



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 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
- Ms. Jennifer Stanion, Committee Member
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB

Welcome and Introductions of New Members

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas welcomed committee members.

Employer Event Discussion

- Ms. Jennie Thomas asked Ms. Dana Wood for an update on Senator Scott's participation in the upcoming Employer Event. Ms. Wood reported that a speaker request form had been submitted to Senator Scott's office in Washington. The form requested many details that have not been confirmed. She informed the group that an update to the form would be provided after today's meeting. She is hopeful that his office will confirm participation within the next 2 weeks. It was decided by the group to continue with the event regardless of Senator Scott's participation. Should he participate, he will bring great value, but if he is not available, the group will target a different keynote speaker.
- Ms. Sandy Jordan provided an update from the Invitation Committee. She informed the group that the plan is to gather contact information using a google drive spreadsheet. This will allow the full committee to add contacts. Ms. Dana Wood offered to create the spreadsheet and send the access information to Ms. Jordan by March 17th. Ms. Jordan requested that all contacts be entered over the next 2 weeks. It was decided that Ms. Dana Wood will coordinate sending an electronic Save the Date on March 28th via Constant Contact. Invitations will also be sent electronically around April 11th via Constant Contact. Ms. Jordan shared that it would be beneficial if committee members would follow up the constant contact email with a personal message to their contacts since the system generated email from a contact that the employer may not recognize.

- Ms. Thomas asked Ms. Wood to provide an update from the Logistics Committee. Discussion was held regarding the title of the event, registration cost, venue, panel format, back-up keynote speakers, moderators, offering continuing education credits, etc. The committee confirmed May 19, 2017, from noon to 1:30 p.m., for the event. It was decided to call the event Breaking Down Barriers: Disabilities. The committee felt that a non-refundable fee of \$10.00 should be charged to attend the event. Committee members and participants will receive free admittance. Ms. Dana Wood was asked to contact the Spartanburg Marriott as the first choice for venue location. Should they not be available, Ms. Wood will contact the City of Greer. It was decided to identify 4 local companies to participate in the panel discussion. It was proposed that the 4 companies consist of someone in management and an employee with a disability. Mr. Wayne Gregory suggested, Upstate Workforce Board member Mr. Chuck Ewart as a possible Moderator. Ms. Wood stated she would reach out to him on his interest and availability. Ms. Lisa Thomas suggested several individuals from Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System who could serve as back-up keynote speakers, should Senator Scott not be available. Ms. Sandy Jordan reminded the group of the idea to try to offer continuing education credits to professionals in attendance. She mentioned that ABLE SC has had success in working with Greenville SHRM to get events approved. She offered to share contact information with Ms. Wood. Ms. Jennie Thomas agreed to help Ms. Wood develop a draft agenda. Ms. Wood plans to share a draft with the full committee no later than March 28th. It was decided that a conference call and several emails may be necessary to finalize the details for the event. The committee agreed to participate as necessary.

Other Business

- Ms. Jennie Thomas asked if there was any other business for the good of the committee. Ms. Lisa Thomas asked the committee if anyone was familiar with resources to assist students/individuals with disabilities prepare for the written drivers permit test. Ms. Jennifer Stanion stated that the School for the Deaf and Blind actually spend a full semester preparing students for the test. She mentioned another good strategy was to place that as an item on the IEP. That could allow the teachers to focus on preparing the students for the test. Ms. Jennie Thomas stated that when she was a counselor working with the transition population, she helped her students study and prepare. While it was not a formalized training, they were receptive.

Adjournment

- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.