



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

September 26, 2023

3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Erin Black, Chair
Mr. Josh Cleapor
Mr. Jerome Kirkland
Ms. Victoria Novak
Ms. Susan Rogers
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford

Guests Present:

Mr. Brent Bishop
Ms. Dana Hudgins
Ms. Nikoya Shaw
Ms. Anna Oswald

Welcome:

Ms. Erin Black, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Financial Update:

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB Finance Manager, shared that the financial report for this meeting reflects the months of July and August. He noted that spending is fine since the program is just 2 months into the year. Mr. Dana Hudgins, UWB Associate Director, shared that some operating expenses like the MOU shared costs hit quarterly, and there will be activity in that line item soon.

Member Recognition

Ms. Hudgins shared that Ms. Cherie Pressley retired and would no longer be serving on the Upstate Workforce Board. Staff intended to recognize her service to the board, but she was unable to attend the committee meeting. Ms. Pressley will continue to serve on the Youth Committee as a committee member.

ACHIEVE Program Reports / Dashboard

Ms. Anna Oswald, ACHIEVE Director, shared that the program is booked with enrollment appointments through October. She stated that they had 10 enrollments in September, and they are continuing to increase their participant numbers. Ms. Oswald attributed this increase to the Union County Adult Education leadership transition back from the school district. She also shared that there has been an increase in referrals from partnerships between other agencies such as the Department of Social Services (DSS), Adult Education and the Hope Center.

Ms. Oswald reported that the program updated their logo and social media to strengthen the presence of its partnership with SC Works. She noted that they are looking at ways to increase brand awareness and outreach.

Ms. Oswald informed the committee that she hopes to have the van funded by the Women Giving Grant by the end of the week and noted that tags are the only thing needed. The vehicle is on the ground at USC Upstate.

Other Business

Ms. Hudgins shared she was informed of delays with the future SC Works location in the Northside. She noted that the groundbreaking is supposed to be in February 2024. Ms. Hudgins stated that ACHIEVE is not located in a reasonable space and is separate from partners. Ms. Hudgins informed the group that the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is moving from the BTC building to the new courthouse around December. If the program can afford the old DJJ space, ACHIEVE will move into that location and be on the same hallway with the comprehensive center. Ms. Hudgins noted that a budget modification will be necessary to accommodate the increase in operating expenses. She shared that she is trying to find a solution for the cost of moving the contents from the old suite to the new one.

Ms. Erin Black, Chair and Spartanburg Adult Education Director, shared that the cost of GEDs is increasing statewide. She noted that the retest fee was \$17.50, but now individuals needing to retest will pay the full rate. Ms. Black shared that Spartanburg was one of the last areas to update pricing for GEDs.

Ms. Black and Ms. Oswald shared they will push the \$500 SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SC DEW) incentive in the center. This incentive gives \$500 to adults obtaining their GED by July 2024. Ms. Black noted that the age of an adult for this incentive is 19. The programs will use this incentive as a retention tool for those currently enrolled that meet the age requirement.

Ms. Nikoya Shaw, UWB Community Impact Director, shared information about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) performance recognition on October 31, 2023. She also shared with the committee that the ACHIEVE Program is accepting donations for their pantry if anyone is interested in donating.

Adjournment

With no further business or discussion from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

The next meeting will be held December 12, 2023.