



**Upstate Workforce Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2022 - 8:30 a.m. - Thomas E. Hannah YMCA – Community Room**

**Board Members Present**

Mr. Wade Ballard  
Ms. Erin Black  
Mr. Bill Braisington  
Ms. Anne Brock-Trail  
Mr. Josh Cleapor  
Mr. Jim Cook  
Ms. Betty Guzzo (Virtual)  
Ms. Cathy Harter  
Ms. Judy Horton

Mr. Craig Jacobs  
Mr. Jerome Kirkland  
Mr. Marion Littlejohn  
Mr. Nathan Norris  
Ms. Cherie Pressley  
Ms. Jennie Thomas  
Mr. David Wall

**UWB Staff Present**

Ms. Ann Angermeier  
Mr. Brent Bishop  
Ms. Nikoya Shaw  
Ms. Dana Wood

**Guests Present**

Ms. Rochelle Brown (Virtual)  
Ms. Nikki Burgess  
Ms. Melissa Rodgers (Virtual)

**Board Members Absent**

Mr. Jay Coffey  
Mr. Robbie Faucett

**Welcome**

Mr. Wade Ballard, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the October 11, 2021, meeting were reviewed. ***Mr. Jim Cook made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Nathan Norris seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and the motion carried.***

**Introductions**

Mr. Ballard opened the floor to new board members, Ms. Judy Horton and Mr. Josh Cleapor, to introduce themselves. Ms. Horton shared that she owns a Human Resources (HR) consulting firm in Spartanburg. Mr. Josh Cleapor shared that he serves as President of Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 3716 and works for AT&T. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, suggested that current board members be given the floor for brief introductions.

**One Stop Committee Report**

Mr. Craig Jacobs, Committee Vice-Chair, reported that the One Stop Committee met on January 5, 2022. He reported that Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, gave a snapshot of the budget through October. Mr. Jacobs shared that Mr. Adam Lindsley, SC Works Operations Manager, gave the *Just in Time* and *Dashboard* reports. Mr. Jacobs mentioned that Measurable Skills Gain indicators for Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker are red for

first quarter, but Ms. Wood, UWB Associate Director, will continue to watch this measure closely. He reported that Ms. Nikki Burgess, SC Workers Great Upstate Project Director, highlighted the success they have had with World Relief Upstate and Project SEARCH. He gave an overview regarding the need for SC Works to move to a new location. He shared that the committee discussed options of the BTC Building or the Northside Warehouses. There is still much follow up to occur before a final decision can be made. The board held a brief discussion on the options that were shared at the One Stop Committee meeting. Mr. Jacobs shared that the annual One Stop Certification requirement for a BST Lead needed re-appointing. Ms. Wood noted that Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby has severed in this role since it became a requirement. The One Stop Committee recommended that Ms. Crosby be appointed as the BST Lead per One Stop Certification Standards. **All board members were in favor of appointing Ms. Crosby as BST Lead. There were no abstentions.** Mr. Jacobs reported that funds from the recently secured Resiliency Grant would go toward cost-sharing a staff person to handle business surveys for Spartanburg and Greenville. With no questions, the report was concluded.

#### Youth Committee Report

Ms. Erin Black, Committee Chair, reported that the Youth Committee met on December 7, 2021. She reported that Mr. Bishop reviewed the October youth program budget report and noted that spending is tracking well with most line items under budget. Ms. Black reported that the program is looking to secure two vans. One will be purchased using WIOA funds and the other using Women Giving grant funds and shared that one 2022 Ford Transit van would be coming from Spain around July 2022. Ms. Black opened the floor to Ms. Wood for an update. Ms. Wood shared that one van will come from Spain and that Women Giving granted an extension on their funding. She noted that the WIOA funds must be spent this year by June 30. Ms. Angermeier shared that if the WIOA funds are not spent on a van, the funds would need to be used for something else so that we can meet the required expenditure rate. Ms. Wood shared that the vendors on state contract do not have vehicles available. The Procurement Director with USC Upstate has found some vehicles for purchase outside of state procurement, but there is a process with that. Ms. Black stated that Ms. Anna Oswald, USC Upstate ACHIEVE Director, reported that the program has increased its new enrollment, GED, and other credentials and is increasing partnerships for work-based learning with employers. She also reported that the committee discussed a pilot program for students who do not have a plan after graduation. Spartanburg District 3 will be participating in the pilot program. Ms. Angermeier will be coordinating this effort. Ms. Black reported that the committee also discussed starting a pantry for the ACHIEVE students. With no questions, the report was concluded.

