

Upstate Youth Alliance Meeting

Date of Meeting: February 16, 2015
Time of Meeting: 8:30 a.m.
Place of Meeting: The YouthStop™

Members Present

Ms. Theresa Perry
Ms. Cherie Pressley
Ms. Susan Rogers
Ms. Ulrike Schmidt

Staff Present

Ms. Ann Angermeier
Ms. Natalia Swanson
Ms. Shannon Wilkins

Guests

Ms. Kathy Bell
Ms. Michelle Hawkins
Ms. Helen Merriweather

Members Absent

Ms. Dana Becker
Mr. Doug Bryson
Ms. Ashley Campbell
Ms. Tammy Cooley
Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby
Mr. Chuck Ewart
Ms. Kimberly Gist
Ms. Melissa Green
Mr. Wayne Gregory
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford Harris
Mr. Christopher Hendrix
Ms. Pam Kennedy
Ms. Patrena Mims
Ms. Mary Lou Stackhouse

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m. by Ms. Theresa Perry. Ms. Perry welcomed all in attendance.

Program Updates:

Ms. Shannon Wilkins distributed several handouts prior to the start of the meeting, which included the January dashboard and contractor report from each youth provider. Ms. Perry asked the Upstate Youth Alliance (UYA) to review each handout. Ms. Perry asked Ms. Helen Merriweather to give an update about the USC Upstate ACHIEVE (ACHIEVE) Program. During her update, Ms. Merriweather stated that the ACHIEVE program was exceeding multiple performance measures, despite the low number of placements, which were attributed to the length of time it takes students to earn their GED. Ms. Merriweather discussed the program's year-to-date enrollment, which was at 64%. In the last two months, four students earned their GED, which helped keep the program's credential rate at 100%. Ms. Merriweather stated that the ACHIEVE Program added a new Cellbotics training to their students, which teaches them cell phone repair. The instructor of the program will attempt to place these students in employment after completing the training. Ms. Perry asked Ms. Michelle Hawkins to give an update about The YouthStop. Ms. Hawkins stated that The YouthStop had a recruitment event at RD Anderson Applied Technology Center in October where they identified approximately 15 students who were WIA eligible. After the recruitment event, staff certified 17 students attending RD Anderson from Byrnes, Dorman, and Woodruff High Schools. Ms. Hawkins stated that The YouthStop is now focused on enrolling students from Daniel Morgan Technology Center. Ms. Hawkins explained that the program has recently helped students with college planning, as many of them are planning on continuing their education, in addition to accompanying the students on multiple college tours, field trips and career exploration activities. Ms. Hawkins also explained the importance of The YouthStop having a part-time

social worker. The counseling component has become very useful when dealing with students with post-traumatic stress disorder, anger management issues, impulse control, anxiety and depression.

Youth Coordinator's Update:

Ms. Wilkins informed the UYA that an RFP committee will be meeting in April to review RFP proposals and to make a recommendation to the UYA, which is to be voted on at the final meeting Upstate Workforce investment Board (Upstate WIB) in May. Ms. Wilkins stated that the five year plan has been completed and a timeline has been set. Ms. Wilkins stressed the importance of the UYA's involvement to help reach the goals set by the Upstate WIB, which included goals such as: educating parents on manufacturing and trades, forming taskforces in each county to address parent education, and continuing to focus on manufacturing and trades in the youth programs.

Items for Vote:

Ms. Perry explained that The YouthStop™ submitted a request for budget modification, which was previously reviewed and approved by the Program and Planning Committee. Because a quorum was not present, the modification will be presented to the UYA via poll vote.

Other Discussion:

After general announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. The next Upstate Youth Alliance Meeting will be held on May 4, 2015.