



**Santee-Lynches SC Works Committee Meeting
Via Zoom
Monday, April 18, 2022 – 8:30AM**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Bobby Anderson (Chair)
George General
John Hornsby
Janice Poplin

Members Absent:

Annette Karlinsky

Staff Present:

Areatha Clark, SLRCOG Interim Executive Director and Chief, Workforce Development
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, Center Manager/SC Works Operator, Eckerd Connects
Marquel Jackson, Regional Manager, Eckerd Connects
Dedra Smalls, Area 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 8:46 AM. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made by Mr. John Hornsby and seconded by Ms. Janice Poplin.** 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 – February 8, 2022

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the SC Works Committee Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2022. **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.**

4. SC Works Operator Report

The SC Works Operator Report was presented by Mr. Ray Jackson, Center Manager/SC Works Operator, Eckerd Connects for July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Chart I: VOS Greeter by Office

Mr. Jackson discussed the VOS Greeter -by Office Report, which is based on the total number of individuals visiting the centers this year: 9,158 compared to last year, the center had 9,505 people visiting.

Chart II: Area Profile for Santee-Lynches

Mr. Jackson shared with the committee that for the Area Unemployment rate, the February 2022 percentages increased for the Region at: 4.5%, Sumter - 4.6%, Kershaw - 3.9%, Clarendon - 5.1%, and Lee County - 5.5%.

Table below shows the monthly, not seasonally adjusted, Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment data for Santee-Lynches, SC in February 2022.

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed		Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
South Carolina	2,390,488	2,292,037		98,451	4.1%
Santee-Lynches	90,487	86,378		4,109	4.5%
Sumter	42,530	40,556		1,974	4.6%
Kershaw	29,389	28,231		1,158	3.9%
Clarendon	12,043	11,428		615	5.1%
Lee	6,525	6,163		362	5.5%

Chart III: Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Distribution Table

Mr. Jackson shared the highest preliminary unemployment rate of Santee-Lynches Region and other COG regions. The region ranks #4 of twelve with the highest rate of unemployment.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Distribution Table

The table below shows the workforce development areas with the highest preliminary unemployment rate in South Carolina for February 2022. These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Rank	Area	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Preliminary
1	Waccamaw	185,614	175,451	10,163	5.5%	Yes
2	Lower Savannah	129,545	123,085	6,460	5.0%	Yes
3	Pee Dee	151,857	144,371	7,486	4.9%	Yes
4	Santee-Lynches	90,487	86,378	4,109	4.5%	Yes
5	Upper Savannah	111,316	106,694	4,622	4.2%	Yes
6	Catawba	205,554	196,821	8,733	4.2%	Yes
7	Upstate	194,531	186,501	8,030	4.1%	Yes
8	Lowcountry	113,943	109,424	4,519	4.0%	Yes
9	Worklink	184,186	177,207	6,979	3.8%	Yes
10	Midlands	358,684	345,112	13,572	3.8%	Yes
11	Trident	403,530	388,934	14,596	3.6%	Yes
12	Greenville	261,244	252,060	9,184	3.5%	Yes

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, SC Dept of Employment & Workforce
Downloaded: 04/07/2022 12:02 PM

Chart IV: Job Placements

Next, Mr. Jackson shared the declining rate of job placements of our region since 2017:

2017- 1,002

2018- 1,109

2019- 1,166

2020- 782

2021- 787

2022- 107

Afterwards, Mr. Jackson shared with the Committee that hiring events were held throughout March at the Camden and Sumter Offices. Employers that were present for the events were RTA, Comfort Keepers, Defender Services, Roper Staffing, Pilgrim's Pride, and Coca Cola Bottling Company Consolidated.

5. SC Works Performance Report

Mr. Jackson provided information on the Adult/DW program: They have a total of 221 active enrollments, and they are well on their way to achieving their goal of 375 enrollments. Mr. Jackson further explained that they are still engaging individuals in the center (mainly targeting adults) to enroll into the WIOA program.

Performance Outcomes Update:

	<u>Adult/DW</u>
Credentials	85
Measurable Skills Gain	223

Mr. Jackson briefly highlighted Youth Active Enrollments: 77 youth are currently enrolled with the ending goal of 145. They are having another outreach “Graduate to Greatness” held for the High School Seniors of Sumter County with Brenda Gardner and the SC Department of Commerce and they are continuously working with the Adult Ed Program. Eventually these students would be co-enrolled to be provided employment services by SC Works.

