



UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD DISABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

November 17, 2016

8:30 A.M.

Vocational Rehabilitation Center – Bryant Center

Present:

- Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair
- Ms. Dot Colson, Committee Member
- Mr. Wayne Gregory, Committee Member
- Mr. Antonio Johnson, Committee Member
- Ms. Sandy Jordan, Committee Member
- Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Committee Member
- Ms. Alice Lang, UWB
- Ms. Jennifer Pitts, Committee Member
- Ms. Jennifer Stanion, Committee Member
- Ms. Lisa Thomas, Committee Member
- Ms. Dana Wood, UWB

Guest:

Ms. Danielle Gibbs – SC State Senator Tim Scott’s office

Welcome and Introductions of New Members

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Ms. Jennie Thomas, Committee Chair. Ms. Thomas talked about the committee continuing to grow and learn about new approaches to serving people with disabilities.

Yearly Planning and Goals

- Ms. Dana Wood, Associate Director and COO of Upstate Workforce Board, said that at the September meeting, they had discussed what kind of event they should hold this year and whether it should be focused on employers or workers. She said that Senator Scott’s office was interested in helping people with disabilities, so they invited one of his staff members to attend this meeting to see if they could be partners in organizing an event.
- **Senator Scott’s office:** Ms. Danielle Gibbs, Regional Director, from Senator Scott’s office, said that the Senator is very interested in the issue of helping people with disabilities to find job opportunities. He has already held a number of events for Veterans and Women, and would like to bring people to the table to have a discussion about helping people with disabilities become self-sufficient.
- **Disability Training with Employers in the Upstate:** A discussion was held about what type of event should be held. It was agreed that it should be centered in the Upstate

(Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties), but that it could include Greenville, with whom UWB has a good relationship, and some neighboring counties. The consensus was that the event should focus on teaching employers about the positive aspects of hiring people with disabilities. The event could be similar to one held recently called Inclusion Works, in which new committee member, Ms. Sandy Jordan with ABLE SC, was involved. The proposed event could have a panel of employers who are experienced in hiring people with disabilities, and could answer other employers' questions about insurance, liabilities and accommodations, etc. It was suggested that if attendance at the event resulted in a continuing education credit, that would attract more participants. The committee agreed the event should be held in May 2017 and that they would like Senator Scott's office to be involved. Ms. Dana Wood and Ms. Danielle Gibbs agreed to be in touch before the next meeting in January. Ms. Sandy Jordan said she would send information for the committee about Inclusion Works.

Other Business

- **Disability Tips for the Month:** At the previous meeting, Ms. Dot Colson recommended the committee identify a disability of the month and share information and tips with staff and partners to build more awareness about disabilities. Ms. Dana Wood and Ms. Dot Colson will present a monthly disability list for January - June at the next meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.