#### Disabilities Committee Report

Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair, reported that the Disabilities Committee met on December 10, 2021. She noted that the committee was informed of a program called Ability ASCEND, similar to Veteran ASCEND but for individuals with disabilities. She reported that Ms. Wood gave an overview of the program. The committee was interested in the new opportunity if funding could be secured. Ms. Thomas shared that the committee discussed other various resources or ideas to serve the disabled population. Ms. Angermeier gave an update on the driving simulator. Committee member, Ms. Lisa Thomas, is working to get documentation from the school districts on their level of commitment for the simulator. Once received, Ms. Wood will submit a letter to Spartanburg County to request funding. With no questions, the report was concluded.

### Executive Committee Report

Mr. Ballard, Committee Chair, reported that the Executive Committee met on December 13, 2021. He reported that Mr. Bishop shared the October UWB office budget report. He said that Ms. Bishop shared that this year's annual report is digital, saving funds in the printing line items, and asked that the budget be modified to transfer those saved funds to office supplies. The executive committee made a recommendation to approve the budget modification. **All board members were in favor of approving the UWB budget modification.** Mr. Ballard shared that the board session planning will be held on February 8, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and that the session February 9, 2022, will be for SC Works and ACHIEVE staff. Mr. Ballard reported that the Executive Committee also discussed the ACHIEVE van issue presented during the Youth Committee report. He shared that vaccine mandates for Equus staff were discussed and they are not required to be vaccinated at this time. Mr. Ballard reported that the committee also discussed the SC Works lease. With no questions, the report was concluded.

### Executive Director Update

Ms. Angermeier asked board members to think about the topics and/or speakers they would find most valuable to them during board meetings and to let her know. She shared that she pulled data from the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) and highlighted that individuals are taking retirement earlier or leaving the workforce to become entrepreneurs. She noted that males ages 16-24 are dropping out of the workforce while females have increased in the area. Ms. Angermeier shared that this is reversed nationwide. She noted that individuals can claim long term COVID disability, which is also hurting the workforce. Ms. Angermeier recognized 6 board members who had perfect attendance during PY20. Ms. Angermeier shared that she had a great conversation with Mr. Dan Ellzey, SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director last week. She stated that she continues to be impressed with his leadership. She also shared that SCDEW has invited her to be a part of the regional summit to share the success of partnering with another workforce board. Ms. Angermeier reminded board members that if they ever need Labor Market Information (LMI) regarding wages, benefits, etc., they can always reach out and that information will be secured. She shared that the board was awarded approximately \$375,000 from the state board in the form of a Resiliency Grant.

### Other Business

Ms. Wood asked to share a success story from the Operation Educate Re-entry Grant. She reminded the board that it is a partnership with SCC to help inmates receive training to re-enter the workforce. Ms. Wood noted that things have been moving slowly because of COVID. Ms. Wood informed the board that she wanted to share a success from one of the participants to show the impact of our programs and activities on the lives of participants. The individual highlighted has remained gainfully employed, earning a great wage, and was promoted due to his work ethic. Ms. Wood noted that word is getting out and that participants of the program are sharing their excitement and experience with others.

### Adjournment

With no other business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

**Next meeting date: March 7, 2022**