	103	56	108
April	103	92	14	92
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	100	
Total	1,109	1,166	782	394

He next reviewed Unemployment Rates as of March 2021:

- South Carolina 5.1%
- Santee-Lynches Region – 5.3%
- Sumter County – 5.5%
- Clarendon County – 5.9%
- Kershaw County – 4.5%
- Lee County – 6.4%

Mr. Jackson provided the Area Profile for the Santee-Lynches Region thru March 2021. The table shows how the formula for the unemployment rate is derived with the monthly adjusted Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment data.

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
South Carolina	2,392,993	2,277,937	115,056	5.1%
Santee-Lynches	92,734	87,845	4,889	5.3%
Sumter	43,844	41,445	2,399	5.5%
Kershaw	29,458	28,146	1,312	4.5%
Clarendon	12,633	11,893	740	5.9%
Lee	6,799	6,361	438	6.4%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, SC Department of Employment & Workforce

Mr. Jackson stated they are offering virtual and in person workshops and continue to promote the services at SC Works Center to get individuals in to take advantage of these services to assist them becoming job ready.

A discussion followed regarding the cause for individuals not attending the hiring events. Mr. Jackson explained that due to extra Federal Funds for unemployment there has been decreased interest of individuals wanting to go back to work. Mr. Jackson further stated the Governor is going to eliminate the extra funds by the end of June. When this happens, it is our hope that individuals begin having an interest in going back to work. It was further discussed that individuals are taking this time to reinvent themselves. A discussion followed regarding businesses being unable to find employees and that some employers are offering incentives to come to work. Further discussion followed regarding the Governor's order to eliminate the Federal Funding. It was stated that it is time for the extra funding to end because there are a lot of opportunities for individuals to find employment and to come into the centers to get retrained to find better employment. It was also stated businesses are closing due to individuals not showing up for work because it is easier to get the extra money.

VI. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the SC Works Financial Report thru April 20, 2021 of for PY'20. Mr. Levy stated they are closely watching on a weekly basis their spending, obligations and requirements from the State.

Chart 1: Program Year 2020 Eckerd Adult Total (including transfers):

Eckerd spent \$326,928 of \$535,500 of the Adult budget leaving a balance of \$208,572 (61% expended).

Chart 2: Eckerd Adult Monthly Trends

July 2020 – \$60,777
August 2020 – \$40,678
September 2020 – \$42,180
October 2020 - \$44,640
November 2020 - \$41,360
December 2020 - \$38,787
January 2021- \$20,312
February 2021- \$15,868
March 2021- \$22,326

Chart 3: Program Year 2020 Eckerd Dislocated Worker Total (including transfers)

Eckerd spent \$169,638 of \$214,500 of the Dislocated Worker budget leaving a balance of \$44,862 (79% expended). This percentage is higher due to internal transfers made.

Chart 4: Eckerd Dislocated Worker Monthly Trends

July 2020 - \$29,491
August 2020 - \$25,343
September 2020 - \$26,427
October 2020 - \$14,413
November 2020 - \$30,846
December 2020 - \$15,098
January 2021- \$9,642
February 2021- \$9,597

March 2021- \$8,780

Chart 5: Rapid Response Eckerd Dislocated Worker Total

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).

Eckerd spent \$13,163 of \$100,000 of the Rapid Response Dislocated Worker budget leaving a balance of \$86,837 (15% expended).

Chart 6: Program Year 2020 Eckerd Youth Total

Eckerd spent \$333,761 of \$460,000.00 (contact amount) with a balance of \$126,239 (73% expended).

Chart 7: Eckerd Youth Monthly Trends

July 2020 - \$24,628

August 2020 - \$50,692

September 2020 - \$55,599

October 2020 - \$41,542

November 2020 - \$35,702

December 2020 - \$38,052

January 2021- \$32,457

February 2021-\$26,105

March 2021- \$28,984

Mr. Levy stated that they are on track and staff are monitoring the data closely and communicating with Eckerd on a weekly basis.

Chart 8: Eckerd Youth Restoration Total

Eckerd spent \$1,678 of \$4,414 budget with a balance of \$2,736 (38% expended).

Mr. Levy stated that the remaining money is already obligated for another qualified participant.

Ms. Areatha Clark added at the beginning of the year the expenditures were much higher and have slowed down at this point. Because of the pandemic the training providers slowed down with training but are now starting to pick back up as things are opening up. She continued they are continuing to monitor expenditures because of it being the end of the fiscal year to ensure that there is enough funding to carry over to the first quarter of the next fiscal year. Ms. Clark added she has been contacted by several other areas, who haven't been able to expend all of their funding and are hopeful to get extra funding going into the next fiscal year. This would also enable us to be to do additional training, if needed.

Ms. Clark stated there will be budget cuts this fiscal year. Ms. Clark then stated she will be updating the full Workforce Board.

A discussion followed to look at the current employment situation holistically so that laymen will understand in order to push our local politicians to get things back on track. It was next discussed if

an employee is offered a job and they refuse to take that job, why can't UI assistance be eliminated? Ms. Clark stated if a job is offered and refused or the individual don't show up for an interview, employers are encouraged to report the individual through the 866 number. Mr. Jackson added some employers do report and they are trying to get the word out to all employers.

Further discussion followed regarding the need for a small business association. Ms. Clark added they have staff that work specifically with small businesses and would be able to send out information to educate them.

VII. Extension of Contract for PY'21 – Eckerd Connects

Mrs. Clark stated through reporting, discussions, and meeting DOL Standards and Performance Measures each quarter the staff is recommending extending Eckerd Connects Adult and Dislocated Worker Services contract for one additional year for PY'21 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to extend the Eckerd Connects contract for one additional year. 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 was passed unanimously.**

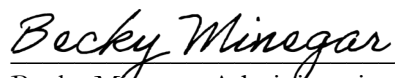
VIII. Other Business/Committee Member Update

None

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



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