



Upstate Workforce Board Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2019 - 8:30 a.m.
Thomas E. Hannah- YMCA Spartanburg

Board Members Present

Mr. Curtis Anderson
Mr. Wade Ballard
Mr. Shelley Blount
Mr. Bill Braisington
Ms. Betty Guzzo
Mr. Jay Coffey
Mr. Jim Cook
Mr. Craig Jacobs
Mr. Evander Thomas
Mr. David Wall

Board Members Absent

Mr. Chuck Ewart
Mr. Robbie Faucett
Mr. Wayne Gregory
Ms. Lisa Hannon
Ms. Cherie Pressley
Mr. Carter Smith

UWB Staff Present

Ms. Ann Angermeier
Mr. Brent Bishop
Ms. Nikoya Shaw
Ms. Dana Wood

Guests Present

Ms. Melissa Rodgers
Ms. Kathy Bell
Ms. Helen Merriweather
Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby
Mr. Doug Stephenson
Mr. Ryan Tolley
Ms. Michelle Hawkins
Ms. Meika Jones
Ms. Lola Alawode
Ms. Florence Alawode
Ms. Kacie Mueller
Ms. Kimberly Parker

Welcome

Mr. Wade Ballard, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Mr. Ballard welcomed members and guests. He gave the floor to Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby, SC Works Greater Upstate, Regional Director of Business Solutions, to introduce their new Business Solutions Consultant, Ms. Kacie Mueller who will be serving the Greer area.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The voting for approval of the minutes for the June 24, 2019 meeting will be carried over until the October 14, 2019 meeting.

Program Presentations

Ms. Kathy Bell, YouthStop Director, reported that the program had a very good year for PY18. All performance metrics were met for the year for enrollment in all 3 counties. The participants were able to take 5 college tours, 5 business tours and attend 80 workshops during the program year. Ms. Bell reported that 14 work experiences were granted and 26 participants graduated this past program year.

Through the recovery program there were 9 carryovers and the work-based learning metrics were exceeded for the year. She expressed that if there are more cuts in the coming year, the program will strategize to maintain the quality of the program.

Ms. Helen Merriweather, ACHIEVE Director, reported that the program has had a very active year. ACHIEVE has had 62 active students with 40 in follow up. Ms. Merriweather reported that all work-based learning metrics were exceeded for the year. She presented an overview of the program which provides transportation to its participants. Through the Compassion Grant, students were able to attend lunch and learns through the year. They were also able to host 8 outreach events. Ms. Merriweather introduced Ms. Lola Alawode, a participant of ACHIEVE, who spoke about the impact the ACHIEVE program has had on her life. Ms. Alawode expressed appreciation to the program staff and how they aided her with connecting to opportunity. Ms. Alawode expressed that her credits from her high school overseas would not transfer here in the states. Through ACHIEVE, she was able to pass and obtain the necessary credentials for college. She is currently in her 3rd semester of college, after which she expressed that she would like to obtain credentials to become a pediatric doctor. She highlighted her paid work experience with Spartanburg Regional. Along with schooling, ACHIEVE has aided Ms. Alawode with obtaining a driver's license so that she can acquire a vehicle to provide herself adequate transportation to reach her professional goals.

Ms. Meika Jones, SC Works Greater Upstate Talent Development Specialist in Cherokee County, spoke about the impact SC Works has with assisting clients with training so they can go through life transformed. She introduced SC Works participant, Ms. Kimberly Parker. Ms. Parker spoke about the transformation that happened in her life as a result of the aid of SC Works Greater Upstate. Ms. Parker shared that she is a single mother and was looking to go back to school after 14 years of being out of school. Through SC Works, she has been able to receive training and obtain employment through On-the-Job training (OJT) which aided with starting her career path. After her internship, Ms. Parker was hired on part-time by her employer, and has now transitioned to full-time. She will also be going back to school at Limestone College, where she is working on obtaining a Bachelor's Degree.

