



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29, 2020

8:30 A.M.

Virtual Meeting

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Mr. Wayne Gregory, Committee Member
- Mr. Chris Sparrow, Committee Member
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Vanessa Pressley, Committee Member
- Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB
- Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB
- Mr. Toney Farr, Guest

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members.

Update on Employer Events

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, shared that employer workshops offered in partnership with ABLE SC are no longer available in-person. Workshops are now being held virtually due to COVID-19.

Educator Event Brainstorming

Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, reviewed information discussed at the last meeting regarding creating an event that focuses on educating school Guidance Counselors and Career Development Facilitators (CDFs) about all of the resources available to help students with disabilities better prepare for their lives and careers after high school. Ms. Angermeier gave the floor to Mr. Toney Farr, Upstate Regional Careers Specialist for the SC Department of Education.

Mr. Farr spoke to the group and expressed that the idea of this type of event would be excellent, however, he recommended hosting the event in the winter instead of the fall in light of COVID-19. Mr. Farr expressed that he felt there would be limited participation from industries as they are experiencing complications due to the pandemic. He also expressed that there is still uncertainty on how schools will operate in the next school year in response to the pandemic. Ms. Wood asked Mr. Farr to give some background on the Winter Conference that he hosts. Ms. Wood also asked Mr. Farr if our event could be incorporated as a segment of the Winter Conference. Mr. Farr agreed that it would work well.

Video Discussion

Ms. Wood informed the group that she has received quotes for the video. She shared that there is anticipation of budget cuts for PY20 according to recently released state allocations. The funding level for the state shows a significant cut in the three funding streams. Ms. Wood suggested that it would be best to wait and verify funding before committing to the work for the video. She stated that the quotes she received for the video would be around \$2,000. The group gave no objection to the recommendation to wait on the video. Ms. Wood will inform the committee when funding amounts are verified for reevaluation. Ms. Angermeier shared that there is limited help from the state, and a large portion of the

funding will be used to reopen SC Works as they will need to purchase sanitizing and protective equipment due to COVID-19. Ms. Jennie Thomas inquired if the videographer would be interested in postponing work on the video until next year. Ms. Wood expressed that she felt that could be arranged.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m. The next meeting date is June 12, 2020.