



**Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board Meeting
Via Zoom
Tuesday, August 25, 2020 - 5:00 PM**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Kershaw – Nicole Gardner, John Hornsby, Stewart Kidd, Teresa Oelze
Clarendon – Robert Edwards
Lee – George General (Chairman), Annette Karlinsky, Zina Wright
Sumter – Bobby Anderson (Vice-Chairman), Calvin Hastie, Sr., Janice Poplin, Sharon Teigue, Elizabeth Williams, Debra Young

Members Absent:

Clarendon –Christine Edwards
Kershaw – Renee Baker (Excused), Teresa Justice
Sumter – Ashton Elmore, Sam Lowery

Staff Present:

Christopher McKinney, SLRCOG Executive Director
Areatha Clark, Deputy Executive Director and Workforce Development Chief
Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Freda Amerson, Workforce Development Coordinator
Steve Berger, SC Works Business Services Lead
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
Michell Carr, SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW)
Summary Rigby, SC Vocational Rehabilitation
Melissa Welker, Ed2go Workforce Development Manager

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 5:04 PM. A quorum was present.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

There was not an invocation. Chairman General led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Introduction of Guests

Ms. Areatha Clark, Deputy Executive Director and Workforce Development Chief, introduced guests and staff.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman General entertained a motion to approve the Agenda. **A motion was made by Ms. Sharon Teigue and seconded by Mr. Bobby Anderson.** 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 16, 2020

Chairman General entertained a motion to approve the Workforce Development Board (WDB) Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2020. **A motion was made by Ms. Teresa Oelze 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.**

6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Christopher McKinney provided an update on the Ink2Work Program. This will bring manufacturing jobs to the Sumter/Lee Detention Center. We are in the final process of negotiating contracts with the Sumter County Sheriff's Department. Once they have approved the contracts, we will be able to move forward with the program. Mr. McKinney further stated the skills training and experience the inmates receive from the program will help reduce the rate of recidivism.

Mr. McKinney announced the kickoff of a "Masks For Class Challenge". Our intentions are to bring positive attention/energy to our public schools, publicly show our support of our schools, educators, and administrators, and provide our schools with PPE. The basic idea is for every 1 picture posted on September 2nd we will provide 10 free masks to the school district tagged in the picture (up to 4000 masks). We are also going to donate, regardless of the number of pictures posted, 1000 free face shields. This is all to help our kids/schools get off to a good start. Additionally, the school with the highest number of pictures posted will win a free cleaning by UV Clean of one entire school. The more participation, the more PPE for the district.

At the request of Chairman General, Ms. Areatha Clark was asked to forward the "Masks For Class Challenge" flyer to all the board members.

7. Reports

Youth Report and WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs Program Update

Ms. Caroline Rogerson Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development, reported on their Performance for PY'19 through July 31, 2020 for all programs.

She reported Enrollments for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth:

- Adult – Total active enrollments - 104 participants with a goal of 325 participants (32% of goal achieved)
- Dislocated Worker – Total active enrollments - 28 participants with a goal of 50 participants (56% of goal achieved)
- Youth – Total active enrollments - 59 participants with a goal of 145 participants (40% of goal achieved)

Ms. Rogerson stated they have set an internal monthly goal of 30 enrollments for Adult and Dislocated Worker and 10 enrollments for Youth.

She then gave an update on Performance Outcomes as of July 31, 2020:

Adult and Dislocated Worker:

- 53 participants entered training with 33 of those participants currently active
- 17 participants have earned credentials
- 3 participants have engaged in the On-The-Job Training Program, with 2 currently active

Youth:

- 11 participants entered training with 4 of those participants currently active
- 16 participants have earned credentials
- 7 participants have engaged in Work Experience, with 4 currently active

Ms. Rogerson stated due to the pandemic they have had to change how they provide their services. Eckerd has invested in Chromebooks that are available to individuals attending training virtually who do not have access to a computer. Many of the training providers are Hybrid, attending in class and online. Training providers as well as case managers are using online platforms for meetings and classroom training. The Youth team has implemented their 2-day Career Smart Soft Skills class via WebEx, which has been very successful. She further stated they are able to complete enrollment and eligibility appointments virtually and have been successful in posting on social media platforms especially Facebook.

Mr. Rogerson then highlighted a virtual service individual: This individual had to transition from in person Work Experience to virtual. She is working at Caris Healthcare virtually by completing daily logs, patient charting, phones, and needs survey.

