



**SANTEE-LYNCHES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Virtual Youth Committee Meeting via Zoom
Monday, October 7, 2021 - 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

Members Present via Zoom:

Calvin Hastie, Sr., Brenda Gardner, Melina Hodges, Ramona Lies, Veronica Robinson

Members Not Present

Barbara Brown, Brian Jones, Fred Brantley, Jade Davis, Jeannine Gamble, Penny Dulin, Sonya Levine

Workforce Development Staff Present:

Areatha Clark, Deputy Executive Director/Workforce Development Chief
Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Freda Amerson, Workforce Development Operations Coordinator
Steve Berger, Business Services Lead
Kourtney Page, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant I-PR

Guests:

Pam Hall, Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development
Renee Alexander – Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development
Ray Jackson – Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development
Kiara Davis, Emerging Leader Representative

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

Chairman Calvin Hastie called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's Youth Committee Meeting to order at 10:01 AM. A quorum is present.

II. Approval of Agenda - April 15, 2021 (M)

Chairman Calvin Hastie called for a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made by Ms. Brenda Gardner and seconded by Ms. Ramona Lies.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

III. Youth Performance Update

Mr. Ray Jackson, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development, presented the Youth Performance Report for Program Year 21' through September 28, 2021. Mr. Jackson reported on active enrollments through September 28, 2021, with fifty-four youth individuals enrolled and 145 as the goal for the year. He shared those new enrollments for the first quarter were ten and carryover is 44. There are plans for an enrollment Blitz to recruit new participants into the program. The plan for

adding new enrollments include working with their partners: Adult Ed being one of them.

Chairman Hastie asked Mr. Jackson to explain what the Blitz plan entails. Mr. Jackson further explained that the Blitz program has been set up with the help of Pam Hall communicating with the Adult Ed Programs in the region. There are currently several individuals lined up within the Lee, Sumter, and Clarendon County Adult Education Centers who will be signing up for enrollment. Ms. Hall elaborated that just last night during the evening Adult Ed class, she hosted an informational session on the Blitz plan from which she was able to get some potential enrollments. Currently, they have ten people they plan to enroll in Clarendon, five in Lee County, with potentially 5 more enrollments in Sumter. Chairman Hastie asked for the potential date the Blitz will take place. Mr. Jackson replied that the event will take place within the next two weeks.

Performance Outcomes Update							
<i>1st Quarter 2021 July 1, 2021-September 28, 2021</i>							
WEX/OJT	Resumes Created	Career Smart	Adult Ed Enrollments	Credentials	Measurable Skills Gain	GED & HS Diploma	Placements
4	9	8	5	12	47	0	74
Active WEX:4 Active OJT: 0							

Mr. Jackson also shared information on credentials, measurable skills gains, GED & HS Diploma, and Placements. He explained that the seventy-four placements include carryover information from last program year.

Mr. Hastie expressed his concerns of GED & Diploma statistics being zero. He asked why there is no one pursuing the GED & Diploma track. Mr. Jackson explained that there is a lack of students attending Adult Ed. through verification by an Adult Ed instructor, who informs him on the decreasing count of students attending this year. Mr. Jackson and his team is seeking referrals from other agencies to identify other individuals such as the HOPE center, Fatherhood Coalition Program, etc.

Ms. Clark shared with the committee about Ms. Pam Hall's past experience as a youth career coach. She expressed her belief that the number has decreased due to students having to attend GED classes virtually. Ms. Hall strongly agreed with Ms. Clark on the decrease of attendees in person for Adult Ed is affected by the additional options of attending virtually. She added that Lee and Clarendon Adult Education Centers recently had interruption in services, which affected their enrollment numbers.

However, they are now back in person. Due to this decrease of in person classes for Adult Ed, the enrollment Blitz will take place to draw students in to provide them additional services and training when they are done with their GED program.

Mr. Jackson presented the Youth Success Story: **Shyhiem White**

Mr. White is a Clarendon County youth with great manners and desire to learn more about the construction and manufacturing field. Shyhiem did not have a really good start and made a serious error in his Work Experience (WEX). However, through much remorse and corrective steps, he has turned himself around and committed to doing the right thing, or in his words, "I'm going to do right." He did the legwork to be selected for scholarship programs at CCTC and FDTC, which showed his level of commitment. From there, he:

- Obtained Forklift Certification w/CCTC
- Obtained MIG Welding Certification w/ FDTC - 9/16
- Attended Fatherhood Coalition Job Fair - 9/24
- Interviewed with Santa Cruz - 9/28
- Hired with Santa Cruz - 9/28

Humility, commitment, communication skills, maturity, and extra hard work helped Shyhiem to succeed!

