



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD ONE STOP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2021

12:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Present:

Mr. Robbie Faucett, Committee Chair

Mr. Jim Cook, Committee Member

Mr. Jeff Gossett, Committee Member

Ms. Betty Guzzo, Committee Member

Mr. Craig Jacobs, Committee Member

Ms. Kathy Jo Lancaster, Committee Member

Mr. Marion Littlejohn, Committee Member

Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB

Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB

Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby, SC Works

Mr. Doug Stephenson, SC Works

Ms. Anne Brock-Trail, Guest

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Robbie Faucett, Chair, at 12:03 p.m. and he welcomed everyone in attendance.

Financial Report

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, presented and reviewed the Equus budget report through March 2021. He noted that SC Works staff are doing a great job spreading funds from the Restoration Grant and that the budget is tracking well. Mr. Bishop updated the committee on special grants and noted that some Rapid Response grants for individual companies are just starting. He also shared information on the Continuous Improvement Grant. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, shared that billboards, social media, and other outreach methods are being funded by the Continuous Improvement Grant. Mr. Doug Stephenson, SC Works Project Director, shared that the grant funds are also going toward Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), door hangers for outreach, virtual reality, a new website and orientation videos. Ms. Wood noted that the funds from the grant had to be used by June 30, 2021. While there has been a rush to make purchases quickly, some of the items will have long-term use.

PY 21 Program Funding

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, shared that the Executive Committee met last week and that the Department of Labor (DOL) has issued state allocations, though we are waiting for local allocations. These did not come in last year until mid-to-late June. She noted that with the new program year starting July 1, 2021, the late allocation announcement causes difficulty with getting budgets set and approved before the new program year. Ms. Wood informed the committee that an estimated budget will be presented at the next board meeting for approval. She noted that the budget presented will be similar to the current budget and modifications will be made as concrete numbers are confirmed.

Ms. Angermeier noted that three areas are working to reallocate money and that the UWB has expressed interest in receiving those reallocated funds. She shared that the UWB office is looking to see what can be used to minimize budget cuts, but also want to consider the effect it could have on expenditure rates to not cause an issue with the State later. She noted that she spoke with Spartanburg County regarding money they received from CARES Act funding. She informed the committee that more guidance is needed on how that money can be used, but she is hopeful that some will be awarded to our department to help offset costs. Ms. Angermeier expressed that she does not believe the State will help with additional funding this year as their funds are already obligated.

SC Works Update

Mr. Stephenson gave the *Just in Time* and *Dashboard reports*. He thanked everyone that was involved in the evaluation process for the Request for Proposal (RFP) and for selecting Equus to continue their services. He shared the Mr. Deivis Henao, SC Works Operations Manager, has moved on and into a new employment opportunity. He noted that Mr. Henao's replacement has not been approved yet, but that the position will be filled. He shared that a Talent Development Specialist (TDS) and a Business Services Team (BST) member have also moved on and into new employment opportunities. Mr. Stephenson noted that the TDS position will be filled by Ms. Candace Quinn.

Mr. Stephenson shared that services online have doubled since last year. He shared many stats related to virtual services. Mr. Stephenson said that the enrollment goal for this program year was 185, but they have surpassed that goal and are currently at 206. He shared that 20 of 20 On-the-Job Training agreements have been signed. Mr. Stephenson noted that there will be an increase in Dislocated Worker (DW) enrollment. The new priority of services for July 1, 2021 will require 75% instead of 70%. He made the committee aware that his staff is committed to doing their best to reaching this goal. Ms. Ann Angermeier shared that the federal goal is 50.1%, but DOL is pushing for this goal to be higher. She noted that a lot of individuals included in the priority populations can go to school for free and don't need our funds. She further said the SCDEW policies run counter to us trying to address skills shortages where more people can be enrolled in schooling. Ms. Wood shared that the job search requirement has been reinstated for individuals receiving unemployment. She said that SCDEW used social media to share with

the public that they can visit centers if they are having issues with Unemployment Insurance (UI) and job searches. The SC Works Director of First Impressions, Ms. Amber Caldwell, shared that over 130 visitors and around 200 calls occurred on Monday (5-3). Mr. Stephenson stated that the centers will be closed on Monday, May 10, 2021, for the Confederate Memorial Holiday. Mr. Kenneth Taylor, SC Works Facilitator, will send a social media post to remind the public that the centers will be closed.

