



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD ONE STOP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2020

12:00 PM

WebEx/Conference Call

Present:

Mr. Jim Cook, Committee Member

Mr. Robbie Faucett, Committee Member

Mr. Jeff Gossett, Committee Member

Ms. Betty Guzzo, Committee Member

Mr. Craig Jacobs, Committee Member

Mr. Carter Smith, Committee Member

Mr. David Wall, Committee Member

Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB

Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB

Mr. Doug Stephenson, SC Works

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Robbie Faucett at 12:06 p.m.

Financial Report

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, presented and reviewed Arbor's budget report through March 2020. He pointed out that the report reflects the latest approved budget modification and everything is tracking well overall. Mr. Bishop also shared that one of the rapid response grants expended almost 100% of its available funds.

SC Works Dashboard

Mr. Douglas Stephenson, SC Works Project Director, reviewed the Monthly Dashboard Report for March 2020. Mr. Stephenson shared that Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) attendance at workshops and orientation attendance have dropped due to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), but they are continuing to offer them virtually. He reported that they did conduct one virtual enrollment and staff has increased communication via email and phone to continue to serve clients.

SC Works Response to COVID-19

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, gave a review of the center's response to COVID-19. She reminded the group that the decision was made to close the SC Works centers to the public on March

20, 2020. She shared that WIOA staff are continuing to work during this time (rotating schedule between home/office). Wagner-Peyser (WP) staff have transitioned to assisting the public via phone as calls relating to Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims have rapidly increased in each county. The call volume has been about 200 calls a day into our Spartanburg office, all related to UI. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, shared that the system is critically delayed with helping those who rely on Unemployment Insurance due to this pandemic, and a lot of calls are for those waiting for payment. She expressed that she does not want anyone to give up during this time because they feel they are not getting help. Ms. Wood shared that claims filed within the past two weeks will be eligible for federal benefits (retroactive). She also shared that small business and 1099 employee guidance was released last week. She is hopeful this program will be up and running soon.

Mr. Stephenson gave an update on staff concerns during this time. He shared that some staff are still worried about their child care. There is also an increased concern regarding staff safety. Individuals have become desperate to receive help. Some may try to come to the office if they feel they are not getting help over the phone, causing concern for staff safety. Ms. Wood shared that if there is a need to increase security, she can request that the state share in the cost. She will reach out to local law enforcement to arrange for them to increase their presence during staff arrival, lunch or evenings if necessary. Ms. Angermeier reminded the committee that SCC continues to allow the security guard to be at the campus and he is watching out for SC Works.

Rapid Response (RR) Request Overview

Ms. Wood shared that the state has made available \$100,000 per local area to serve future anticipated Dislocated Workers. She stated that there is still some uncertainty about how many will need our services. Ms. Wood informed the group that funds will be made available to SC Works to cover staff time associated with serving Dislocated Workers and the remainder will cover occupational training and supportive service costs. Some areas are doing 100% OJT and training; this option may be considered. Ms. Wood stated that she will work on this request with the state and keep the board updated.

Other Business:

Ms. Ann Angermeier shared that on Thursday, April 16th, she will be speaking on a webinar highlighting the key points of the current unemployment situation for Ten at the Top. She also will cover the types of jobs that companies are hiring for right now during the pandemic. Ms. Angermeier shared that virtual job fairs are being looked into to use in Greenville and our three counties for those looking for new jobs. We will continue to be cognizant that the ultimate goal is that many unemployed people will return to their pre-Covid-19 employers.

Adjournment

With there being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 16, 2020.