Chairman Hastie asked of the age for Mr. White. His age was confirmed to be approximately 20 years old. Afterwards, he acknowledged the importance of the Youth program and thanked them for providing the services they do.

Before moving to the next section of the meeting, Ms. Clark introduced the new Emerging Leader, Ms. Kiara Davis. She opened the floor to Ms. Brenda Gardner to share insight of what the Emerging Leaders program is about and how students are selected for this program. Ms. Gardner shared that the Emerging Leader program is designed for high school juniors to be broadly exposed to components in the community such as nonprofits, government, and finance. This program is to enhance their knowledge and shape them to be future leaders of our community. Once they are seniors, they are placed on boards and committees within the communities to gain experience and to also bring fresh minds into a committee or board mission. Chairman Hastie asked Ms. Gardner how the students are selected for the program. Ms. Gardner responded that they are specially selected by career coaches and guidance counselors in the high schools based on their academics but most importantly their leadership potential. She expressed her excitement of all three public schools of Sumter County students receiving the information and actively completing applications as interested candidates for the Emerging Leader program. This year, they have selected twenty-two juniors in the Emerging Leader program.

Ms. Kiara Davis introduced herself as a senior of Lakewood High School who is interested in attending college to pursue a degree in psychology. Her mission is to become a child psychologist because she enjoys helping others, especially children. Chairman Hastie extended the opportunity for Ms. Davis to meet his daughter who is a psychologist.

IV. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the end of the year Youth Financial Report for PY20' through June 30, 2021. He indicated \$437,790 of \$460,000.00 (contract amount) was spent leaving a balance of \$22,210. Ms. Clark added that the majority of the funds were spent. However, because of yearly budget cuts the goal is always to try and serve as many youth as possible with the funding provided.

Next, Mr. Levy provided the financial update for PY'21 through August 31, 2021. Eckerd has spent \$54,111 of \$420,000 (contract amount), leaving a balance of \$365,889. The monthly trend reflected \$29,945 spent in July and \$24,166 spent in August.

V. Other Business/Committee Discussion

Chairman Hastie opened the floor for members to share any community activities or events that are happening that the committee should be aware of.

Mr. Levy asked Chairman Hastie if the "Dream Team" is still active. Chairman Hastie stated they are currently not active. He shared with the committee information on an activity they host every summer called Family Fun in the Park located in the South Sumter Park. This program starts after summer school closes, which consists of numerous games and activities. Over the course of the program, they have had over 200 youth and their parents to attend. He strongly encouraged the committee members to be a part of this event. Ms. Clark expressed how this event will create an opportunity to educate the parents on programs we provide and hope that they share the information with others, as word of mouth is key and can help to get the word out about our programs.

Ms. Gardner expressed her agreement on the traditional method to share information through “word of mouth.” She also shared information on some new initiatives that she is hosting with the partnership of others within the community. One initiative is called “Graduated into Greatness,” which they plan to host in April. In arranging this event, she will be meeting with industry in partnership with high school career specialists. The goal is to collaborate closely with high schools in identify students that do not have plans to attend college or the military. This will allow them to provide a career event for these students to gain on the spot employment and armed forces opportunities and the capabilities of gaining enrollment for college. The second event (similar to the first) is targeting an older “scattered” population. She expressed her concerns about the turn out of this event but plans to partner with the out-of-school youth program to host a fun community event. This event is to provide employment opportunities for people who are not working or is pursuing something greater on April 27th, 2022, at the Sumter Civic Center. Details will be presented later.

Chairman Hastie shared information on a vaccination Blitz that will start on the Oct. 16th to serve those who need their vaccination. The time will be from 9am-4pm at the Birnie Center. If there are any seniors that need transportation to this Blitz, please notify him.

Ms. Melina Hodges posted in the chat box that if anyone is in need of getting the word out on upcoming programs/events, or need participants for their programs, please send her any information by email melina.hodges@sumterha.org and she will be happy to include it in their newsletters and send information to their housing participants.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM.

Recorded by,

Kourtney Page, Administrative Assistant I-PR
Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments