



**SANTEE-LYNCHES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Virtual Youth Committee Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, March 3, 2022 - 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

Members Present via Zoom:

Calvin Hastie, Sr., Brenda Gardner, Barbara Brown, Jeannine Gamble, Veronica Robinson, Fred Brantley

Members Not Present

Brian Jones, Jade Davis, Melina Hodges, Penny Dulin, Terrance Whitfield, Ramona Lies

Workforce Development Staff Present:

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

Guests:

Ray Jackson – Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development
Pam Hall, Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Calvin Hastie called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's Youth Committee Meeting to order at 10:03 AM. A quorum is present.

II. Approval of Agenda – October 7, 2021 (M)

Chairman Calvin Hastie called for a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made by Ms. Barbara Brown and seconded by Ms. Veronica Robinson.** 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 July 1 through February 28, 2022 and March 1, 2022.

Chart 1: Total Active Enrollments

Actual Enrollments to date are 73, while the goal for the fiscal year is 145.

Chart 2: Participating Training Data from July 1 to March 1, 2022

Classroom Training-30; Work Experience-11; Adult Education-7; for a total of 48 enrolled in a training component.

Chart 2 Continued: Training Program:

Nursing Assistant Program-8; Administrative-7; Manufacturing-4; Truck Driver CDL-4; EKG-6

Chart 3: Performance Outcomes Update

WEX/OJT: 11

Resumes Created: 37

Career Smart: 22

Adult Ed Enrollments: 7

Chart 4: Performance Outcomes Update

Credentials: 40

Measurable Skills Gain: 117

GED & HS Diploma: 1

Placements: 104

Mr. Jackson shared that their goal is to recruit more students from Adult Education to assist them with completing their high school diploma or GED. Chairman Hastie asked if the GED & HS Diploma count is affected by attendance or lack of knowledge about the program. Mr. Jackson confirmed that it was both.

Youth Program Highlight:**Aaliyah Dinkins**

Ms. Dinkins is a Lee County native who completed her CDL training on December 21, 2021. Currently, she is employed at Harbor Freight and is seeking opportunities to drive locally.

Aaliyah writes: "Thank you for the opportunity for believing in me and encouraging me. I have exceeded my dream and hope to go further. I hope to find a local job to get training and experience, and then drive across the country."

Based on her experience, Aaliyah would like to encourage other youth to stay positive and focus on your dreams even when times get rough. She shared that finding her purpose has been one of her hardest challenges, until she heard about the WIOA program. After talking with her career coach and going through the programs, she ended up finding her purpose.

IV. Financial Report

Ms. Freda Amerson, Workforce Development Operations Coordinator, presented the PY '21 Financial Report through January 31, 2022, on behalf of Mr. Esmonde Levy.

Chart 1: Eckerd Youth Total

Eckerd spent \$187,187 of \$420,000 (46% expended) with a balance of \$232,813.

Chart 2: Eckerd Youth Monthly

Freda shared the trending of Eckerd funding since July 2021.

July-21: \$29,945

August-21: \$24,166

September-21: \$20,948

October-21: \$31,946

November-21: \$27,903

December-21: \$29,787

January-22: \$22,492

V. Other Business/Committee Discussion

Ms. Brenda Gardner of the SC Department of Commerce discussed their upcoming program “Graduate into Greatness”, which is designed for high school seniors who don’t have plans after graduation. This program would be presented under the partnership of Sumter and Lee Counties Economic Development, and other agencies locally. The plan is to host this event at the Sumter Civic Center on April 27th where jobs, military, and educational opportunities will be available. Ms. Gardner stated that she hopes this will be a success. The hours of the event will be emailed to the committee once the agenda is settled. Ms. Jeannine Gamble asked will students be transported to the event since it will be held during school hours. Ms. Gardner confirmed that students that would like to participate will be bused to this event. Ms. Gardner also shared that prior to the event, TALO will be conducting a “match-making” survey for each student and employers participating, to provide them the most suitable career choice based on their results. Ms. Gamble then asked how students will be made aware of this event. Ms. Gardner stated that they are working closely with career specialists and counselors at the high schools. The students will need to speak to these individuals to register and complete the “match-making” survey.

Next, Chairman Hastie shared with the Committee that the City of Sumter has 40 jobs available for the summer. If the committee would like more information, they would need to contact Mr. Clarence Gaines. He also shared that in order for youth to get these jobs, they must start applying now.

Ms. Barbara Brown shared with the Committee a book she used during her profession called “How Can Higher Education Help You get a Job”. Based on reviews in her profession, this has helped in the prisons by bringing peace amongst rival gangs and inspired former prisoners to be counselors to current inmates.

In further discussions, Ms. Gamble suggested that the Youth Committee have an outreach event to target parents by providing different presentations on jobs and programs that will help those parents find the answers they need. Chairman Hastie agreed with Ms. Gamble and added that there should be a central place (preferably The Resource Center) where people can go to get the information they need.

In closing, Chairman Hastie commended the Committee and staff for always being assertive in supporting our youth. He encouraged them to share all events and projects at the upcoming Workforce Development Board meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 AM.

Recorded by,



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