



Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 2019 - 5:00 PM
Central Carolina Technical College
Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center
853 Broad Street, Room A101
Sumter, SC 29150

MINUTES

Members Present:

Clarendon – Robert Edwards
Kershaw – Renee Baker, Nicole Gardner, Stewart Kidd, Teresa Oelze
Lee – George General (Chairman), Annette Karlinsky, Zina Wright
Sumter – Sam Lowery, Elizabeth Williams, Debra Young

Members Absent:

Clarendon – Christine Edwards (Excused), Richmond Jones (Excused)
Kershaw – John Hornsby (Excused), Teresa Justice (Excused)
Sumter – Bobby Anderson, Vice-Chairman (Excused), Ashton Elmore (Excused), Calvin Hastie, Sr. (Excused), Janice Poplin (Excused), Sharon Teigue (Excused), Jerome Robinson

Staff Present:

Christopher McKinney, Executive Director
Areatha Clark, Workforce Development Chief
Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Freda Amerson, Workforce Development Coordinator
Steve Berger, SC Works Business Services Lead
April Barr, WIOA Title I Manager
Becky Minegar, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant II

Guests:

Amanda Wagner, Eckerd Connects – Workforce Development
Caroline Rogerson, Eckerd Connects – Workforce Development
April Barr, Eckerd Connects – Workforce Development
Ray Jackson, SC Works Operator, Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development
Zack Nickerson, SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW)
Summer Rigby, SC Vocational Rehabilitation, Kershaw County
Emily Catoe, SC Vocational Rehabilitation, Kershaw County
Brenda Golden, Regional Workforce Advisor, SC Department of Commerce

1. Welcome and Call to Order:

The Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board of Directors' (WDB) Meeting was called to order by Chairman George General at 5:11 PM. A quorum was present.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stewart Kidd provided the invocation and Chairman General led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Introduction of Guests

Ms. Areatha Clark, Workforce Development Chief, introduced staff and guests. Ms. Clark then introduced new board members; Ms. Teresa Oelze, Operation Excellence & Quality Leader at Cardinal Health and Ms. Debra Young, Program Coordinator at Telamon Corporation.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman General entertained a Motion to approve the Agenda. A motion was made by Ms. Elizabeth Williams and seconded by Ms. Annette Karlinsky. There being no discussion, Chairman General called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2019

Chairman General entertained a Motion to approve the Workforce Development Board (WDB) Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2019. A motion was made by Ms. Elizabeth Williams and seconded by Ms. Nicole Gardner. There being no discussion, Chairman General called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Report for the Santee-Lynches Regional COG Executive Director

Mr. Christopher McKinney, Executive Director, Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments stated significant headway is being made in a couple of different areas. Ms. Areatha Clark and her staff have been finding ways to partner with the Solicitor's office. This partnership would be to provide funds from the WIOA Youth Program for education or training as an option for troubled youth instead of being incarcerated. Mr. McKinney added Ms. Clark found a SC Department of Labor Grant for up to \$500,000 over a two-year period to facilitate women who have been impacted directly or indirectly by Opioids and getting them back into the workforce. We will find out in October if we are awarded this grant.

He then stated we are finding new ways to ensure we remain resilient and bring new funding sources into our region.

7. Reports

Youth Report

Ms. Caroline Rogerson Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development, recapped their Youth Performance for PY'18. Ms. Rogerson stated their enrollment goal was 160 participants and they ended the year serving 179 participants. Performance Outcomes reviewed: 145 Measurable Skill Gains, 16 GED & Diploma, 96 Occupational Credentials, and 200 Employment Placements. Ms. Rogerson announced they had their first Awards Ceremony with 25 individuals being recognized for their accomplishments.

Ms. Rogerson reviewed their Youth Performance for PY' 19. Ms. Rogerson stated their caseload is high right now, but they expect it to taper off in the next couple of months due to changes in carryover participants. She reported their active caseload; Clarendon County – 29, Kershaw County – 42, Lee County – 7, and Sumter County 26. Ms.

Rogerson then reported they had 87 individuals carried over from PY' 18 and have enrolled 17 thus far with a total of 104 currently enrolled. Performance Outcomes reviewed: 9 Measurable Skill Gains, 1 GED & Diploma, 9 Occupational Credentials, and 12 Employment Placements. Ms. Rogerson reported they had 8 Work Experience Contacts written, 26 Career Smart completions, and 11 participants attending vocational training.

