



**UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center**  
**December 7, 2021, 3:30 p.m.**

**Guests Present:**

Ms. Ann Angermeier  
Mr. Brent Bishop  
Ms. Anna Oswald  
Ms. Nikoya Shaw  
Ms. Dana Wood

**Committee Members Present:**

Ms. Erin Black  
Mr. Bill Brasington  
Mr. Josh Cleapor  
Mr. Jerome Kirkland  
Ms. Victoria Novak  
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford

**Welcome:**

Ms. Erin Black, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. She opened the floor for introductions since there were new committee members.

**Financial Update:**

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, reviewed the October youth program budget report with the committee and noted that spending is tracking well. He shared that most of the line items are under budget. Mr. Bishop reminded the committee that they recently approved an increase of \$45,000 in a budget modification. He also went into detail regarding the work-based learning measure for the benefit of those new to the committee.

**Van Issues:**

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, shared that transportation is the lifeline of the ACHIEVE Program, which makes it unique from other programs that serve out-of-school youth. Ms. Wood reminded the committee that there were carryover WIOA funds from last program year and Women Giving funds, both to be used to purchase 2 vans. She informed the committee that the program is looking to secure these vans to exhaust those funds this program year. Ms. Wood noted that USC Upstate follows state procurement. She stated that there has been continuous communication on this matter, and they found two 2022 vans that would be coming from Spain in June or July. She shared that Ms. Anna Oswald, ACHIEVE Program Director, has communicated with the University of South Carolina Upstate (USC Upstate) to see if a used vehicle could be purchased and adopted since we need to spend the funds prior to June 30th. She shared that the program could not secure vans last program year because of the nationwide vehicle/chip shortages. This continues to be the issue this year as well. Ms. Oswald stated that she is working through USC Upstate's procurement process to hopefully find a used van with low mileage that could be adopted into fleet prior to June 30th. She is hopeful of hearing a decision soon.

### **ACHIEVE Program Reports/Dashboards:**

Ms. Oswald shared that the program has increased its new enrollments. She informed the group that an open house was held recently to promote the program. She shared that the program had 9 new students in October and 4 in November. Ms. Oswald shared that 8 students received their GED, and 9 received other credentials. She shared that Ms. Lisa Hannon, ACHIEVE Career Readiness Specialist, is keeping busy in Union and Cherokee County and has been working on increasing partnerships for work-based learning with employers in those counties.

### **School Pilot Project:**

Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, reminded the group about the discussion at the last meeting regarding a pilot program for one of the school districts in Spartanburg County to help high school seniors who have not identified a plan after graduation. She shared a draft document with the committee with an outline of the program. The committee discussed which school districts could use a program like this. Ms. Angermeier noted that this would be a great way to increase On-the-Job Training (OJT) and that we could offer supportive services to these students by enrolling them in the WIOA program. Ms. Angermeier shared that she and Ms. Black will reach out to Spartanburg School District 3 to see if they are interested. Ms. Black asked if they could use the InnerSight interest assessment to help these students. The committee discussed how great InnerSight is, but noted funds cannot be spent on participants unless they are enrolled in WIOA. Ms. Angermeier shared that Mr. Dan Ellzey, SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SC DEW) Executive Director, was interested in giving funding for a Fast food to Manufacturing program, but wondered if he would be interested in funding this pilot program.

### **ACHIEVE Pantry**

Ms. Oswald shared that she and Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB Community Impact Director, have discussed creating a pantry for ACHIEVE students. She noted that many students in the program are homeless or cannot financially provide for themselves. Ms. Angermeier shared that the Upstate Workforce Futures Corporation, the UWB's nonprofit, could help get items to start the pantry. She also shared that food insecurity is the focus of many foundations that provide grants. The committee discussed the benefit and ways to form partnerships to help. Ms. Victoria Novak, Committee Member, shared that students who complete their capstone at Spartanburg Methodist College (SMC) work with projects like this. She noted that this would be a great way to get them connected. Ms. Angermeier asked Ms. Black if they take advantage of the food program provided by the school district. Discussion was held on how the co-enrollment with the Adult Education program could provide these services for ACHIEVE students.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business or discussion from the floor, the meeting was adjourned 4:20 p.m.

**The next meeting will be held February 15, 2022.**