



**Priority Populations Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Zoom Conference Call
Clemson SC Works Comprehensive Center**

Members' Present

Patrick Pruitt	Cherri Boller	Sandy Jordan	Cynthia Sprinkle
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Staff Present

Jennifer Campbell	Windy Graham
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Guest Present

Lisa Long	William Hunter
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I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Patrick Pruitt graciously welcomed all attendees, setting a warm and inviting tone for the gathering. Following his remarks, the committee members introduced themselves, fostering engagement and collaboration among participants.

II. Approval of January 14, 2025, Minutes

The minutes from January 14, 2025, meeting were provided in the meeting packet for review. The Vice Chair, Mr. Pruitt, invited attendees to propose any amendments; however, no revisions were suggested.

ACTION TAKEN: Cynthia Sprinkle moved to approve January 14, 2025; meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Cherri Boller and subsequently passed by voice vote.

III. Committee Education – WorkLink Workforce Development Board

Lisa Long, ES Regional Area Director, Region I at SC Department of Employment and Workforce, delivered a presentation on Second Chances.

Under the direction of Governor Nikki Haley's office, S.C. Department of Corrections (SCDC) and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) created the Second Chance initiative to help returning citizens learn job skills and understand how to successfully search for a job.

With this program's support, returning citizens gain confidence, purpose, and direction, which fosters their successful employment and reduces the recidivism rate.

Features of the Second Chance Program

- DEW partners with SCDC Manning by providing a full-time DEW employee to teach participants employment and soft skills in a classroom setting. Participants register for SC Works, craft résumés, and participate in mock interviews.
- DEW partners with SCDC to offer workshops on SC Works services to those who are about to be released.
 - DEW assists returning citizens in local SC Works centers by providing Federal Bonding vouchers, assistance with résumés, and job-searches.
 - DEW staff collaborates with employers to promote WOTC and encourage the hiring of returning citizens.
 - Second Chance Month: In the month of April, DEW partners with organizations to host community job fairs which feature employers open to hiring returning citizens.

Ms. Windy Graham, a WorkLink Board staff member, referenced the reports contained within the meeting packet.

Beginning on page 4, Ms. Graham delivered a comprehensive overview of the Community Profile report, published by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce in December 2024.

Mr. William Hunter, OneStop Manager, provided a comprehensive update on the operations and activities of the SC Works Centers.

WorkLink's unemployment rate is currently 4.3%, whereas the national unemployment rate for individuals with disabilities remains significantly higher at 8.5%.

Our next meeting is May 13, 2025.