

## Upstate Youth Alliance Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** December 1, 2014  
**Time of Meeting:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Place of Meeting:** Spartanburg Regional Medical Center/  
Project Search Classroom

### Members Present

Mr. Doug Bryson  
Ms. Tammy Cooley  
Ms. Pam Kennedy  
Ms. Theresa Perry  
Ms. Susan Rogers  
Ms. Ulrike Schmidt

### Staff Present

Ms. Natalia Swanson  
Ms. Shannon Wilkins  
Ms. Dana Wood

### Guests

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

### **Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Ms. Theresa Perry. Ms. Perry welcomed all in attendance.

### **Project Search Presentation:**

Ms. Perry introduced Mr. Sam Napier, Project Search Classroom Instructor, to speak about the Project Search program. Mr. Napier stated that the program provided education and job training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He spoke about the application process, which takes place each spring. In order to be accepted into Project Search, applicants must be 18-21 years old, have independent hygiene and grooming skills, be able to pass a drug-screening, have a desire to work competitively in the community, maintain appropriate workplace behaviors, be willing to take direction and have the ability to communicate effectively. Mr. Napier explained that up to 12 applicants are chosen for the program each school year. He stated that Spartanburg Regional Medical Center (SRMC) provided Project Search with the classroom, where the students received classroom instruction on employability and independent living skills, in addition hosting their internships. Project Search's internships are available in multiple departments throughout SRMC and last ten weeks at a time. Mr. Napier stated that the program was staffed by three job coaches and a special education teacher.

### Members Absent

Ms. Dana Becker  
Ms. Ashley Campbell  
Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby  
Mr. Chuck Ewart  
Ms. Kimberly Gist  
Ms. Melissa Green  
Mr. Wayne Gregory  
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford Harris  
Mr. Christopher Hendrix  
Ms. Patrena Mims  
Ms. Cherie Pressley  
Ms. Mary Lou Stackhouse

**Program Updates:**

Ms. Shannon Wilkins distributed several handouts prior to the start of the meeting, which included the October 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 ACHIEVE Program. During her update, Ms. Merriweather stated that some of the ACHIEVE participants had issues with domestic violence, which prompted the ACHIEVE staff to invite Safe Homes to come and speak to their participants. Ms. Merriweather also discussed performance measures, which they were meeting, and stated that since July four students obtained their GED. Ms. Perry asked Ms. Michelle Hawkins to give an update about The YouthStop. Ms. Hawkins stated that The YouthStop received multiple referrals from Spartanburg District 7, since July, and staff is currently focused on enrolling students from other districts. To help aid their efforts, The YouthStop had a recruitment event at RD Anderson in October, where they identified approximately 15 students that were WIA eligible. Ms. Hawkins explained that many students have expressed interest on owning their own business, so The YouthStop will be taking a field trip to the Small Business Incubator during their local industry and business tour next month, which will be focusing on entrepreneurship and technology.

**Youth Coordinator's Update:**

Due to the fact that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will change the scope of youth services, Ms. Wilkins informed the UYA that a RFP will be necessary. Ms. Wilkins explained that the Program and Planning Committee will be required to complete training, as they will be voting on potential youth providers, in addition to attending several meetings concerning the RFP. She stated that more information will be provided, as their involvement will be needed early next year.

**Items for Vote:**

Ms. Perry explained that the ACHIEVE program submitted a request for a budget modification, which was previously reviewed and approved by the Program and Planning Committee, but due to the fact that there was not a quorum, the modification will be presented to the UYA via poll vote.

**Other Discussion:**

After general announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m. The next Upstate Youth Alliance Meeting will be February 16, 2014.