



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

December 13, 2022

3:00 p.m.

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Mr. Dave Wheeler, Committee Member
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members.

Disabilities Committee Event Recap and Future Planning

Ms. Thomas recapped the most recent event of the committee held in partnership with the Bryant Center and the Middle Tyger Area Council of OneSpartanburg on September 29, 2022. Approximately 75 attendees were present. The purpose of the event was to increase awareness of available resources regarding disability employment. The committee then reviewed a list of individuals that pre-registered for the event as well as one sign in sheet that captured a few signatures. Neither version collected email addresses. The committee members took the time to volunteer to gather email addresses from both lists so that we can survey the group regarding future event topics.

Ms. Wood led the committee in discussion that ultimately resulted in everyone agreeing on a few topics of interest for the survey. The committee sees value in ensuring that future events meet the needs of the employers. The survey will request that employers select the topic in which they would like to learn more about. The options will be as follows: non-apparent disabilities (formerly "invisible") which may include long COVID, chronic fatigue and diabetes, or mental health which may include anxiety, depression, bipolar, etc.

The focus of the Spring 2023 event will be to discuss the basics of the selected topic for general awareness and also introduce available resources that employers can utilize to support employees that may deal with these disabilities in the workplace. It was agreed that best practices for hiring individuals with disabilities and accommodations will also be covered. The committee agreed to send Ms. Wood the email addresses in early January so that a survey may be sent out no later than the first week of February. The committee will then use the results to finalize an event in April or May 2023.

Driving Simulator

Ms. Wood shared that Spartanburg County has awarded \$52 million of the \$62 million in Cares Act funds. No decision has been made regarding the request for a driving simulator. She informed the committee that County Council is still reviewing recommendations.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2023.