



**SANTEE-LYNCHES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM
Monday, October 12, 2020 - 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

Members Present via Zoom:

Bobby Anderson, Chairman, Nicole Gardner, George General, John Hornsby, Annette Karlinsky, Stewart Kidd

Members Not Present

Janice Poplin

Workforce Development Staff Present:

Areatha Clark, Deputy Executive Director/Workforce Development Chief
Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager
Freda Amerson, Workforce Development Coordinator
Steve Berger, Business Services Lead
Becky Minegar, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant II

Guests:

Caroline Rogerson, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development
April Barr, Eckerd Connects – Workforce Development
Ray Jackson, SC Works Operator/Center Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development

I. Welcome and Call to Order & Introduction of Committee Members & Staff

Mr. Bobby Anderson, Chairman, welcomed the committee members and called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board’s SC Works Committee Meeting to order at 10:01 AM. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda (M)

Chairman Bobby Anderson called for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Ms. Annette Karlinsky and seconded by Mr. George General. There were no revisions to the agenda; all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2020

Chairman Anderson called for a motion to approve the SC Works Committee Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2020. A motion was made by Mr. George General and seconded by Ms. Annette Karlinsky. There being no discussion, Chairman Anderson called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

IV. SC Works Performance Update:

Ms. Caroline Rogerson, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development, reviewed the SC Works Performance Report for Program Year 20 through September 30, 2020.

Ms. Rogerson reported on active enrollments through September 30, 2020 with 112 adult individuals enrolled and 35 Dislocated Workers. Ms. Rogerson stated they have 38 participants currently in training in welding, commercial truck driving, and healthcare. Out of the 66 individuals who have entered training this program year, 37 participants have attained occupational skills credentials. They have also written 11 On-the-Job Training contracts with 9 being active.

Ms. Rogerson provided an Adult/DW success story: Amina McCants was laid off from her previous employer, Prisma Health, as medical records clerk during their statewide layoff. She came to the WIOA program in March 2020 seeking the skills to maintain full time employment. She completed Certified Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy training and is currently attending EKG Technician training. Amina has passed her national certification for CNA and is awaiting results from Phlebotomy taken 9/28/2020. She has been an excellent student per the training provider and has recently been offered a position back at her previous employer, Prisma Health Tuomey, with a salary increase. Ms. April Barr added, Ms. McCants has attained her Phlebotomy certification.

V. SC Works Operator Report

Mr. Ray Jackson provided the SC Works Operator report thru September 30, 2020.

He provided a comparison of the VOSGreeter for August and September with a total number of customers served: 964 for August and 1,215 for the month of September.

He also provided a summary comparison for August and September:

August 2020 Summary	Total	September 2020 Summary	Total
Total number of Individuals that Registered	<u>565</u>	Total number of Individuals that Registered	<u>505</u>
Total number of Individuals that Logged In	<u>3,993</u>	Total number of Individuals that Logged In	<u>3,691</u>
Total number of Distinct Individuals Receiving Services	<u>5,290</u>	Total number of Distinct Individuals Receiving Services	<u>4,803</u>
Total number of Internal Job Orders Created	<u>107</u>	Total number of Internal Job Orders Created	<u>111</u>
Total number of Services Provided Employers	<u>491</u>	Total number of Services Provided Employers	<u>177</u>

He reviewed Unemployment Rates as of August 2020:

- South Carolina 6.3%
- Santee-Lynches Region – 7.0%
- Sumter County – 7.6%
- Clarendon County – 7.1%
- Kershaw County – 5.6%
- Lee County – 8.5%

Mr. Jackson stated he anticipates the unemployment rates to continue to drop. Ms. Areatha Clark added as we look at the numbers, there are more individuals that need employment than jobs are available.

Mr. Jackson reported there were 488 job placements from January to September with 103 placements in August and 94 placements in September. Mr. Jackson indicated that the Santee-Lynches region is showing is showing higher job placements than any other local area in the state.

He then provided a graph on employment for Santee-Lynches, Four Quarter Moving Average from 2008 – 2020: For Q1 of 2020, 72,752 people were employed at the end of the first quarter and 70,826 for the second quarter. This graph will help us to understand the impact of COVID-19 in the region moving forward.

