



Priority Populations Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2026

Location: Clemson Center and Virtual via Zoom

Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Attendance

Committee Members

- Lisa Gillespie, Chair
- Pat Pruitt, Vice Chair
- Lt. Ashley Anderson
- Cherri Boller
- Cynthia Sprinkle

Board Staff

- Windy Graham, Staff Liaison
- Victoria Britton
- Jennifer Campbell

Center Staff

- William Hunter
- Yarnell Rivera

Guest Speaker

- Paulette Dunn, South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs



Meeting Overview

The Priority Populations Committee convened to discuss ongoing initiatives supporting individuals who face significant barriers to employment, including youth with barriers, justice-involved individuals, low-income jobseekers, individuals with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, the long-term unemployed, and veterans.

The meeting included:

- A presentation on **veteran employment initiatives**
- Updates on the Limited English Proficiency (**LEP**) Plan
- Information on **expungement clinics**
- A review of **regional labor market data**
- Discussion of **veteran-focused outreach events**



Guest Presentation

South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs – Paulette Dunn

Paulette Dunn provided an overview of statewide veteran workforce initiatives, including:

- **Veteran Advantage** employment and transition resources
- **Vet-Friendly Employer Recognition Program**
- Benefits veterans bring to the workplace
- Support programs such as **SC Smart Start**
- Encouragement for Upstate employers to apply for veteran-friendly recognition

She also committed to sharing additional resource materials with committee members.



WorkLink & Center Updates

Presented by William Hunter

- Reviewed updates to the Limited English Proficiency (**LEP**) Plan
- Announced upcoming **expungement clinics**
- Shared information on **February workshop schedules**
- Provided updates on community outreach and employer engagement activities



Labor Market Information

Presented by Windy Graham

Ms. Graham shared updated labor market data for **Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties**, including:

- Employment trends
- Demographic changes
- Industry-specific workforce needs
- Priority population indicators

Committee Discussion

Members discussed:

- Veteran-specific outreach events, including the **January 21 Greenville event for unsheltered veterans**
- Opportunities to strengthen partnerships supporting at-risk populations
- Strategies for increasing employer engagement
- Planning for upcoming 2026 meeting dates

Action Items

- **Approval of Minutes: The October 14, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.**
 - **Motion: Pat Pruitt**
 - **Second: Cynthia Sprinkle**

Next Meeting

Priority Populations Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Format: Clemson Center or Virtual via Zoom