

**SANTEE-LYNCHES  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Youth Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 28, 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, Brenda Golden, Joe Perry, Ramona Lies, Veronica Robinson

**Youth Committee Members Absent:** Sharon Teigue, John Tindal, Fred Brantley, Wendy Martin, Zuelda Smith, Jason Wright

**Staff Present:**

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)  
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 10:05 AM and welcomed everyone. Chairman Hastie asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2018 - (M)**

A quorum was not present.

**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 39 participants in work Experience.

Ms. Wise provided several handouts to the committee: "So you want to be a grown-up?", training information, and Enrichment Seminars.

The first handout "So you want to be a grown-up?" is an article in the Boston Globe. The article is a series of classes that are being held in Weymouth, Massachusetts. The program will help youth ages 16-25 to bridge the "soft skills gap". With this training, it can help a new adult succeed in life no matter what they are doing.

Ms. Wise then provided a handout regarding training information as of February 23, 2018. The handout includes; who is in training; where they are being trained; what type of vocational training is being provided; and their graduation date.

Ms. Wise also explained there are other training opportunities available such as welding, auto body, and truck driver (CDL), which has been very successful.

Ms. Wise then shared upcoming Enrichment Seminars:

- Thursday, March 15, 2018 – Inexpensive Healthy Eating & Sneaky Exercising: South Sumter Resource Center 10:00 AM (Confirmed)
- Thursday, April 19 – Basic Legal Information: Sumter Resource Center 10:00 AM (Confirmed)
- Thursday, May 17, 2018 – Owning Your Own Business: The Joys and Heartbreak (A panel discussion): Camden Adult Education 10:00 AM (Tentative)
- Thursday, June 14, 2018 – CEO's & HR (A panel discussion): FE Dubose, Manning 10:00AM (Tentative)
- Thursday, July 19, 2018 – Personal Safety, Self-Defense and Situational Awareness, Bishopville Police Chief, Location Unknown (Tentative)
- Thursday, August 16, 2018 – YOU are our next Leader, South Sumter Resource Center, 10:00AM (Tentative)

A discussion ensued concerning adding a soft skills training. Ms. Wise stated their two day course called Career Smart has a lot of soft skills training. They are also in the process of revising the program.

Ms. Wise then reviewed the Youth Performance Report for PYC for PY'17 through the period of February 23, 2018. Ms. Wise stated PYC has enrolled 136 participants as of February 28, 2018 (with a goal of 155) and 89 are currently active in the program. Out of those 89 participants, 71 are unemployed and 61 participants are basic skills deficient (below 9<sup>th</sup> grade in reading and math) and 43 dropped out of high school.

Ms. Wise stated she has several community outreach events coming up:

- The One Sumter Meeting, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, March 16, 2018 @ 6:30pm
- Wateree Community Actions in Camden
- Head Start in Camden and Sumter
- DREAM Team @ South Sumter Resource Center

Chairman Hastie asked members to notify him of any type of training as he would like to attend.

The committee discussed having one place for the community to call, for all needs, if they have questions and would be directed to the appropriate agencies, church, etc.

The committee then discussed having a formulized apprenticeship program for young people. Ms. Brenda Golden stated Ready SC has a Youth Apprenticeship program through the career centers. It was then suggested for Ready SC to partner with PYC in a Youth Apprenticeship program.

Ms. Wise then shared a success story: Clifford Pompey came to PYC at 19 Years old with no employment history, has a GED, basic skills deficient in math, and an offender. Ms. Wise stated PYC sent Clifford to Florence Darlington Tech for welding in which he did very well. With him being an offender it wasn't easy to find a Work Experience (WE). Ms. Wise stated Merchant Iron Works provided a WE for Clifford, which consisted of 480 hours. He is now employed full time with Merchant Iron Works.

#### **IV. Financial Report**

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the Youth Financial Report thru January 31, 2018 of Program Year 2017: Total Contract Amount - \$600,000; Actual Expenditures - \$339,210; Balance - \$200,790. PYC is on target for meeting the expenditure requirement of 85% of their total contract by the end of the program year.

#### **V. Update from SCDEW/Partnership with Disabilities Committee**

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.

Ms. Taylor explained how the law references coordination of the Individuals with Disabilities Committee with the Youth Committee. The Disabilities Standing Committee for the State Workforce Development Board is to ensure the SC Works Centers are assessable to individuals with disabilities and the need to collaborate services between the Individuals with Disabilities Committee and the Youth Committee. Ms. Taylor further explained the reason for the collaboration is that both committees have similar populations that the efforts serve (i.e. enrolling youth with disabilities into the WIOA Youth program). Ms. Taylor stated that there are key elements/services in the WIOA law regarding youth and serving individuals with disabilities: mentoring, financial literacy, leadership development opportunities, etc.

It was suggested to schedule a joint meeting between the Youth Committee and Individuals with Disabilities Committee to pull together resources in order to better serve these individuals.

It was also suggested to have a Career Coach/Case Manager come and talk with the joint committee members.

**VI. Other Business**

Ms. Ramona Lies shared information on a program called "Strengthening Families". This is a 14 week program that started February 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. and is held at Lemira Elementary School.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Recorded by,

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