



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

December 14, 2017

8:30 A.M.

Vocational Rehabilitation Center – Bryant Center

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Ms. Sandy Jordan, Committee Member
- Ms. Jennifer Pitts, Committee Member
- Ms. Dot Colson, Committee Member
- Ms. Jackie Taylor, SC DEW
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB
- Ms. Vicki Lawson, UWB

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members and introductions were made. Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed with emphasis placed on the upcoming compliance evaluations and the annual event.

Ms. Dana Wood discussed the upcoming ADA compliance evaluation of all the Upstate facilities per SCDEW request (by instruction letter). This review will be a very comprehensive inspection of all facilities as opposed to the annual review done internally. Ms. Wood shared that the Upstate Workforce Board (UWB) has chosen ABLE SC to perform the reviews in January which will give the UWB over a month to correct any issues. The reviews are due to SCDEW no later than March 31, 2018. Any findings will be shared with the committee.

The committee discussed next year's event with Invisible Disabilities being the targeted theme. The event will be held on Friday, May 11, 2018, at the Spartanburg Community College Tyger River Campus. Lunch will be delivered by 11:30 a.m. and the panels will begin promptly at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Chuck Ewart has agreed to return as the moderator. Committee members agreed to host a panel of experts in the following focus areas: PTSD (Veterans), Intellectual Disabilities, Asperger's/Autism and Depression/Anxiety.

Speakers:

1. Intellectual Disabilities: Dr. Joe Ryan, Clemson LIFE;
2. PTSD: (vacant) Ms. Dana Wood will ask Mr. Brian Nottingham for a recommendation.
3. Anxiety/Depression: (vacant) Ms. Jennie Thomas is working on identifying a speaker.

4. Autism: Mr. David Turnipseed, Project HOPE – SCVRD staff were asking Project HOPE for recommendations.
5. Occupational Therapy: Lorell Gordon and Tanya Lambert from SCVRD

Vendors suggested: Vocational Rehabilitation, The Charles Lea Center, Veterans Administration, ABLE SC, Project HOPE, Mental Health, SHRM, Forrester Center, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, and Greer Mental Health

Ms. Sandy Jordan asked if SHRM or HRCI credits will be available for the event again this year. Ms. Wood stated she would apply for this again.

Assignments for February: Have all speakers/vendors identified and/or confirmed. Ms. Jennie Thomas will speak with Greer Mental Health and Project HOPE. Ms. Dana Wood will explore Veterans contacts and also the Alcohol and Drug Commission. Ms. Dana Wood will ensure the UWB budget will cover expenses so that no fees will need to be charged. Ms. Dana Wood will apply to offer SHRM and/or HRCI credits.

Other Business

Ms. Sandy Jordan shared information about the South Carolina Employee First Initiative available through ABLE SC. This provides free one or two hour trainings for employers on hiring/retaining people with disabilities. Ms. Dana Wood shared the success of the Re-entry program, Operation Educate.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

The next meeting will be February 22, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bryant Center.