



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

September 24, 2021

8:30 a.m.

Bryant Center

Present:

- Mr. Alberto Delgado, VR
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Anne Brock-Trail, Committee Member
- Mr. Eric McAbee, Committee Member
- Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Vice-Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members and allowed a few moments for introductions.

Exploration of Disabilities Opportunities

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, reminded the committee that there was a discussion on obtaining funds for a driving simulator to be used by individuals with disabilities. Ms. Thomas informed the group that all seven Spartanburg County school districts sent a representative to demo the simulator at the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR). After seeing it, the schools are very interested in securing one for use by all school districts. Ms. Lisa Thomas reminded the group that the top-notch equipment runs around \$76,000 initially and that there would be a yearly maintenance charge.

The committee discussed reaching out to Spartanburg County to discuss the use of CARES Act funding. The county received roughly \$63 million. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, mentioned that the county does not want to use the funding on programs, but they might be interested in purchasing the equipment. Since only two members from the committee have demoed the equipment, it was decided that a tour would be scheduled at CU-ICAR for those interested in seeing it. The preferred date of the group was October 6, 2021. Ms. Wood agreed to coordinate. It was also decided that after all members had a chance to demo the simulator, the committee would create a white paper to help with the request. The committee wants to ensure that we have as much information as possible for the best possible outcome.

The group discussed and agreed to have a virtual meeting before the next regularly scheduled meeting. This date is still to be determined.

Other Business

Ms. Wood shared that the WIOA program met performance measures for PY20. She shared concerns regarding a low number of WIOA clients self-identifying with a disability. The group plans to discuss potential strategies to address this challenge.

The group also discussed changing the meeting time of the committee to lunch or mid-afternoon. All members present agreed. Ms. Wood will work with Ms. Jennie Thomas to confirm the new time.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2021.