



**Upstate Workforce Board Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2019 - 8:30 a.m.  
Thomas E. Hannah- YMCA Spartanburg**

**Board Members Present**

Mr. Curtis Anderson  
Mr. Wade Ballard  
Mr. Bill Brasington  
Mr. Wayne Gregory  
Ms. Betty Guzzo  
Mr. Craig Jacobs  
Mr. Carter Smith  
Mr. Evander Thomas  
Ms. Jennie Thomas  
Mr. David Wall

**Board Members Absent**

Mr. Shelley Blount  
Ms. Anne Brock-Trail  
Mr. Jim Cook  
Mr. Jay Coffey  
Mr. Chuck Ewart  
Mr. Robbie Faucett  
Ms. Lisa Hannon  
Ms. Cherie Pressley

**UWB Staff Present**

Ms. Ann Angermeier  
Ms. Nikoya Shaw  
Ms. Dana Wood

**Guests Present**

Ms. Kathy Bell  
Ms. Rochelle Brown  
Ms. Nikki Burgess  
Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby  
Ms. Michelle Hawkins  
Mr. Tony Henderson  
Ms. Helen Merriweather  
Ms. Lynn Nodine  
Mr. Roger Nutt  
Ms. Melissa Rodgers  
Mr. Douglas Stephenson  
Mr. Ryan Tolley  
Ms. Nancy Wilson

**Welcome**

Mr. Wade Ballard, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Mr. Ballard welcomed members and guests. He gave a special welcome to Spartanburg County Councilman, Roger Nutt and Mr. Tony Henderson from AT&T. Mr. Ballard expressed his hopes that Mr. Henderson would be joining the board in the near future.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the June 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed. ***Mr. Bill Brasington made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Betty Guzzo seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and the motion carried.***

The minutes of the August 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed. ***Mr. Wayne Gregory made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Evander Thomas seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and the motion carried.***

### **Special Presentations**

Mr. Douglas Stephenson, SC Works Greater Upstate Project Director, recognized Ms. Nikki Burgess, SC Works Greater Upstate (office in Union) Talent Development Specialist, for being the 2018 ResCare Star award winner. Mr. Stephenson thanked Ms. Burgess for her dedication and hard work. Ms. Nancy Wilson, SC Works Greater Upstate Talent Development Supervisor, expressed how proud she was of Ms. Burgess and how she has a passion for the area and does an amazing job for the residents of Union County. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, presented Ms. Burgess with a gift of appreciation.

Ms. Angermeier gave a quick overview that highlighted the Return on Investment (ROI) for workforce programs under SCDEW. The research was conducted by the University of South Carolina- Columbia business school. The goal of this research was to track the ROI for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program statewide. Ms. Angermeier shared that the new chairman of the State Workforce Board has proved thus far to be very data driven. She shared that he seems to be interested in understanding how each system works in the local areas. The data allows the state to look at every dollar invested and compare it to what is gained, as well as how many years it takes to break even. The data reflects that the states ROI is \$2.80, with Greater Upstate being ahead of the other regions within the state with a ROI of \$2.95.

### **One Stop Committee Report**

Mr. Craig Jacobs, One Stop Committee Member, reported that the One Stop Committee met September 16, 2019. Mr. Jacobs shared that at the meeting, the finances were reviewed for the first two months of the program year. Mr. Jacobs gave the floor to Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, to expound on the special grants portion of the budget. Ms. Wood reported on behalf of Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, that we receive special grants through the year, such as the technology grant that was award last program year. Unfortunately, funds were not completely expended from that special grant. Mr. Bishop will be monitoring the fund utilization of special grants in the future, to ensure all funds are completely exhausted before the end of the grant period.

Mr. Jacobs shared that ResCare staff has done a great job, and there were no concerns starting off PY19. He reported that at the meeting, Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby, SC Works Greater Upstate Regional Director of Business Solutions, shared that she and the Business Service Team (BST) are working on a solution to increase the number of business survey responses. Mr. Jacobs shared that the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance employer list was also discussed at the meeting. SCDEW will not release their list to anyone including partners due to confidentiality requests from the employers. WIOA BST staff, Vocational Rehabilitation and Adult Education have combined efforts to create a local list for their joint use.

