



Upstate Workforce Board Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.
Spartanburg Community College – Ledbetter #253

Board Members Present

Mr. Wade Ballard
Ms. Erin Black
Ms. Anne Brock-Trail
Mr. Jay Coffey
Mr. Jim Cook
Mr. Robbie Faucett
Mr. Wayne Gregory

Ms. Betty Guzzo
Mr. Tony Henderson
Mr. Craig Jacobs
Mr. Carter Smith
Ms. Jennie Thomas

UWB Staff Present

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

Guests Present

Ms. Rochelle Brown (Virtual)
Ms. Helen Merriweather
Ms. Lynn Nodine
Ms. Melissa Rodgers (Virtual)
Mr. Douglas Stephenson

Board Members Absent

Mr. Curtis Anderson
Mr. Bill Brasington
Mr. Marion Littlejohn
Ms. Cherie Pressley
Mr. Evander Thomas
Mr. David Wall

Welcome

Mr. Wade Ballard, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 8, 2021 meeting were reviewed. ***Mr. Craig Jacobs made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Wayne Gregory seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and the motion carried.***

One Stop Committee Report

Mr. Robbie Faucett, One-Stop Committee Chair, reported that the committee met virtually via Zoom on May 5, 2021. He shared that Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, presented and reviewed the Equus budget through March 2021 and noted that SC Works staff are doing a great job spreading funds between the multiple grants. Mr. Faucett informed the committee that Mr. Bishop noted that the regular budget was tracking well and shared information on both the Continuous Improvement Grant and Rapid Response Grants. Mr. Faucett reported that Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, shared that the state allocations had been received, but the local allocations have not. Mr. Faucett shared that Ms. Wood informed the committee that an

estimated budget will be presented to the full board for approval. Mr. Faucett reported that Mr. Doug Stephenson, SC Works Project Manager, gave the *Just in Time* and *Dashboard* reports and thanked everyone involved in the evaluation process for the Request for Proposal (RFP) and for selecting Equus to continue their services. Mr. Faucett shared that Mr. Stephenson also shared stats related to the virtual services. Mr. Faucett said that Ms. Wood shared that the state monitoring went well. Mr. Faucett reported that Ms. Wood shared that business clients have been surveyed on closed job postings and that a new survey was created for brand awareness. He also shared that Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby, SC Works Regional Business Services Director, reviewed three Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) applications with the committee. Mr. Faucett informed the board that the following companies and amounts come as a recommendation from the committee for board approval: Turner Graphics' request for \$25,500, Signet Mills' request of \$25,250, and Sun Surveillance's request of \$5,009. **All board members were in favor of accepting the amounts requested for all three IWT applications. There were no abstentions, and the motion carried.** With no questions, the report was concluded.

Youth Committee Report

Ms. Wood reported in the absence of Mr. Evander Thomas, Youth Committee Chair, and noted that the committee met virtually via Zoom on April 27, 2021. Ms. Wood noted that this agenda was light and shared that Mr. Bishop reviewed the March youth program budget report with the committee and noted that the budget is tracking well especially with Work-Based Learning. She shared that Ms. Helen Merriweather, ACHIEVE Director, reviewed the Youth Dashboard, and noted that there were improvements in the area of Measurable Skills Gain. Ms. Wood noted that Ms. Merriweather shared that she is excited about the partnerships with the Adult Education offices. Ms. Wood shared that Ms. Merriweather announced the exciting news that the program received grant funding for a new van from Women Giving for Spartanburg to our non-profit, the Upstate Workforce Futures Corporation. Ms. Wood noted that the vans may take a while to come in with delays due to COVID. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, shared appreciation to Helen for her years of service. Ms. Merriweather will be retiring this year, board members echoed appreciation for Ms. Merriweather. Ms. Wood reported that Live Fridays, a part of the virtual College and Career Showcase, took place and the project was completed. Ms. Wood and Ms. Angermeier gave feedback on the students' interactions with businesses using the virtual platform. Ms. Wood reported that the information shared at the One Stop Committee meeting regarding monitoring was shared at the Youth Committee meeting. With no questions, the report was concluded.