Performance Outcomes Update:

WEX/OJT: 12

Resumes Created: 41

Career Smart: 23

Adult Ed Enrollments: 7

Mr. Marquel Jackson, Eckerd Regional Manager, introduced Ms. Dedra Smalls, as the new Santee-Lynches Area Manager for Eckerd in the Santee-Lynches Region. Mr. Jackson shared that Ms. Smalls would ensure that Eckerd stay on task with performance goals and operations which would allow Mr. Ray Jackson to focus on SC Works Operations. Mr. Marquel Jackson also announced to the Committee that he would be departing the Eckerd team on May 13th to return to the ministry. During his transition, he will be working closely with Mr. Ray Jackson and Ms. Smalls.

Ms. Clark opened the floor for Ms. Deidre Smalls to introduce herself to the Committee as a new Eckerd team member. Ms. Smalls happily introduced herself and later shared with the group her experience in Workforce in the Trident Region where she served 10 years from a Career Coach to Center Operator position.

Chairman Anderson reflected on a concern he has had from the previous meeting on how we could improve placements for individuals coming in the SC Works Centers, which ultimately reduces the number of individuals remaining on unemployment benefits and not seeking employment at all. Mr. Ray Jackson shared that DSS has a program where they send individuals to workshops. If those individuals do not attend, the assistance the individuals receive will stop.

After Mr. Jackson, Ms. Clark further explained to Chairman Anderson that there are no rules to having any services in the SC Works Centers. The challenge for them is getting those individuals into the center, have them to apply and show up for the jobs. She also shared that many of the individuals visiting the center identified that they were “working under the table” , which she predicts that there are still some small businesses that are still operating their businesses that way.

Mr. George General added that Ms. Clark, Mr. Anderson, and himself can discuss more about this issue offline.

6. Financial Report for PY 2021 through March 31, 2022

Ms. Areatha Clark presented the Financial Report for PY 2021 through March 31, 2022, on behalf of Mr. Esmonde Levy.

Chart 1: Program Year 2021 Eckerd Adult Total:

Eckerd spent \$266,920 (54.36% expended) with a remaining balance of \$224,146.

Ms. Clark also expressed that due to transitions on the Eckerd Team, they are working closely to restructure some processes to the way things were which have been proven to be successful in the past – which would ultimately affect Eckerd's Adult Monthly Expenditures data. She also shared that they would strive to keep a large increase in Adult Expenditures moving forward ensuring that this would help when transitioning costs to the DW Budget.

Chart 2: Eckerd Adult Monthly

Jul-21: \$17,816	Oct-21: \$37,885	Jan-22: \$17,426
Aug-21: \$32,512	Nov-21: \$20,083	Feb-22: \$19,448
Sep-21: \$14,312	Dec-21: \$33,464	Mar-22: \$73,975

Chart 3: Program Year 2021 Eckerd Dislocated Worker (DW) Total:

Eckerd spent \$89,438 (42.81% expended) with a remaining balance of \$119,495.

Ms. Clark shared that in the past, Mr. Levy discussed with the Committee that they were working with Eckerd with transferring funding to the adult program. This chart reflects the transfer of expenditures from Adult to DW.

Chart 4: Eckerd DW Monthly

Jul-21: \$7,612	Oct-21: \$11,651	Jan-22: \$9,676
Aug-21: \$10,495	Nov-21: \$9,479	Feb-22: \$9,605
Sep-21: \$12,483	Dec-21: \$8,942	Mar-22: \$9,494

7. Other Business

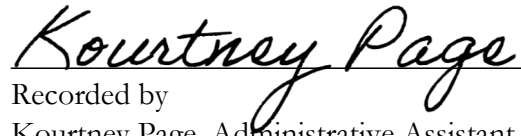
Extension of Contracts-

SC Works and the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Services are hoping that the second transition on Eckerd team would continuously benefit the SC Works system along with SC Works Certification. The new certification process will require the Committee be a part of the process.

After a brief discussion, the staff recommended the Committee to consider the approval of extending both the SC Works Operations Contract and WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Services Contract for Program Year 2022. **Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to extend the contracts for SC Works Operations and WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker Services. A motion was made by Ms. Janice Poplin and seconded by Mr. John Hornsby. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.** This motion will be brought forth to the Full Board at its next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Anderson thanked everyone for being in attendance and entertained a motion to conclude the meeting. The Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's SC Works Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:15AM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kourtney Page". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Recorded by

Kourtney Page, Administrative Assistant I-PR