



**Santee-Lynches SC Works Board Meeting
Via Zoom
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – 9:30AM
MINUTES**

Members Present:

Bobby Anderson (Chair)
George General
Annette Karlinsky
John Hornsby
Janice Poplin

Staff Present:

Esmonde Levy, SLRCOG Workforce Development Manager
Freda Amerson, SLRCOG Workforce Development Operations Coordinator
Steve Berger, SLRCOG Business Services Lead
Dennis Cyphers, SLRCOG Deputy Executive Director and Chief, Government Services
Kourtney Page, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant I-PR

Guests:

Ray Jackson, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects
Marquel Jackson, Regional Manager, Eckerd Connects

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's SC Works Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Bobby Anderson at 9:35AM. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made by Ms. Janice Poplin 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.**

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2021

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the SC Works Committee Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2021. **A motion was made by Mr. John Hornsby and seconded by Ms. Annette Karlinsky.** There being no discussion, Chairman Anderson called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

4. and 5. SC Works Performance Update and SC Works Operator Report

The SC Works Performance Update and Center Information was presented by Mr. Ray Jackson, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects for July 1 to December 31, 2021.

Area Profile for Santee-Lynches, SC

Area Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data Table

The table below shows the monthly not seasonally adjusted Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment data for Santee-Lynches, SC in November 2021.

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
South Carolina	2,407,093	2,317,620	89,473	3.7%
Santee-Lynches	91,178	88,099	3,079	3.4%
Sumter	42,976	41,482	1,494	3.5%
Kershaw	29,464	28,622	842	2.9%
Clarendon	12,210	11,748	462	3.8%
Lee	6,528	6,247	281	4.3%

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

VOS Greeter Customers 6,274/269 Veterans

Total number of Individuals that Registered	485
Total number of Individuals that Logged in	5,594
Total number of Distinct Individuals Receiving Services	18,128
Total number of Services Provided to Individuals	402,066
Total number of Internal Job Orders Created	870
Total number of Internal Job Referrals	9,698
Total number of Services Provided Employers	1,728

Mr. Jackson shared with the committee that based on Area Unemployment rate, the December 2021 percentages increased for the Region at: 3.7%, Sumter-3.8%, Kershaw-3.1%, Clarendon-4.2%, and Lee County-4.7%.

He moved on to sharing information on the Adult program: Active Enrollments: 151 people are currently enrolled, and they are well on their way to achieving their goal of 360 enrollments.

Participant Training Data:

Mr. Jackson shared that currently, they have 83 participants in classroom training and 12 participants in OTJ (On-the Job). He also informed the committee that their goal is to increase OJT in the manufacturing sector.

Performance Outcomes Update:

Next, he shared with the committee the following credentials, measurable skills gain, GED/HS Diploma, and placements for Youth and Adults:

	Youth	Adult/DW
Credentials	37	71
Measurable Skills Gain	109	161
GED & HS Diploma	1	N/a
Placements	103	Information not available

Adult Program Success Story: Venus Richardson

Ms. Venus Richardson completed her CDL Training on November 9, 2021, and later started her employment at Covenant Transportation on November 15, 2021. Venus was a dislocated worker and was searching for an opportunity to use her desire to drive 18 wheelers while still being close to home. Ms. Richardson wants others to know that the WIOA program is a good place to start a career and seek the job of your choice.

Mr. Jackson presented a special secondary report providing the following analytics as requested at the last Workforce Board meeting by Chairman Anderson.

Current Age Employment Status/Race Education Level:

Mr. Jackson shared that Ages 22-32 are the leading age group to visit the center at the beginning of the year. They are able to match soft skills from those individuals with employers' requirements.

Employment Status:

Next, he shared that 80.66% of the people visiting the center were not working.

Unemployment Status:

Mr. Jackson stated that the majority of the people that visit the SC Works centers were unemployment insurance claimants. However, staff at the centers work to assist these individuals with finding employment, which includes offering workshops.

Race:

Mr. Jackson shared with the committee that the majority of the center's visitors (49.54%) refuse to identify their ethnicity while 29.2%-African American and 19.89%-Caucasians of the visitors did.

Chairman Anderson expressed his concerns on the high percentage of individuals visiting the SC Works Centers that are not identifying themselves.

6. Financial Report**Financial Report for PY 2021 through 12/31/2021**

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the Financial Report for PY 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Chart 1: Program Year 2021 Eckerd Adult Total:

Eckerd spent \$156,072 (55.74% expended) with a remaining balance of \$123,928. The trend of Eckerd Adult's monthly expenditures is related to tuition costs.

Chart 2: Program Year 2021 Eckerd Dislocated Worker (DW) Total:

Eckerd spent \$60,662 (14.44% expended) with a remaining balance of \$359,338.

Mr. Levy shared with the committee that a meeting will be scheduled with Eckerd Management staff to discuss the process for transferring funds from DW to Adult. Chairman Anderson requested Esmonde to share with Eckerd Staff that it will be affordable to place apprenticeships/OJTs with smaller businesses as they consider making adjustments to their budgets.

Chart 4: Rapid Response Eckerd DW Total

Rapid Response Eckerd DW spent \$42,817 (42.8% expended) with a remaining balance of \$57,183.

7. Other Business: Industry Study Follow-Up Discussion

Regional Population and Employment Characteristics

A special report requested by Chairman Anderson at a previous Workforce Board meeting was presented by SLRCOG Deputy Executive/Government Services Department Chief, Dennis Cyphers.

Mr. Dennis Cyphers reflected on Mr. Ray Jackson's report on the spiking percentage of individuals visiting the SC Work Centers preferring not to disclose their identity. Based on the National Bureau of Economic research applicants back in the early 2000's that do not identify their race typically gained employment quicker. Today, those statistics are steadily increasing.

Chart I: Population Change

Mr. Cyphers stated that as of the April 1, 2020 Census, there has been a decrease in population across our four-county region (excluding Kershaw) that results from residents moving to the urban areas. Of the four-counties, Lee County suffered the largest decrease of 14%. Kershaw was the only county in our region that increased in population due to its close proximity to Columbia, SC.

Chart II: Racial Composition

Mr. Cyphers presented the outlay of the ethnic backgrounds across our four-county region. The majority of our region maintains an even split of African Americans and Caucasians except for Kershaw and Lee counties.

Chart III: Age Composition

He shared that the percentage of ages across the board are similar with persons ages 18-65 being over half the population in each county.

Chart IV: Gender Composition

Showing the evenly split regions in population of men and women, Mr. Cyphers informed the committee that 62% of women across the region have not returned to work.

Chart V: Educational Attainment

Mr. Cyphers shared that High School graduates (which makes up majority of each county) are the individuals that suffer the most with unemployment. He stated that his department is still seeking research to understand the reasoning behind this data. Mr. Cyphers also highlighted regional education trends for the region:

- Regional education system produces high school graduates and associate degrees at higher level than the nation
- Number of bachelor's degree and postgraduate degree holders is nearly 50% less than the nation
- Most common degree -- Associate in Liberal Arts
- Associate in Nursing -- distant 2nd
- Most common bachelor's degree -- Criminal Justice

Chart VI: Income and Poverty Measures

Mr. Cyphers also shared with the committee that the person in poverty percentage is based on the household income. Lee County is identified as the county with the lowest average of household incomes as of 2019 placed at \$32,371.

Chart VII: Labor Force Participation

Mr. Cyphers shared that the Age 16+ of Labor Force Participation changed drastically, due to unemployment polling. The logic behind the decrease of Labor Force Participation in our four-county region is due to baby boomers leaving the workforce, generous stimulus checks granted by the government, childcare costs, along with the demand of vaccinations in several professions. Chairman Anderson commended Mr. Cyphers on the information provided and recognized Kershaw County's education and growth due to its transition of being an urbanized area near Columbia, SC. Mr. Cyphers shared that the increase in population in Kershaw County, is from residents commuting to Columbia, SC for work while educational attainments are made up of natives from Columbia who relocated to Kershaw County. Mr. Jackson communicated that the Airport in Columbia has made a great impact on Kershaw's populace expansion.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Anderson thanked everyone for being in attendance and entertained a motion to conclude the meeting. **A motion was made by Ms. Janice Poplin and seconded by Ms. Annette Karlinsky.** There being no discussion, Chairman Anderson called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

The Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's SC Works Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:13AM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kourtney Page". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Recorded by

Kourtney Page, Administrative Assistant I-PR