



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

January 10, 2020

8:30 A.M.

Vocational Rehabilitation Center – Bryant Center

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Mr. Chris Sparrow, Committee Member
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB
- Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members.

Video Discussion:

Ms. Jennie Thomas showed a video from the University of Virginia (UVA) titled "Hiring and Recruiting Individuals with Disabilities" -<https://eocr.virginia.edu/hiring-and-recruiting-individuals-disabilities>. This opened the discussion about a possible video for the committee to put together for use here in the Upstate. Ms. Dana Wood, UWB CFO, has started getting quotes for putting a video together and is looking to the committee for ideas about content and how the video would be utilized. The video could be linked to the website already in place and could be shared with other groups including partners and employers. Ms. Jennie Thomas will forward the video from UVA to all the committee members to get them to share their thoughts. She will also reach out to a filmmaker she knows to find out if they would be able to help in putting the local video together. The group felt like real people with various, including hidden, types of disabilities should be used rather than actors to increase its effectiveness. Everyone also felt that the video should be geared towards job seekers and employers and drive them to a Call to Action and include contact information to allow all viewers easy access to more information. There were three main points that the committee would like to see in the video. The first was that individuals with disabilities are a good investment for employers. Second, make sure employers are provided with information about support and resources that are available if they hire individuals with disabilities. And last, making a clear point that with unemployment so low, this is the perfect time to give workers with disabilities a chance. The committee will have further discussion on this topic at the meeting in February.

Employer Events – Able SC:

Ms. Jennie Thomas asked Mr. Chris Sparrow to update the committee on their upcoming employer events. Mr. Sparrow shared that there are two events planned for the near future. The first will be on March 5th and will feature a panel of employees with various disabilities that will be sharing about their experiences with job searches and the hiring process. The second event is scheduled for April 9th featuring a panel of