

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes
SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park/Zoom
Tuesday, March 7, 2023
3:00 – 4:00 pm

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie Cynthia Sprinkle

Members Absent

Patrick Pruitt Edgar Brown Margaret Camp Billy Gibson

Staff Present

Windy Graham Jennifer Kelly

Guests Present

Billy Hunter Christina Roberts

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Windy Graham welcomed everyone, and committee members gave introductions.

II. Approval of January 3, 2023, Minutes

The January 3, 2023, minutes were approved electronically through an email vote.

III. Committee Education – Department of Social Services

Ms. Christina Roberts, Upstate Transition Specialist for DSS, shared a presentation with committee members. Ms. Roberts works with the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood. The Chafee program is tasked with assisting teenagers and young adults, ages 14-26, as they transition out of the foster care system. The DSS Chafee program provides services and funding for youth that relate to their future goals and independence. This funding covers academic assistance, transportation assistance, employment assistance, and housing assistance. The ETV program covers up to \$5,000 per year for college tuition and other costs for young adults up to their 26th birthday. Financial literacy workshops are available as well. Ms. Roberts provided her contact information to committee members.

Mr. Billy Hunter provided an update for the SC Works Centers. The Anderson SC Works Center, beginning March 13 will be open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The center will no longer be closed for lunch. There is a temporary sign that has been placed on the outside of the Anderson center until a permanent sign is placed. WorkLink is assisting Frankische with a Rapid Response event for 170 employees. SC Works center surveys have recently become digital. Mr. Hunter stated approximately 2100 surveys have been sent, 280 read receipts, and 127 survey responses.

Ms. Windy Graham, staff to the WorkLink Board, referenced reports in the packet.

The targeted population WIOA data is found on pages 4-6. Aggregate information is given for July 2022 to February 2023.

Beginning on page 7, Ms. Graham reviewed the SC Employment Situation from January 2023 that the SC Department of Employment and Workforce released.

The Community Profile was available in the packet, beginning on page 7. Ms. Graham stated that the Community Profile shows economic, demographic, industry, occupation, and education data for the Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens areas. The report can be revised to show individual counties and is updated approximately every 6 weeks. The economic outlook for January 2023 was included on page 18 of the packet. The South Carolina employment situation was located on page 22 of the packet.

WorkLink's unemployment rate is 2.7%, and the population of those with disabilities is higher nationwide at 7.1%. The percentage of our labor force with a disability is 24.1% (data from US Department of Labor).

IV. Other Business

Ms. Graham shared that the next committee meeting will be on May 2, 2023. Ms. Graham stated she would reach out to a potential speaker for the next meeting.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Meredith Durham