State Monitoring

Ms. Wood shared that monitoring was virtual this year. She informed the committee that staff had to submit electronic documents and the experience was positive compared to previous years. Ms. Wood shared that there were no financial findings and just a few programmatic errors. She is hopeful that the final report will be consistent with the exit conference.

Survey Updates

Ms. Wood shared that business clients have been surveyed on closed job postings and that a new survey was created for brand awareness. She noted there were concerns that the center name was tainted due to UI issues. Ms. Wood shared the Brand Awareness survey report with the committee from January 2021 to April 2021. She shared that each county is represented on the survey. She noted that the social media presence is working, and that the good news is that individuals stated that they would refer others to receive services. Ms. Wood informed the group that more information is being gathered for the brand awareness survey and she will continue to keep the committee updated.

Ms. Wood shared the results of the business surveys with the committee. She highlighted that most businesses did not feel they received quality referrals that they would have not received from a site like Indeed. Ms. Angermeier noted that she believes companies still use the service only because it is free to them.

Ms. Crosby shared that a new question was added to the survey to help staff when it is time to follow-up with employers with closed job postings. She informed the committee that employers must request additional screening services. Ms. Angermeier also informed the committee that quality referrals are based on the job postings entered by the employer. If the employer does not enter a thorough posting, it could affect the quality of candidates they receive.

IWT Updates

Ms. Crosby gave an update on three new IWT applications submitted. She reminded the committee that \$100,000 was received from State funding for IWT. She shared a spreadsheet with the committee and noted that Kemper Corporation was approved via email. She shared that Turner Graphics requested \$25,500 for sales and digital marketing, Signet Mills requested \$25,250 for sales and marketing and Sun Surveillance requested \$5,009 for operations systems training. She noted that Sun Surveillance was

issued funds in PY20 which lowered their score so they were only funded \$8,012 in the latest round. This underfunding cut them short on providing a 90% total training cost of \$15,000. She shared that the \$5,009 covers the four training modules cut short from the other agreement to carry them through training. Ms. Crosby noted that all companies were scored even though the grant is first come, first serve. She noted that all companies were below 50 employees needing the training and that two companies needed training for lay-off aversion. All training will end by December 2021. Ms. Wood shared that these applications come as a recommendation from the staff to the committee. Committee Member, Mr. Craig Jacobs, asked who SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP) is and why they are the training provider for all the companies. Ms. Crosby shared that SCMEP, like the BST, meets with companies to promote training within the pipeline. She shared that they are great at spreading the word about the available funding and that the technical colleges, as training providers, have the same options.

Ms. Wood shared that there is a shortage of instructors at Spartanburg Community College. Ms. Crosby made the committee aware that they are working with the Adult Education centers to become training providers to offer General Educational Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) training on-site for companies. She noted that she has made companies aware that they do not have to only use SCMEP or the technical colleges for training, they can use a 3rd party training provider up until June 30, 2021. ***Mr. Marion Littlejohn motioned to approve all three IWT applications presented, Ms. Betty Guzzo seconded the motion. There were no abstentions, and the motion carried.***

Other Business

Ms. Angermeier updated on the veterans' event for agencies. She shared that about 35 individuals attended to increase their understanding of available veteran services and we hope to develop a formal referral system. She noted that the event was successful, and that because of that event Dollar Tree Distribution recently hired three veterans referred by attendees.

Adjournment

With there being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

The next meeting is to be determined.