



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

February 19, 2021

8:30 A.M.

Virtual Meeting

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Anne Brock-Trail, Committee Member
- Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB
- Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members.

Educator Event Recap

Ms. Jennie Thomas shared that she believes the event, in partnership with the school counselors, went well. Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director shared that Mr. Toney Farr, Upstate Regional Career Specialist for the SC Department of Education, and counselors appreciated the information that was tailored specifically to them. She thanked those involved with making the event successful. Ms. Wood shared that she would like to send a thank you to the speakers and will coordinate with Ms. Lisa Thomas and Ms. Jennie Thomas. Ms. Wood shared that there was around 88 people listening to the event. She also shared that she sent out a link to the recorded session. Unfortunately, the afternoon session with Vocational Rehabilitation was not recorded due to technical difficulties. It was decided to possibly try to present the session again and record it so that it can be shared.

Disability and Employment eLearning

Ms. Wood shared information from Ms. Jackie Taylor, SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SC DEW) Priority Population Coordinator, and information from Workforce GPS. They are offering eLearning modules regarding disabilities. This information could be shared from the committee to staff and community partners. Ms. Wood felt this would be a great resource. A letter from the committee and a flyer with links will be developed to share with partners.

Virtual Accessibility Discussion

Ms. Wood lead discussion regarding accessibility of the virtual platforms being used by SC Works Greater Upstate. She asked the committee if there are any best practices to share with staff to ensure we are inclusive. Ms. Jennie Thomas shared that she believes that virtual accessibility is a relevant topic. Ms. Wood shared that she would do more research on this to find out how to increase inclusivity for those with disabilities and special accommodations for using a virtual platform.

Other Business

Ms. Lisa Thomas shared that she spoke with Ms. Wood and Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, about a driving simulator for students. Ms. Thomas shared that she reached out to her director to provide driver's education training for students with an intellectual disability. The group held discussion on this topic. Ms. Lisa Thomas shared that iCar provides screening for students with disabilities to find out if they can drive. Ms. Lisa Thomas and Ms. Ann Angermeier will work to set up a meeting to view the iCar equipment.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m. The next meeting date is April 30, 2021.