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Report

Ms. Caroline Rogerson reviewed the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Program for PY'19 thru the period of July 30, 2019. Ms. Rogerson reported they had 56 carryover participants; 20 new participants enrolled with a total of 76 active participants. Ms. Rogerson then gave a breakdown by county: Clarendon County – 7 participants, Kershaw County – 13 participants, Lee County – 4 participants, and Sumter County – 52 participants. She next reported they had 23 carryover individuals receiving training and 20 clients receiving transportation services totaling \$1,906.50. They had no On-the-Job Training contracts to date.

Ms. Rogerson then shared a success story: “Cassandra Stackhouse was a High School dropout attending Sumter Adult Education when she was referred to the WIOA Youth Program. At the time, Cassandra’s scores indicated that she would have no trouble passing the GED exams, but her attendance was an ongoing issue. At one point, Cassandra stopped attending class completely and her career coach lost contact with her but continued attempts to locate her. A week before graduation at Sumter County Adult Education, the career coach was able to reconnect with Cassandra, who explained that she was having a difficult time at home and that she lacked the family support she felt she needed in order to succeed. Cassandra only needed to pass two GED exams in order to attain her GED, therefore she was encouraged to attend the GED bootcamp so that she could test in time to march at graduation. Cassandra attained her GED on the last testing day, two days before graduation. Now that Cassandra has attained her GED, she feels doors will begin to open. Cassandra’s next step in the program is to attend Logistics Technician training at Central Carolina Technical College and to participate in a Logistics work experience.”

SC Works Operator Report

Mr. Ray Jackson provided the SC Works Operator report (July 1, 2019 – July 31, 2019). Mr. Jackson provided a comparison report of services for PY '17 and PY '18:

PY' 17 Services provided to Individuals:

Total Individuals served= 15,572

Total # of Services provided = 921,210

PY' 18 Services provided to Individuals:

Total Individuals served= 12,526

Total # of Services provided = 753,053

PY' 17 Services provided Employers:

Total Employers Serviced= 1823

Total # of Services to employers = 23,023

PY' 17 Services provided Employers:

Total Employers Serviced= 2010

Total # of Services to employers = 19,107

PY' 17 Job Placements = 1110

PY' 17 Job Placements = 1150

Mr. Jackson then provided a comparison of users and total number of services provided between June 2019 and July 2019:

June 2019

Users: 2,288

July 2019

Users: 2,576

Total Services Provide: 55,852

Total Services Provide: 59,321

Mr. Jackson provided Unemployment Rates for the State and Santee-Lynches region:

- June 2018 unemployment rate for South Carolina was 3.6% with 5.1% in Clarendon County, 3.8% in Kershaw County, 5.2% in Lee County, and 4.4% in Sumter County.
- June 2019 unemployment rate for South Carolina was 3.6% with 4.9% in Clarendon County, 3.8% in Kershaw County, 4.9% in Lee County, and 4.2% in Sumter County.

Mr. Jackson reported on the VOSGreeter at SC Works Centers in Sumter and Camden. He stated the greeter reports on who the participant is wanting to see or the reason they are at the center, the reason for the visit, the number of individuals, percentage, and average wait time across all departments. He further reported on the VOSGreeter by Office for June 1 – June 30, 2019 and July 1 – July 31, 2019. He noted though that the average wait time was skewed based on a system glitch that occurred in June. Which means that the average weight time was not as long as indicated:

June 1 – June 30, 2019

Sumter Center Served 1,818 with an average wait time of 2 hours, 27 minutes.

Camden Center served 495 with an average wait time of 3 hours, 14 minutes.

Due to a system error, the wait times are inaccurate.

July 1 – July 31, 2019

Sumter Center Served 2,180 with an average wait time of 1 hours, 22 minutes.

Camden Center served 503 with an average wait time of 9 minutes.

Mr. Jackson then reported they had fifteen (15) On the Floor Hiring Events with 176 attending. He also reported on several Job Fairs:

- June 6, 2019 at Thermoid HBD in Elgin with 60 attending
- July 18, 2019 at the Summerton Community Resource Center
- July 20, 2019 at the Paxville Community Development Center

Upcoming Events:

- August 8, 2019 Lee County Job Fair
- September 26, 2019 Pee Dee Re-entry Job Fair

Mr. Jackson provided a comparison for job placements for 2018 and year to date. In July 2018 they had 81 placements compared to July 2019 they had 113.

