



**UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 22, 2020      3:30 P.M. Virtual Meeting**

**Guests Present:**

Mr. Brent Bishop  
Ms. Helen Merriweather  
Ms. Kaylee McKitrick  
Ms. Nikoya Shaw  
Ms. Dana Wood

**Committee Members Present:**

Mr. Curtis Anderson  
Ms. Erin Black  
Mr. Bill Brasington  
Mr. Jay Coffey  
Ms. Cherie Pressley  
Ms. Susan Rogers  
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford  
Mr. Evander Thomas  
Mr. David Wall

**Welcome:**

Mr. Evander Thomas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Financial Update:**

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, reviewed the August budget report for ACHIEVE with the committee. He clarified that this report is for the first month of their budget year and the second month of the program year. Mr. Bishop also shared that the operating expense line item is high, a result of their first quarter rent being paid in August.

**ACHIEVE Program Report:**

Ms. Helen Merriweather, ACHIEVE Director, thanked the Youth Committee for allowing ACHIEVE to continue as a WIOA Youth service provider. She shared that the program has a new staff person, Ms. Lisa Hannon, who will work with students from Cherokee and Union counties. She then reviewed the program dashboard showing that they were at 30.6% of their annual enrollment as of August. She shared that the program exceeded in placements and will add measureable skills gains and median earnings to the performance chart once official goals are set for the program year. Ms. Merriweather shared that they continue to follow safety guidelines regarding COVID-19. Students are staggered in the classroom and online courses are available to ensure that students maintain social distancing.

Mr. Evander Thomas opened the floor for Ms. Kaylee McKitrick, ACHIEVE participant, to share her successes and experience in the program. Ms. McKitrick shared that she has been in the ACHIEVE program for about a year. She feels the individual attention from her instructor, Ms. Janice Hendrickson, along with the program's flexibility and continued support have helped her during the pandemic. Ms. McKitrick explained that she has succeeded in her driver's education

course and completed work experiences, but also expressed that she feels she has met her personal goals as a result of being in the program.

### **Outreach to Seniors**

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, reminded the group that the construction career event with Skills USA was canceled as a result of the pandemic. She shared with the committee that the board would like to get the youth committee engaged with helping high school seniors who are unsure of their next steps after graduation. The goal would be to assist them in connecting with SC Works for assistance in finding work or enrolling in secondary education. The committee discussed possible engagement opportunities. Ms. Wood reminded the committee that they can focus on any youth related items, not just WIOA functions.

### **Performance Concerns**

Ms. Wood made the group aware that the Board is going through performance negotiations. She shared that the Board submitted counterproposals to the Department of Employment and Workforce last week. Ms. Wood shared the proposed performance goals for youth. She stressed her extreme concern regarding elevated measures. She explained that it is very likely that measures will not be exceeded like in past years. Mr. David Wall, a committee member, asked about the consequences of not meeting a performance measure. Ms. Wood explained the process of sanctions and what is considered as meeting a performance measure.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business or discussion from the floor, the meeting was adjourned 4:13 p.m.

**The next meeting will be held December 8, 2020.**