Mr. Jackson next reported the Sumter Mini Job Fair, featuring the manufacturing sector, held on Friday, September 18th, at the SC Works Center in Sumter produced the following results:

- ✓ Four companies participating- Meritor, Color-Fi, Pilgrim's Pride and Santa Cruz
- ✓ 50 Job Seekers attending
- ✓ 108 Applications/Resumes received

Mr. Jackson stated SC Works has the capacity to provide services virtually, to include soft skills workshops and virtual hiring events.

Chairman Anderson stated he is enthused about all the progress that is being made during the pandemic.

VI. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy provided the SC Works Financial Report thru August 31, 2020 of for PY'20. He indicated \$101,454.91 of \$300,000.00 (contract amount) of the Adult Contract has been spent leaving a balance of 198,554.09. Ms. Levy stated they are on target to meet their goals. He also stated they will be doing internal transfers from Dislocated Worker funding to the Adult funding stream to serve participants throughout this fiscal year. He further indicated the monthly trend for Adult is high due to in the influx of tuition in July.

Mr. Levy continued with review of Dislocated Worker for PY'20 thru August 31, 2020. He indicated \$54,8336.90 of \$450,000.00 (grant amount) has been spent leaving a balance of \$395,166.10.

Ms. Clark asked Ms. Rogerson to explain their strategy for individuals going into training. Ms. Rogerson explained the career coaches created a spreadsheet where they have allotted a specific number of slots per month to send individuals to training based on the start dates of upcoming training being held. This is to ensure that they do not have to put a hold on training and can continue to send individuals throughout the year.

Ms. Clark added she and Mr. McKinney are working diligently behind the scenes to find other funding options outside of WIOA, because the funding is not there.

VII. Other Business/Committee Member Update

Ms. Clark asked Mr. Stewart Kidd to provide an update from Kershaw County and on any partnerships available. Mr. Kidd stated industry is having a workforce shortage even with the lower unemployment rate. He further stated they have companies that once used 2 agencies for temps are now having to use 4 agencies and still not getting the numbers they need.

Mr. Kidd indicated they will be starting their Retooling Training for Haier/GE with Central Carolina Technical College assisting through December 10th.

He spoke about tracking 24 different industries in Kershaw County throughout COVID-19. Out of the 24 industries being tracked, there has been 3 industries that have had adverse actions because of COVID-19. Out of the 3 industries that have had adverse actions, 2 industries have hired their employees back. The remaining industries are still not up to their previous numbers, but they are all

doing well and are very fortunate that none have gone out of business. Mr. Kidd added other issues have been how long it was taking to get the COVID test results back. One company stated they had lost 200 personal days because of employees going out for the COVID test and the long wait for results.

Mr. Kidd stated Hengst has pivoted from producing a filtration system for automobiles to making facemasks. Ms. Clark added they have placed 6 OJT contracts with Hengst this program year. Mr. Kidd complemented manufacturing and industry in doing an excellent job in protecting their workforce.

Ms. Clark asked Mr. General to speak on the healthcare field in terms of cases of COVID-19. Mr. General stated Lee County was one of the hot spots in South Carolina, but through free testing and providing education about COVID-19, Lee County's infection rate is down. He further stated they bought mobile units to go throughout the community – hot spots to provide testing. If people social distance and follow CDC Guidelines, it can work. He then stated turnaround time for testing right now is 24 to 48 hours. He encouraged manufacturers to get their employees the flu shot.

Mr. Stewart added they have met with a challenge with their manufacturing awareness initiative. The 8th Grade Expo, which is where 200 8th graders are brought in to interact with manufacturers, will have to be rethought. He asked the committee members if they have any ideas/solutions or would like to partner on how to do this virtually. A discussion ensued concerning virtual delivery options.

Discussion followed concerning recruiting employers in to fill the empty buildings in our four-county region. Ms. Clark added that she and Mr. McKinney are working with individuals from Kershaw County on such efforts to fill empty buildings starting in Kershaw and Sumter Counties.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Recorded by,

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