



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

August 31, 2017

8:30 A.M.

Vocational Rehabilitation Center – Bryant Center

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Mr. Wayne Gregory, Committee Member
- Ms. Sandy Jordan, Committee Member
- Mr. Antonio Johnson, Committee Member
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB
- Ms. Vicki Lawson, UWB

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Ms. Dana Wood shared a copy of the Survey results from the Employer event. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Ms. Thomas and Ms. Wood thanked the committee for their assistance with planning and execution of the event.

The committee discussed ideas for next year's event, with Invisible Disabilities being the targeted theme. It was agreed to target the month of May 2018. Ms. Jennie Thomas asked members to share ideas for this year's event. Ms. Lisa Thomas mentioned employer fear of intellectual disabilities, benefits to employers for hiring people with disabilities, and clarifying mental illness versus intellectual disability. Mr. Antonio Johnson mentioned educating employers on how to work with individuals with mental disabilities, especially veterans suffering from PTSD. Ms. Sandy Jordan asked who the target audience was for the first year's event. Ms. Dana Wood explained that staff and partners were the main focus. There was a panel of individuals with disabilities who answered uncomfortable questions that would not normally be asked and also talked about etiquette. The second year event focused on educating employers. Ms. Wood mentioned that this coming year they could possibly do a half day event, designed to target different audiences by offering a choice of breakout sessions. It was decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting with hopes of narrowing the focus and creating planning teams.

Ms. Sandy Jordan shared news about an upcoming Employer Summit on October 10 in Columbia. Mr. Antonio Johnson mentioned the Veterans Stand Down event scheduled for October 13.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting will be October 26, 2017, at the Bryant Center.



Advancing the Future of Business and Community

Upstate Workforce Board Disabilities Committee Meeting

**August 31, 2017
8:30 a.m.
The Bryant Center**

Facilitated by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair

8:30 AM
Welcome & Introductions

8:40 AM
Review of Employer Event
• Survey Results

9:00 AM
Goals for PY17

9:25 AM
Other Business and Adjourn

**Next Meeting Date:
October 26, 2017**

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Disabilities Luncheon Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

May 25, 2017 1:24:40 PM

1. Was the Breaking Down Barriers: Disability Employment Luncheon helpful?

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not Helpful	
	19 83%	3 13%	1 4%	
7 Comment(s)				

2. Did hearing the Accommodations Presentation give you new insight for future hires?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	22	95.6%
No	1	4.3%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	23	100%

3. Did hearing from the panelist give you new insight in for future hires?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	21	91.3%
No	2	8.6%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	23	100%

4. Was the length of the event:

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

Too Long	1	4%	Too Short	3	13%
<hr/>					
3 Comment(s)					

5. Were you able to take away some best practices?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	21	91.3%
No	2	8.6%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	23	100%

6. What are some other topics related to disability employment that you would like to see discussed in this format?

23 Response(s)

7. Please use this space to add any additional feedback on the event.

12 Response(s)

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Disabilities Luncheon Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

May 25, 2017 1:24:40 PM

1. Was the Breaking Down Barriers: Disability Employment Luncheon helpful? - Comments

Answer	Respondent
I especially liked the technology demonstration.	wgraham@worklinkweb.com
I thought the panel was great! I would love to hear from more employers who have hired individuals with an intellectual disability.	aalexander@goodwillsc.org
No matter what you think you know, these events will present new information to help you address this and similar issues.	douglas.stephenson@rescar.e.com
The information was definitely interesting. However, many of us there were concerned about autism or intellectual disabilities, and this was not addressed at all.	allisonpetralia@projecthopes.c.org
I thought that the employers on the panel did a great job advocating.	hannah_carter@bshsi.org
I really enjoyed it. Thank you.	landerson@familyconnectionsc.org
Since manufacturing is big in SC, it was great to see there are companies willing to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities.	ggraves@srihs.com

4. Was the length of the event: - Comments

Answer	Respondent
I don't know that the length was too short but I would have liked to hear more from the panel	aalexander@goodwillsc.org
Easily 1/2 day	eric.holland@kobelco.com
Moderator did a good job of staying on task/time and communicating awareness of that to the group	rskinner1@scvrd.net

6. What are some other topics related to disability employment that you would like to see discussed in this format? - Responses

Answer	Respondent
etiquette	wgraham@worklinkweb.com
Hiring individuals with intellectual disability	aalexander@goodwillsc.org
N/A	nhurd@shasc.org
More practical examples of reasonable accommodations in the workplace from employers.	jacksonr@sccsc.edu
HR Law regarding disability hires.	douglas.stephenson@rescar.com
More awareness to local facilities that assist with employing disabled persons.	ddavis@seweurodrive.com

"Marketing" our populations with potential hiring companies - how to approach this, how to sell it. Also, autism and intellectual disabilities, and potentially talking with companies about the potential to hire a person who needs a job coach.	alisonpetralia@projecthopes.org
Allow the workers to share their experiences.	whitenerm@sccsc.edu
more hiring techniques and more employees	Anonymous
I would like to add to the existing panel an organization who has 1) employed mentally disabled individuals with their organization and 2)a specific resource (SC works, etc.) that helps disabled individuals find jobs.	emmas@infodepot.org
Hear more from employees as to their challenges in the workplace.	cewart@bellsouth.net
Resources, SCVR, Bryant Center	eric.holland@kobelco.com
N/A	mdanielis@scsdb.org
Interviewing and Hiring do's and don'ts	nikeshajackson.gilliam@converse.edu
None	hannah_carter@bbhs.org
Who hires individuals with disabilities in the area?	tgeter@scvrd.state.sc.us
None that I can think of at this time. Thanks.	lchristopher@sjwd.com
I'm not sure at this time.	landerson@familyconnectionsc.org
Modifications	ggraves@srhs.com
Breaking Down Stereotypes	

Educating employers on Mental Health disabilities. There is a stigma that those who have mental health issues are a danger in the workplace and can explode at any minute.	leggleton@scvrd.net
Mental Health and Ex-offender hiring practices.	pwentz@scvrd.state.sc.us
Registered apprenticeship and more detail for the employer regarding WOTC	rskinner1@scvrd.net
preparing the current workforce and the new hire with a disability to work together	kelly.shumaker@brose.com

7. Please use this space to add any additional feedback on the event. - Responses

Answer	Respondent
I'm not an employer so answered No on questions 2 and 3.	wgraham@worklinkweb.com
I really enjoyed this and hope you all do it again!	aalexander@goodwillsc.org
It was awesome, well put together, and the only bad thing would be that some people couldn't/didn't attend and really missed an informative and eye-opening event!	douglas.stephenson@rescar.e.com
Nice presentation. Thank you for the invite.	ddavis@seweurodrive.com
Excellent events; great services to employers and citizens.	whitenerm@sccsc.edu
Outstanding event that opened my eyes as to the value / benefits of hiring the disabled.	cewart@beisouth.net
More time to network... Resource listing....	eric.holland@kobelco.com

The only criticism I would have is that I think unless the attendees are reminded on the front end (and sometimes even then it still happens), you see audience members start sharing instead of asking the panelists questions when they are called on. There were a couple of times where a question was never even asked- just information shared.	hannah_carter@pbshsi.org
I really enjoyed it. I hope in the future more business's will be able to attend and I really liked having the guys on the panel and what it meant to them to have a job. Thank you.	landerson@familyconnectionsc.org
Great Event!	ggraves@srihs.com
Great Event!	pwentz@scvrd.state.sc.us
Dana is awesome and did a great job of getting everything together along with support from others	rskinner1@scvrd.net