Mr. Jackson then provided a summary of outreach and training:

- Able SC – ADA Accommodations (training)
- Workforce Educational Outreach
 - Sumter County Hope Centers
 - Barbara Lewis High School
 - Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker
- SC Works Monthly Pre-Release Orientation
 - Wateree River Correctional Institute

- Lee Correctional Institute
- Turbeville Correctional Institute
- Additional/Weekly
 - Back To Work – Job Readiness Boot Camp
 - Airman & Family Readiness Center (Shaw AFB)

Mr. Jackson gave an update on rapid reemployment. He announced Metokote/PPG Coating Service (Sumter) announced it plans to close by July 24, 2019 affecting 25 employees. An orientation was conducted on June 4, 2019.

Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided Year in Review financial update for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Expenditures for PY'18 through June 30, 2019. Mr. Levy explained that at the beginning of the year goals are set to ensure that local and state financial requirements will be met for the program year. Mr. Levy briefly explained the State requires a 70% expenditure rate but internally goals are set at 75%. Mr. Levy stated all state requirements were met for PY'18.

Chart 1: Program Year 2018 Adult Financial Data – Program Funds (Including Transfers)

- SC Works and COG spent 75% of their expenditure requirement - \$595,342 of \$600,000 (grant amount).

Chart 2: Program Year 2018 Dislocated Worker Financial Data – Program Funds (Including Transfers)

- SC Works and COG spent 71.97% of their expenditure requirement - \$717,780 of \$720,000 (grant amount).

Chart 3: Program Year 2018 Youth Financial Data – Program Funds (Including Transfers)

- Eckerd Connects and COG spent 91.99% of their expenditure requirement - \$726,101 of \$730,000 (grant amount).

Mr. Levy reminded the board that an additional \$330,000 in additional Dislocated Worker funding was received from Lower Savannah COG Midlands COG to assist with service delivery and to provide adequate carryover funding for PY'19.

Mr. Christopher McKinney added we had approximately 30 days to spend a required percentage of these additional funds. In partnership with Ms. Clark's team, Finance team, and the partnership with SC Works Case Managers is the reason all funding was able to be obligated and expended as required.

8. Regional Education Center (REC) Update/Presentation

Ms. Brenda Golden, Regional Workforce Advisor, South Carolina Department of Commerce. Ms. Golden explained she works in the same four county region (Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter Counties) to connect business and education to improve our future workforce. Ms. Golden reported on activities for this past fiscal year and upcoming activities for this fiscal year. Ms. Golden reported they have had activities that have served over 4,000 students, 564 educator contacts, 1,042 parent contacts and 658 business partner contacts. Ms. Golden stated they had 300 students attend the first Clarendon County Manufacturing Expo which exposed them to jobs and manufacturing processes of the future, Kershaw County had their second Manufacturing Expo with 250 students in attendance, and Sumter/Lee Manufacturing Expo held their third event. Ms. Golden then stated the eSTEAM Festival brings thousand of kids and families to downtown Sumter and will be held October 5, 2019. Ms. Golden explained the purpose of the eSTEAM Festival is to provide hands on experience for children to start thinking about modern manufacturing,

technology, and science; to raise awareness and educate students, families, and professionals about STEAM career opportunities in the region; to showcase STEAM exhibits and areas of interest for K-12 and secondary education; to endorse STEAM related careers and advancements in Sumter and the surrounding counties. Ms. Golden invited anyone that would like to participate in the October 5th event to let her know. Ms. Golden stated they had another landmark event that grew out of the Sumter/Lee Manufacturing Expo. A partnership with REC, Sumter County Economic Development, and Lee Central Middle School will hold a STEM event just for their middle school students who were unable to attend the expo in Sumter.

Ms. Golden then stated she and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce Education Committee continue to work on getting business participation in the Sumter's Career Forum. The Career Forums are held in all middle and high schools in Sumter County. Six business leaders are brought in to talk with students in a roundtable format and the participating students then go to those businesses to see how they operate. She then invited anyone that wishes to participate in these career forums to contact her.

It was suggested for Ms. Golden to provide a calendar of up coming events at each meeting so different board members could plan and attend as their schedule allows.

9. Chairman's Comments

Chairman General thanked the Workforce staff for all their hard work.

Ms. Clark added Mr. Dan Ellzey, Executive Director of South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce will hopefully be able to present at the next Workforce Development Board meeting.

Mr. McKinney added the General Assembly included language in a Bill that increased job tax credits, was passed in order for the Carolina Panthers to move their offices and practice facilities to South Carolina that would allow a business looking to expand or create new jobs in Clarendon and Lee Counties a \$25,000 tax credit per new job created.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Recorded By,

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