



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Priority Populations Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**SC Works Clemson Comprehensive Center at East Park/Zoom**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2023**  
**3:00 – 4:00 pm**

Members Present

Lisa Gillespie, Chair                      Patrick Pruitt                      Cynthia Sprinkle                      Billy Gibson

Members Absent

Edgar Brown                      Margaret Camp

Staff Present

Windy Graham                      Jennifer Kelly

Guests Present

Billy Hunter                      Vanessa Cruell                      Cherri Boller

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

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

II. **Approval of March 7, 2023, Minutes**

The March 7, 2023, minutes were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gillespie called for changes.

**ACTION TAKEN: Cynthia Sprinkle made a motion to accept the March 7, 2023, minutes as presented, seconded by Patrick Pruitt. The motion was approved with a voice vote.**

III. **Committee Education – Vocational Rehabilitation/ Commission for the Blind**

Ms. Vanessa Cruell, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, presented information to committee members about the South Carolina Commission for the Blind’s mission and services. Ms. Cruell reviewed participant data, office locations, and detailed services offered. The Vocational Rehabilitation division provides services to assist individuals with maintaining or gaining employment. They provide services to the deaf-blind population, individuals with cochlear implants, and individuals with hearing aids. Services offered include career assessments, job readiness training, employment plans, job placement, and more. Assistive technology is also offered as participants obtain employment. Ms. Cruell reviewed the Transition, Older Blind, and Children Services programs. If a person is interested in any of the programs, they can reach out to a Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at the Commission for the Blind.

Mr. Billy Hunter provided an update for the SC Works Centers. Mr. Hunter stated approximately 4,500 emails have been sent with the SC Works digital customer service survey and 10% have responded.

Changes to ADA cabinets, locations where ADA equipment is kept, and ADA parking will be modified to better serve customers.

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

The targeted population WIOA data is found on pages 4-7. Aggregate information is given for July 2022 to April 2023.

Beginning on page 8, Ms. Graham reviewed the Economic Outlook report from February 2023 that the SC Department of Employment and Workforce released.

WorkLink's unemployment rate is 3.1%, and the population of those with disabilities is higher nationwide at 8.2%.

IV. **Other Business**

Chair Gillespie shared that the next committee meeting will be on August 1, 2023.

V. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Meredith Durham*