Mr. Doug Stephenson, ResCare Project Director, gave a report on the program metrics met for PY 18. Mr. Stephenson reported that the percent of Adult and Dislocated Worker enrollment and Social Media engagement metrics were exceeded for PY18. The number of recruitment events was also exceeded by 36 percent. The goal of 96 community events was exceeded with a total of 129. OJT metrics were exceeded with 21 over the goal of 20. Mr. Stephenson noted that it is hard to predict the percentage of veterans and clients with disabilities that will be served any given year. He attributed this to the fact that customers who may have disabilities do not always disclose that information and veterans have more programs available to them earlier in the process of seeking assistance. Mr. Stephenson expressed that there has been an increase in customers who have criminal records. He mentioned there has been a 11 percent drop in foot traffic to the centers, with 12 percent being unique customers. Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, inquired of Mr. Stephenson if he believes that the state passing the bill to add funds to training for in demand occupations will require SC Works to be more OJT focused rather than financially

assisting customers with school. Mr. Stephenson responded that he does feel there could be a shift which seems to be heading in the direction of more OJTs.

PY 18 Financial Highlights

Mr. Brent Bishop, Upstate Workforce Board CFO, gave financial highlights of PY 18. Mr. Bishop mentioned that the spending requirements for fund utilization were met for the year. He also reviewed the obligation rate which he mentioned comes with penalties if requirements are not met. He reported that we have well exceeded the 80 percent obligation requirement. Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, mentioned that the penalty would occur if 80 percent of our funds are not obligated, the state can in turn recapture the difference of the obligation mark that was met and the required 80 percent. Those recaptured funds would then be given to the areas that did meet the obligation rate requirements. Mr. Bishop reported that the metrics for the participant cost rate were met for the year. Ms. Angermeier expressed, and Ms. Wood reiterated, that there is a penalty for leveraging training dollars. Ms. Wood expressed that this penalty has created a disadvantage when applying for grants due to the fact that funds cannot be leveraged for the requirement to be met. The work-based learning metric has been exceeded for PY18. Mr. Curtis Anderson inquired about the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) and what would happen if the participant cost rate requirement is not met. Mr. Anderson wanted to know if there would be a penalty. Ms. Wood and Ms. Angermeier replied that a policy is in the works which should address Mr. Anderson's question and they are waiting to hear about updates on that policy. Ms. Wood mentioned that they should receive a copy of the sanctions policy before it goes to the SWDB for a vote. Mr. Ballard asked the board to continue thinking about the participation rate and how we would proceed if a penalty is added to the participation rate if requirements are not met.

Executive Committee Report

Mr. Ballard reviewed the committee summary from the Executive Committee meeting held August 5, 2019. He reported on the Operation Educate presentation given by Ms. Wood at that meeting and highlighted that Ms. Wood and the partners of the Operation Educate program have applied for a grant worth \$2.5 million. This grant would fund a portable classroom space and will allow the program to be extended to Cherokee County. Ms. Wood mentioned that she is still waiting, but should receive an update in the a few weeks as the grant will be awarded in October. Ms. Wood mentioned that in conjunction with Greenville they applied for the first round of the Re-entry Navigator Grant through the SWDB. Only one grant was awarded in the first round and now a second round has been opened up for those interested in applying. Ms. Wood mentioned that the requirements for the second round had been modified and the grant is no longer a fit for local area. Mr. Ballard mentioned that Ms. Angermeier and Ms. Wood will be working on a policy to make sure BTS surveys are being completed each quarter.

Ms. Wood presented an overview of the Operation Educate program to the board. She highlighted that the detention center population is a captive audience. There have been 61 participants served by the current Operation Educate Grant provided by the SWDB. 88 percent have stayed in contact with the Re-Entry Specialist after they were released. There have been 2 participants who were granted work release after they had been given an offer for employment by a partnering business and able to start work under ankle monitoring. Ms. Wood expressed that the importance of this program is that it aids in creating a

humanizing effect for those who will soon be released back into our community. Participants attend a graduation celebrating the hard work they put in to the program which Ms. Wood said is not easy. The reward of the graduation allows participants to see and interact with loved ones where they can show off their achievement and develop a sense of pride and enjoy food that is not served in the detention center.

Other Business

Ms. Angermeier shared a newspaper article from the Union Daily Times entitled 'Students beat the Summer Slide'. This article, prepared by Ms. Nikoya Shaw, Upstate Workforce Boards Director of Community Impact, highlighted the work that was done through the 2019 STEM Program held in Union County.

Adjournment

With no other business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38.

Next meeting date: October 14, 2019