

**SANTEE-LYNCHES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Youth Committee Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2017 - 8:30 AM
Santee-Lynches Regional COG
2525 Corporate Way, Suite 200
Sumter, SC 29154**

Minutes

Youth Committee Members Present: Calvin Hastie, Sr., Chairman, Barbara Brown, Brenda Golden, Ramona Lies, Joe Perry, Zuelda Williams-Smith

Youth Committee Members Absent: Fred Brantley, Kenneth Jenkins, Wendy Martin, Veronica Robinson, Sharon Teigue, John Tindal

Staff Present:

Areatha Clark, Workforce Development Director
Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Brenda Cooper, Workforce Development Coordinator
Becky Minegar, Santee-Lynches RCOG Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Tamara Wise, Eckerd Workforce Development (dba Palmetto Youth Connections – PYC)
Jason Wright, Youth Minister, New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introduction

Chairman Calvin Hastie called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's (WBD) Youth Committee meeting to order at 8:40 AM and welcomed everyone. Chairman Hastie introduced his guest, Mr. Jason Wright, Youth Minister at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and asked everyone to introduce themselves and what agency they represented.

II. Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2017 - (M)

Chairman Hastie called for a Motion to approve the Minutes from May 15, 2017. **A motion was made by Ms. Barbara Brown and seconded by Ms. Brenda Golden.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

III. Youth Performance Update

Ms. Tammy Wise, Program Manager for Eckerd Workforce Development dba Palmetto Youth Connections (PYC) briefly explained what PYC does. She stated they work with out-of-school youth between the ages of 16-24. Ms. Wise then stated their program tries to eliminate barriers and assist youth in obtaining a career. She also stated they send youth to vocational

schools for occupational skills training, work with them to attain their GED; provide, transportation assistance and childcare. Ms. Wise explained the vocational training that is provided include welding, truck driving, EKG, CNA and Phlebotomy, etc. Ms. Wise then reviewed the Youth Performance Report for PYC for PY'17 through the period of July 31, 2017. Ms. Wise stated PYC enrolled 8 new participants and carried over 71 participants from PY'16 bringing the total to 79 to date. Out of those 79 participants, 65 are unemployed and 52 participants are high school drop outs.

A discussion ensued concerning the unemployed and underemployed participants and the lack of interest in finding a job. The committee also discussed offenders and the difficulty in finding them employment. Ms. Wise stated there are companies that will hire them. Chairman Hastie stated his law practice assists offenders in getting their record expunged at no cost. It was also discussed that offenders are no longer male dominant – there are more and more females becoming offenders and thus, becoming harder to serve.

Ms. Wise indicated that out of the 79 participants enrolled, their active case load consisted of participants who fall into the following categories: 56 Basic Skills Deficient, 52 High School Dropouts, and 65 Unemployed upon enrollment. She then provided the following year-to-date Performance Outcomes: 1 Measurable Skills Gains, 0 GEDs & Diplomas, 3 Occupational Credentials, 0 Placements, and 2 WorkKeys Credentials. Ms. Wise stated her goal this year is to get more participants in Occupational Training.

Ms. Wise then shared a success story: Daniel Green is a high school graduate. He came to PYC seeking assistance in obtaining his Commercial Driver's License. Prior to attending CDL training, Daniel was working part time at Zaxby's. He was eager and willing to jump right into training, with his end career goal to own his own trucking business. Daniel succeeded very early on, as he passed his CDL permit within five days of beginning training and passed his CDL exam in 7 weeks. His training instructor described him as a "great student." Daniel received two job offers the day after obtaining his Commercial Driver's License, therefore proving that hard work and dedication will reap great outcomes.

Ms. Wise indicated they held a 2-day Soft Skills Career Smart class at the Sumter County Library with nine participants from Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter Counties. Chairman Hastie requested to sit in on the next Soft Skills class. Ms. Wise added PYC finished their Summer Enrichment Series. They had three classes with the last class being Financial Literacy.

Ms. Wise shared that PYC will be having a Fall Enrichment Series to include:

- Tour of CCTC in September
- Tour a manufacturing plant in October
- Obtaining A GED success story to come talk to the group in November

IV. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the Youth Year in Review Financial Report thru June 30, 2017 of Program Year 2016: Total Contract Amount - \$600,000; Actual Expenditures - \$571,692; Balance - \$28,308 (carryover). Mr. Levy explained how the projected monthly expenditures are calculated: PYC's Grant Amount (\$600,000) x Projected Goal of 85% = \$510,000/12 month = \$42,500 that must be spent per month to reach the 85% expenditure goal. PYC exceeded their goal.

Ms. Areatha Clark added PYC operates the Out-of-School Youth Program. PYC provides youth services to youth 16-24 which is done through a contract with Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments.

Mr. Levy explained Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments receives an allocation from South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce to ensure the needs of the youth are being met. Ms. Areatha Clark added that our total allocation of funding received is based upon a formula that includes, barriers, unemployment rate, etc. for the region.

Mr. Esmonde Levy then provided the Youth Financial Report thru July 31, 2017 of Program Year 2017: Total Contract Amount - \$600,000; Actual Expenditures - \$43,778; Balance - \$556,222.

V. Other Business

Ms. Areatha Clark handed out a job fair flyer for offenders that will take place September 27, 2017 in Florence. This is a joint effort for the Pee Dee region (Pee Dee, Santee-Lynches, and Waccamaw local areas). Ms. Clark added the Sumter County Job Fair will be held in October. She will ensure that the Youth Committee receives a copy of the flyer as well.

A discussion ensued concerning how job seekers dress for job fairs. Some suggestions to help remedy the issue would be to hold workshops on how to dress for success. It was suggested to portray the image of how to dress on the flyer. Ms. Romana Lies stated YWCA has a clothes closet for women to assist them in dressing properly while looking for employment.

The following announcements regarding upcoming events were made by various members of the Committee:

- Flea/Farmer's Market (help educate children on how to eat healthy) located at the South Sumter Resource Center on Manning Avenue - Fridays from 12:00noon – 6:00pm.
- Parenting Classes – "Strengthening Families" – targets ages 6-11. Classes will be held at Crosswell Elementary and Lemira Elementary. This will be a 14-week class starting August 31, 2017. Monday's at Crosswell and Thursday's at Lemira. Contact Ramona Lies at 803.840.3779 for more information.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM.

Recorded by,

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