



Advancing the Future of Business and Community

UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

April 26, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Erin Black
Mr. Jerome Kirkland
Ms. Victoria Novak
Ms. Theresa Perry

Ms. Cherie Pressley
Ms. Susan Rogers
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford

Guests Present:

Ms. Ann Angermeier
Ms. Anna Oswald
Ms. Nikoya Shaw
Ms. Dana Wood

Welcome:

Ms. Erin Black, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Financial Update:

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, reviewed the March Youth program budget report with the committee and noted that spending is tracking well. She shared that they are waiting for an \$18,000 invoice for computers. Ms. Wood noted that the invoice would hopefully be reflected on April's billing, but there are no budget concerns otherwise.

Ms. Wood also shared the proposed ACHIEVE budget for the coming program year. She noted that allocations have not been received yet, but she anticipates a cut. Ms. Wood shared that since the percentage of that cut is unknown, the board is preparing based on last year's budget. Ms. Wood asked for approval to use the budget from the past program year as a base with the flexibility to make modifications as needed once final numbers are received. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, shared that if a cut does occur, budget cuts would be made at the UWB office and the programs. She shared that reduced funding would translate to a reduction in the percentage of participants served in the new program year. The committee favored approving the proposed budget and giving staff approval to make adjustments as necessary once final allocations are received. Ms. Wood shared that a finalized budget would be presented to the committee at the start of the new program year for feedback and or modification.

ACHIEVE Program Reports/Dashboards:

Ms. Anna Oswald, USC Upstate ACHIEVE Director, shared the March reports, and noted that enrollments have increased over the third quarter. She shared that students have been continuing training and work-based learning opportunities. The committee discussed the engagement of students and the increased enrollment in the program. Ms. Erin Black, Spartanburg Adult Education Director, and Committee Chair noted that the Adult Education Program has seen a significant increase in enrollments as well. The committee discussed possible factors contributing to this increase, such as the attendance issue at the schools. There was some discussion regarding truancy policy's being changed.

Ms. Oswald shared that the students enrolling are completing the GED tests quicker than before, and that the program has had 30 GEDs this year. The committee discussed student morale due to COVID's impact and Ms. Oswald shared a story about a brilliant ACHIEVE student facing extreme barriers. The committee discussed options to assist this student.

Moving Schedule:

Ms. Oswald shared the moving schedule with the committee in preparation for the transitional move to the Business Technology Center (BTC). She noted that there would be virtual check-ins with students over their break period until the transitional space is ready. Ms. Wood shared the layout of the final location with the committee.

In10tional Club:

Ms. Angermeier updated the group on the progress of the Intentional Pilot Club. She noted that students toured Cooper Standard, Spartanburg Community College and Spartanburg Methodist College. She shared that the students would learn about soft skills and work on resumes during the next session. Ms. Angermeier highlighted a few students from the program who have set a concrete plan after graduation.

WorkRise Grant:

Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB Community Impact Director, shared with the committee that the WorkRise grant, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was submitted. Ms. Shaw shared that the grant, if funded, would provide approximately \$350,000 for the In10tional Club. This funding would cover staff to manage the program and extend it to five school districts. Ms. Shaw shared that, if funded, school districts could submit a letter of intent to participate. The first five school districts to submit the letter would be selected. She noted that she is waiting for an award notice which should be announced sometime in the summer. Ms. Shaw asked committee members to send her any grant opportunities they may come across.

Other Business:

The committee discussed resources for students who are refugees or not natural citizens to help with college or employment after finishing school. The group discussed the I-9 verification process for WIOA enrollment. Ms. Shaw updated the committee that the STEM Summer Camp would be from June 13th through June 30th. The committee discussed awarding a distinguished Youth of the Year award. The committee would nominate one student from each county for the award. This will be explored for next year.

Adjournment

With no further business or discussion from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 14, 2022.