



**WorkLink Workforce Development Board
Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
4/15/2020 Minutes**

Attendees:

Chair Mike Wallace Jeromy Arnett Emily Hodge Grayson Kelly
Stephanie Collins Teri Gilstrap

Staff:

Trent Acker Meredith Durham Jennifer Kelly

Chair Mike Wallace welcomed everyone to the conference call at 11:00 a.m.

The minutes from the April 3, 2020 meeting were emailed to committee members for review. Chair Wallace called for any corrections or amendments to the minutes.

ACTION TAKEN: Stephanie Collins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, second by Teri Gilstrap. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

SC Works Centers Status Update

Mr. Trent Acker stated that no changes have been made regarding the SC Works centers. There is SC Works staff in each WorkLink SC Works center answering customer questions via phone. The new Unemployment Initial Claims data for last week should be available tomorrow, April 16. There have been 13,474 claims over the past 3 weeks in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Those individuals who are eligible for normal unemployment insurance are beginning to see the additional \$600 posted to their accounts. Over the next 10 days to 2 weeks individuals who will not typically be eligible (1099 employees, independent contractors, self-employed, etc.) should begin to be paid \$600 from the CARES Act. Additional guidance will be received from the Department of Labor. Individuals who have questions can be referred to the SC Works centers for basic assistance.

Tri-County Technical College Update

Mr. Grayson Kelly provided an update on how Tri-County Technical College is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Kelly stated that since the first Executive Order that made TCTC move classes online, 1,200 courses are now available via online instruction. TCTC received an executive waiver to allow students in the associate degree track that had lab based work to come on campus and finish the work if they were supposed to graduate in the spring semester. There will be an additional waiver beginning this week which will allow students who are expected to graduate in the summer with the same opportunity. The waiver will also cover

Corporate and Community Education as well. ReadySC is operating as usual. TCTC will be using online instruction through June 19, 2020, with in-person instruction resuming for the latter part of the summer. Mr. Kelly stated that \$13 billion will be available to higher education institutions through the CARES Act. TCTC will receive \$4.3 million. An authorization to draw down half of that will happen in the next few weeks. TCTC has been dictated to spend the funds on the following:

- \$1 million for students who are currently enrolled as regular students that can be awarded to them to help offset costs or loss through the pandemic
- \$700,000 will be set aside for students who have financial need going into the summer and fall. Emergency funds will be available to students to help them stay enrolled.
- An additional \$2.1 million will help offset loss of revenue for TCTC.

Mr. Kelly stated that no employees have been laid off through the pandemic, and 92% of employees are working remotely. Summer enrollment is only down 13% from last year. Mr. Kelly noted that 95% of students logged back in after spring break and have been online.

Supportive Services Policy

Ms. Jennifer Kelly stated that the online needs for resources are something that WorkLink wanted to change within the existing policy to include equipment purchases and internet associated costs from a training institution or participant. This may include personal computers or laptops to include a printer, in which 3 quotes would be needed, and would cover up to \$500. This could also cover a monthly internet bill for standard internet costs. The individual would need to present the internet bill to WorkLink. All of these items would only be for the duration of the State of Emergency or if a training provider chooses to take a more cautious approach.

ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Teri Gilstrap made a motion to adopt the recommendations for the Supportive Service policy to add a caveat to help facilitate a process for access to equipment, seconded by Stephanie Collins. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Training Provider Applications

Chair Wallace stated that there was one training provider application from Kinetic Potential for program offerings of Project Management and Cyber Security. There were no reasons for denial.

ACTION TAKEN: OneStop Operations Committee made a motion to accept Kinetic Potential's Project Management and Cyber Security offerings on to the Eligible Training Provider List, seconded by Teri Gilstrap. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

Mr. Acker stated there was an opportunity for WorkLink to apply for Rapid Response funding. WorkLink will apply for initial Rapid Response funds based on the tornado event, which will leave an opportunity to apply for



additional funding in the coming weeks once needs are better assessed from the COVID-19 layoffs. By doing that separately, WorkLink may be able to leverage additional funds.

Ms. Emily Hodge stated that Borg Warner is currently set up throughout Oconee County offices temporarily until trailers are set up onsite. She stated Borg Warner's intention is to still operate in Oconee County once repairs are done.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.