Ms. Wood asked Mr. Jacobs for a moment to share information regarding a recently awarded grant. The Upstate Workforce Board/SC Works Upstate partnered with Spartanburg Community College(SCC) and United Way of the Piedmont(UWP) to submit an application for a federal grant from the Department of Labor. The grant was awarded to Spartanburg Community College for \$2.1 million dollars. Roughly \$900,000 of that grant will be used for the continuance and expansion of the Operation Educate program. The Operation Educate

program will continue for 2 more years in Spartanburg County and will be expanded to Cherokee County for 3 years of service. The hiring process has begun to bring on new staff to help with the program's start up in Cherokee County. Ms. Angermeier cited case management for the Operation Educate program, creating such a success rate for the programs statistics, was a contributing factor for the grant being approved. Ms. Wood stated that Cherokee County is excited about the program's expansion to serve their residents. She expressed that, unfortunately, Union County was not an eligible applicant for this grant. There were very specific geographic restrictions in the grant solicitation. Ms. Wood stated that SCC has an excellent grant writer.

SCC will use the remaining portion of the grant to purchase 3D Simulation for their anatomy courses. This simulation will replace the use of cadavers. Additionally, a CDL Trucking simulator and a welding simulator will also be purchased by SCC. Ms. Wood shared that the United Way, through this partnership effort, will be able to provide transportation for those in the program as well as for others needing transportation services in the area.

Ms. Wood expressed that her desire is to see the savings from recidivism be reinvested by Spartanburg County into the program to help with its sustainability. She shared that our area was the only one awarded for SC and NC, and we received the largest amount awarded. Mr. Ballard reiterated that this is a huge success for Spartanburg and Cherokee County. With no questions, the report was concluded.

#### **Youth Committee Report**

Mr. Bill Brasington, Youth Committee Member, reported that the Youth Committee met on September 23, 2019. Mr. Bishop covered the finances for this meeting and reported that the programs are off to a great start for the year, especially in the area of Work-based Learning. Ms. Jackie Taylor, SCDEW representative, was in attendance for the meeting. There was discussion regarding the credentials that would work in conjunction with participants trying to obtain their diploma or GED. Ms. Wood and Ms. Taylor have had communication after the meeting, and plan to meet with the youth programs to clarify this further. Ms. Angermeier shared that the monitoring report highlighted low training numbers for our workforce area. This is partly due to the fact that last program year, we were informed that certain trainings that were being used didn't meet DEW/DOL's requirement for credentials. She also announced that we were made aware recently that forklift training can be added back as an accepted training locally, if it can be justified that it will help program participants obtain employment at a competitive wage. With no questions, the report was concluded.

#### **Disabilities Committee Report**

Ms. Jennie Thomas, Disabilities Committee Chair, shared that the Disabilities Committee met October 2, 2019. At this meeting the updates to the Link Upstate website were reviewed. Ms. Thomas commended Ms. Wood on the excellent job she has done sourcing information for the site. Ms. Thomas gave the floor to Ms. Wood to expound on the website. Ms. Wood mentioned that the website was designed to provide employers with information regarding the hiring of individuals with disabilities. Ms. Wood expressed that the committee's desire is that this website will make it easier for employers to navigate the available resources. Ms. Thomas shared that ABLE SC was awarded a grant which provides quarterly workshop trainings to employers to raise awareness about hiring individuals with disabilities. To increase the service impact of these workshops and

employer participation, the workshops may potentially be held at the location of the employer. The information shared at these meetings is cutting edge. Ms. Thomas shared that a goal for PY19 is to create a short video that can be used by partner staff to promote the hiring of individuals with disabilities. With no questions, the report was concluded.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Mr. Wade Ballard, Executive Committee Chair, reported on behalf of the Executive Committee. Mr. Ballard reported that the Ford Explorer lease was terminated in August, and that finances were in good standing for the start of PY19. Mr. Ballard shared that the blank waivers for Rapid Response and fund transfers for PY19 were approved unanimously by the Executive Committee and were recommended to the full board for action. ***Mr. David Wall made a motion that the full board allow Rapid Response funds submissions to be requested by the staff as needed during PY19. Ms. Betty Guzzo seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and the motion carried.***

***Mr. Bill Brasington made a motion that the full board allow fund transfers by the staff as needed during PY19. Mr. Wayne Gregory seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and the motion carried.***

### **Other Business**

Ms. Angermeier shared that we are partnering in a guidance staff event will be held on October 25, 2019. This event will have a panel of employers from manufacturing industries and past students under the age of 30 who are succeeding in those industries. She expressed that Mr. Toney Farr is a partner for the event. Ms. Angermeier also announced that the Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities will be having their 14<sup>th</sup> annual Walk and Roll event on October 16, 2019.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

**Next meeting date: January 13, 2020.**