



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

May 22, 2019

8:30 A.M.

Vocational Rehabilitation Center - Bryant Center

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Mr. Chris Sparrow, Committee Member
- Mr. Wayne Gregory, Committee Member
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB
- Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members.

Charter Review:

Ms. Wood shared the new version of the committee charter. During an internal staff review of policies, it was determined that the Disabilities Committee membership was not in compliance with the Upstate Workforce Board By-laws. The by-laws state that committees should be comprised of a majority of board members. The committee composition was very heavy with non-board member representation. The charter was changed to reflect committee members and advisory members. The committee had no questions and were in agreement with the new charter.

Employer Event Update:

Ms. Thomas asked Mr. Chris Sparrow to update the committee on the last employer event held on May 2, 2019. Mr. Sparrow informed the group that attendance was strong and the surveys reflected that those in attendance were appreciative of the information and found it very helpful. Ms. Thomas shared that SCVRD will be hosting a summer series for transitional youth from the entire Upstate (transportation included). There will be 3 (1 week) sessions featuring motivational speakers, employers, PT/OT, etc. Ms. Thomas stated that ABLE SC may want to consider offering an employer workshop during one of the sessions since many employers will be onsite participating in the series. Mr. Sparrow and the committee discussed adding an event rather than moving the pre-scheduled event. Ms. Thomas agreed to send out the preliminary schedule to the committee for planning purposes. Mr. Sparrow plans to work through the details with Ms. Thomas.

New Website Preview:

The committee discussed in the prior two meetings the idea of hosting a website with employer resources for recruitment, training and retention of individuals with disabilities. The idea was to create a simple site that provides a snapshot of employer resources in our local area. Ms. Wood shared the idea with Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby, Regional Director of Business Solutions at SC Works Upstate/Greenville. Ms. Crosby suggested using the Link Upstate website. Ms. Wood developed the page based on feedback from local employers and committee members. Ms. Wood displayed the new webpage during the meeting.

(<https://linkupstate.com/disability-resources>). Committee members provided feedback regarding additional resources that should be added. The committee was very pleased and excited about the simplicity and helpfulness the site provides. Ms. Wood will work to add the following resources in the coming weeks: Upstate Warrior Solution, Greenville CAN, SCDEW Veteran Services, Hire Me SC and Thrive Upstate. Ms. Lisa Thomas recommended that Ms. Jennie Thomas ask an employer to review the site for additional feedback.

Other Business and Adjourn:

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25a.m. The next meeting date is TBD.