Ms. Rogerson then shared an adult success story: Ramone Henry entered the WIOA program as a Dislocated Worker, looking to obtain a Class A CDL. Mr. Henry began class at Sage Trucking in Lexington in May 2020 and has successfully completed training in June 2020. Since the completion of his training and receiving his Class A CDL, Mr. Henry has started his own company, Marathon Boy's Inc., located in Bishopville. He and his team make pickups and deliveries nationwide.

Mr. Rogerson shared a youth success story: Autumn Wells was described by her career coach through the following quote by Julieanne O'Connor, "Powerful people come in all packages, Sometimes unpredictable and unsuspecting packages. Each with their own priorities, dreams, challenges, gifts to give, and journey." "Autumn has something powerful in her package. From our first encounter, it was clear she wanted to be a welder, and not just any welder-one of the be best welders. She was striving for independence and to be a greater support for her mother. While attending welding training at Florence Darlington Technical College, Autumn was working at Zaxby's and Walmart. She graduated from welding training at the top of her class, and because she came early and stayed late, she was able to finish training earlier than her peers. Her priorities were clearly set. Following training, the opportunity to work at Honda as a welder became available. "Autumn, a powerful, small, unpredictable, unsuspecting package is continuing on the journey to be one of the best welders out there."

Mr. McKinney highlighted Eckerd, Ms. Areatha Clark and her staff as well as SCDEW on a job well done. Ms. Clark and her staff have worked with Eckerd to find ways to meet their goals during the pandemic. He stated they have seen a turnaround and are collaborating at another level and coming up with creative ways to solve difficult challenges. He further stated it has been a pleasure to watch and observe and see the outcomes.

SC Works Operator Report

Mr. Ray Jackson provided the SC Works Operator report thru July 31, 2020.

Mr. Jackson stated they had a total of 807 individuals that checked into the VOS Greeter Traffic. They are servicing in-house approximately 40 customers per day. Mr. Jackson then stated they are still offering services virtually, soft skills workshops, virtual hiring events and a new project for the employer side is offer drive thru job fairs, which should be scheduled within the next two weeks.

He reviewed the Unemployment Rates through July 31, 2020:

- South Carolina – 8.8%
- Santee-Lynches Region – 9.2%

- Sumter County – 9.7%
- Clarendon County – 9.6%
- Kershaw County – 7.6%
- Lee County – 11.1%

Mr. Jackson reported they had 291 job placements from January to July with 71 placements in July.

He stated staff is still being provided training virtually. They have had training in Introduction to Accessibility in Digital Communications and VirtualJobShadow.com. Customers also have access to virtual workshops.

In conclusion, Mr. Jackson then announced the Santee-Lynches region has reached 100% completion for the SC Works 101 Course. The Santee-Lynches region was the first region to have everyone complete this training.

Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the financial update for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Expenditures for PY'19 through June 30, 2020.

Mr. Levy provided a month to month comparison of expenditures for each of the funding streams:

Chart 1: Program Year 2019 Eckerd Adult Financial Data

July 2019 - \$28,810.28
 August 2019 - \$15,372.61
 September 2019 - \$37,044.36
 October 2019 - \$65,165.95
 November 2019 - \$59,627.21
 December 2019 - \$25,366.21
 January 2020 - \$64,974.79
 February 2020 - \$26,118.08
 March 2020 – \$56,187.69
 April 2020 - \$17,330.74
 May - \$108,723.07
 June - \$55,521.48

A discussion ensued concerning why do the numbers need to be consistent. Mr. Levy explained, being consistent will allow us to make more accurate projections and to keep spending on track.

Chart 2: Program Year 2019 Eckerd Adult Total

Eckerd Adult spent \$560,242.47 of \$560,245.00 leaving a carryover balance of \$2.53.

Chart 3: Program Year 2019 Eckerd Dislocated Worker Financial Data

July 2019 - \$9,621.77
 August 2019 - \$4,463.13
 September 2019 - \$3,325.09
 October 2019 – \$4,248.14
 November 2019 - \$3,084.04
 December 2019 - \$2,685.34
 January 2020 – \$3,177.82
 February 2020 - \$3,972.00
 March 2020 - \$3,810.61
 April 2020 - \$2,886.24
 May - \$14,746.18

June - \$8,575.43

Chart 4: Program Year 2019 Eckerd Dislocated Worker Total

Eckerd Dislocated Worker spend \$255,407.21 of \$320,000.00 with a carryover balance of \$64,592.79. Mr. Levy explained the balance that is left we have the option to do a transfer.