Disabilities Committee Report

Ms. Jennie Thomas, Disabilities Committee Chair, reported that the committee meeting was held virtually on April 30, 2021. Ms. Thomas shared that Ms. Wood reminded the committee that there was discussion regarding a driving simulator grant. She shared that Ms. Wood opened the floor for discussion and the committee explored options for partnerships relating to the purchase and use of the driving simulator within local school districts. Ms. Thomas shared that a simulator costs \$76,000. School districts are interested in exploring the project idea further. Ms. Angermeier shared that this is an expensive project, and the districts would like one simulator at each Career and Technology Center. Ms. Thomas shared that a few options were discussed for maximum use of the equipment, such as allowing adults with organizations like the Upstate Warrior Solution to use the equipment for training after school hours. With no questions, the report was concluded.

Executive Committee Report

Mr. Ballard reported on behalf of the Executive Committee and noted that the committee met virtually via Zoom on May 3, 2021. Mr. Ballard reported that Mr. Bishop shared the March budget report and noted that a few line items were running short, such as Workers Compensation. These can be made up with Miscellaneous funds. Mr. Ballard reported that the committee discussed approving estimated budgets for the programs since the local allocations have not been received. He shared that there is a possibility of a 10% cut on top of the cut that we had last year. Mr. Ballard informed the board the Ms. Wood gave the Executive Committee a monitoring update that was covered in other committee reports.

Mr. Ballard asked Board members to review the estimated budgets for the Upstate Workforce Board, ACHIEVE, and One Stop. **Mr. Robbie Faucett made a motion to accept the estimated budgets and to give staff permission to adjust as needed once actual allocations are received. Mr. Wayne Gregory seconded the motion. There were no abstentions, and the motion carried. With no questions, the report was concluded.** Mr. Ballard noted that the revised budgets would be reviewed at the first scheduled board meeting of the new program year.

The board discussed the effects of a possible budget cut for PY21. Ms. Angermeier shared that staff have confirmed voluntary reallocations from 2 workforce areas (Midlands and Waccamaw) and working on additional funding from another local area (Greenville). Ms. Wood informed the board that our area has the ability to accept \$105,000 in Dislocated Worker, \$70,000 in Adult and \$75,000 in Youth and still hit our required expenditures and obligations. It was noted that the funds would be received prior to June 30, 2021. The board commended staff for working to secure funding to minimize the impact of potential budget cuts and were in approval of accepting funds up to the maximum limits listed above.

Officer Terms for PY21

Mr. Carter Smith, Nominating Committee Chair, made a recommendation to the board that Mr. Wade Ballard remain as Board chair and Mr. Craig Jacobs remain as Vice Chair. **All board members were in favor, Mr. Craig Jacobs abstained, the motion carried.**

Update from Executive Director

Ms. Angermeier shared that the Summer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp, will move forward this year. She shared that the financial goal for the program has not been met but is close. She also shared that the program is in Union County. There would be plant tours and the students will visit the farmers market. They will also hear from Mr. Brooks Harper, CEO of Brooks Harper Speaks, thanks to funding provided by, Board member, Ms. Cherie Pressley with the SC Department of Commerce. She shared that the Upstate Workforce Futures Corporation has been an asset in helping to secure funds for workforce and program needs such as the STEM camp and the van grant for ACHIEVE.

Ms. Angermeier said that the rent will be increasing for the current SC Works location, and also shared that Mr. Deivis Henao, SC Works Operations Manager, has accepted another opportunity and is no longer with SC

Works. Additionally, two other staff members have accepted opportunities outside of SC Works. Ms. Angermeier shared that more people are showing up for job fairs now that the Pandemic Unemployment Benefits are ending. She said that people have not been motivated to work but this is turning around.

Adjournment

With no other business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9: 05 a.m. **Next meeting date: TBD**