

**SANTEE-LYNCHES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Youth Committee Meeting
Friday, January 19, 2018 – 10:00 AM
Santee-Lynches Regional COG
2525 Corporate Way, Suite 200
Sumter, SC 29154**

Minutes

Youth Committee Members Present: Calvin Hastie, Sr., Chairman, Barbara Brown, Sharon Teigue, Joe Perry

Youth Committee Members Absent: John Tindal, Fred Brantley, Roman Lies, Wendy martin, Zuelda Smith, Veronica Robinson

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:

Amanda Wagner, Eckerd Workforce Development (dba Palmetto Youth Connections – PYC)
Tamara Wise, Eckerd Workforce Development (dba Palmetto Youth Connections – PYC)
Jackie Taylor, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW)

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introduction

Chairman Calvin Hastie called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board's (WBD) Youth Committee meeting to order at 10:15 AM and welcomed everyone.

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

Chairman Hastie called for a Motion to approve the Minutes from August 28, 2017. **A motion was made by Ms. Sharon Teigue and seconded by Ms. Barbara Brown.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Areatha Clark introduced Ms. Jackie Taylor from the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW). Ms. Clark explained Ms. Taylor is the State's Priority Populations Coordinator. A discussion ensued concerning Priority Populations: youth, ex-offenders, veterans, individuals with disabilities.

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 as needed. Ms. Wise explained the vocational training that is provided includes welding, truck driving, EKG, CNA Phlebotomy, etc. Ms. Wise further explained once the participant has completed vocational school PYC then provides 480 hours of paid time in Work Experience. To date, PYC has placed 32 participants in work Experience.

Ms. Wise reported she is concentrating more on community outreach and has spoken to Lee County Council, Bishopville City Council, Clarendon, Sumter and Kershaw Head Start. She also spoke with Kershaw County Health to talk about placing participants in the hospital for the ones that go through medical training.

A discussion ensued concerning participants with disabilities. Ms. Clark explained they work closely with other agencies for those with disabilities to help them obtain employment. Ms. Amanda Wagner stated Ms. Wise has been working with participants that are the harder to serve population in finding employment.

Ms. Wise then reviewed the Youth Performance Report for PYC for PY'17 through the period of December 31, 2017. Ms. Wise stated PYC has enrolled 112 participants and 92 are currently active in the program. Out of those 92 participants, 75 are unemployed and 63 participants are basic skills deficient (below 9th grade in reading and math) and 45 dropped out of high school.

Ms. Wise then shared a success story: Hailey Duke enrolled in GED fast track classes in August 2017 and attained her GED in October 2017. Hailey expressed an interest in working in the healthcare field and is currently on a Work Experience assigned at Southern Lakes Therapy as a Rehabilitation Technician. Hailey is also currently enrolled at Central Carolina Technical College and plans to pursue an Associate Degree in Nursing.

Ms. Wise stated she is also talking with the Sheriff's Department as a means to be able to talk with youth who are incarcerated or going through Justice-Involved programs. Chairman Hastie stated judges are looking for programs to help youth who are in trouble with the law. He also mentioned Veterans Court and Youth Drug Court.

IV. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the Youth Financial Report thru December 31, 2017 of Program Year 2017: Total Contract Amount - \$600,000; Actual Expenditures - \$332,039; Balance - \$267,961. 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. - \$255,000 is expected to be expended through December 2017. PYC has exceeded the projection through that time period.

V. Other Business

Ms. Jackie Taylor shared she started with the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW) in November 2017. She works with Priority Populations and works closely

with the sub-committee of the State Workforce Development Board (Priority Populations Committee) whose goal is to increase access to services in the SC Works Centers for priority populations and to ensure their needs are being met - which includes the youth.

Mr. Calvin Hastie shared a DREAM Team success story: Mr. Garfield Williams was out of work for 12 months and approached the DREAM Team for assistance in finding a job. Otherwise, he would have to return to Jamaica to find work while leaving his family back in the US. Mr. William found employment with Thompson Industrial 6 weeks ago. Mr. Hastie announced the DREAM Team has placed 15 people in full-time jobs. Mr. Hastie stated the DREAM Team meets every other Tuesday at 10:00AM in his office. There will be a Celebration held on January 31, 2017 at Thompson Industrial to formally introduce the DREAM Team and highlight their success stories.

Mr. Hastie stated another issue he is concerned about is the murders and shootings in Sumter County. Since Thanksgiving there have been 5 murders and 11 shootings. He stated Sunday, January 21, 2018 at RTA the community will come together to listen to the young people assess how to bring about change in the community.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Recorded by,

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