Chart 5: Program Year 2019 Eckerd Youth Financial Data

July 2019 - \$33,409.69
August 2019 - \$52,541.66
September 2019 - \$33,041.11
October 2019 – \$61,025.95
November 2019 - \$39,393.38
December 2019 - \$38,264.58
January 2020 - \$42,540.23
February 2020 - \$44,672.84
March 2020 - \$34,261.02
April 2020 - \$23,240.64
May 2020 - \$22,654.35
June 2020 - \$37,368.36

Chart 6: Program Year 2019 Eckerd Youth Total

Eckerd Youth spent \$462,413.81 of \$500,000.00 with a carryover balance of \$37,586.19.

Mr. Esmonde Levy then provided the financial update for Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Expenditures for PY'20 through July 31, 2020.

Chart 1: Program Year 2020 Eckerd Adult Total

Eckerd Adult has spent \$60,777.05 of their \$300,000 contract amount leaving a balance of \$239,222.95

Chart 2: Program Year 2020 Eckerd Dislocated Worker Total

Eckerd Dislocated Worker spend \$29,491.22 of \$450,000.00 contract amount leaving a balance of \$420,510.78.

Chart 3: Program Year 2020 Eckerd Youth Total

Eckerd Youth has spent \$24,628.16 of \$460,000.00 contract amount leaving a balance of \$435,371.84.

8. Committee Reports

Youth Committee

Mr. Calvin Hastie, Chairman provided the Youth Committee Report. He stated in addition to the committee hearing the report provided earlier by Eckerd, the committee also discussed the structure and purpose of the committee and recruitment of new members. Ms. Clark added we are seeking individuals from different organizations that serve youth or provide services to the youth population. We are also seeking to find a parent and a youth participant to serve on this committee. Ms. Clark stated we are also looking for members from Department of Juvenile Justice, career specialists from our high schools, solicitor's office, etc.

SC Work Committee

Mr. Bobby Anderson, Chairman provided the SC Works Committee Report. He stated the main take away from the meeting and the reports provided was that the SC Works office is doing a phenomenal job in learning new ways to reach customers during the pandemic. Ms. Clark added the SC Works Center is typically ranking 1st or 3rd in the State with center traffic. Mr. McKinney added those rankings are in comparison with Greenville and Charleston areas, which are much larger. Ms. Clark stated things are in place to continue to provide customers with this excellent service.

Chairman General requested a snapshot of the region and how the employers are doing in “opening up”. Ms. Clark added it has been a challenge for some employers opening back up. The \$600 - \$900 a week was one factor that was preventing individuals from returning to work. Now that the extra \$600 has ceased, it is now important to stress to the customers who are unemployed the importance in going back to work. Staff are also assisting employers with replacing those individuals who refuse to return to work. Ms. Clark added there are other avenues to help recruit for these employers if individuals do not return to work.

9. Other Business

➤ Ratification of Email Vote (PY’20 Budget)

Ms. Clark stated through email vote, the board voted to approve the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development PY’20 Budget. Ratification of the vote is now required.

A motion was made by Mr. Bobby Anderson and seconded by Mr. Robert Edwards to ratify the email vote to approve the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development PY’20 Budget. There being no discussion, Chairman General called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

➤ Ratification of Email Vote for WIOA Eligible Training Provider Programs

Ms. Clark stated through email vote, the board voted to approve the WIOA Eligible Training Provider Programs. Ratification of the vote is now required.

A motion was made by Ms. Sharon Teigue and seconded by Ms. Debra Young to ratify the email vote to approve the WIOA Eligible Training Provider Programs. There being no discussion, Chairman General called for the vote. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Chairman’s Comments

Ms. Sharon Teigue stated the Item gave good coverage of Ms. Areatha Clark’s Palmetto Go Getter award. She congratulated Ms. Clark and was pleased with the publicity of both organizations, Sumter County Adult Education and Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments.

Chairman General stated he is seeing a lot of hard work, targets being hit, everyone working together, and seeing the fruits of our labor. Chairman General thanked everyone for attending.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.

Recorded by,

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