LOWER SAVANNAH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 04, 2024 @ 1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

LSWDB Members in attendance:	Nancy Foster, Gary Jones (in-person), , Kim Williams-Griffin, Kenisha Grimes, Tiiu Goode, Dr. Renee Ritter, Jeanette Murray, Dr. Dorian Newton, Curtis Randolph, Tommy Boyleston, Pat Black Jr, Demeterius Smith, Lessie Price
LSWDB Members excused:	Darainey Hudson, Will Reynolds, Dee Crawford, Catie McCauley, Dr. Forest Mahan, Tameka Johnson, Cecilia Allen
LSWDB Members not present:	
LSCOG/WD Staff in attendance:	André Anderson, Sally Sharpe, Marby Hicks, William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Jerome Wallace
Guests/Visitors:	Renee Alexander (Eckerd Connects), Julian Butts (Swiss Krono), Steve Smith (Aiken Technical College)

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Nancy Foster called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Foster welcomed all attendees and guests.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Andre Anderson conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

BOARD APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Foster asked the Workforce Board for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Pat Black and seconded by Dr. Dorian Newton. The meeting agenda was approved without additions/corrections.

BOARD APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – April 16, 2024

Ms. Foster asked the Workforce Board for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 16, 2024. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Tommy Boyleston. The meeting minutes were approved with no corrections needed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – May 16, 2024

Mr. Anderson provided the WD board with an update of The Executive Committee meeting held to review/vote on Request for Proposal (RFP) # 23-01 (Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, & Operator Services). All Committee questions were answered by WIOA staff. The Committee reviewed a total of six (6) proposals from two (2) Workforce Development organizations (In the Door and Eckerd Connects).

- Mr. Anderson informed the board that with this approval, contract negotiations were set to begin with Eckerd Connects as the winning bidder.

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REPORT OF YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING – May 9, 2024

Dr. Renee Ritter deferred this report to Ms. Jeanette Murray as she was the Board Member which presided over the Committee meeting on that day. Ms. Murray spoke on the Youth Success story for Laureen Holley. Ms. Murray highlighted Ms. Holley's WIOA enrollment and subsequent placement as an apprentice on the SRNS site. Ms. Murray then spoke on the Teen after-school program being run by Christopher Emmanuel. Additionally, she gave an overview of the same program at 2nd Baptist Church here in Aiken. The Committee meeting wrapped up by stressing how WIOA's Youth program and 2nd Baptist as well as all the Youth Serving organizations in the region can and are encouraged to work together to fulfill our common goal of elevating Youth into successful lives.

BOARD APPROVAL OF INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING CONTRACTS

Mr. Anderson informed the board about 2 IWT contracts from two (2) local companies for skills and technology upgrades. Those companies are as follows:

- ZEUS – Aiken SC
- Ready Alert Systems - Allendale SC

A motion for approval was made by Ms. Lessie Price and seconded by Dr. Newton for approval of the IWT business opportunities for these two companies.

APPROVAL OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD BYLAWS CHANGE/DISCUSSION

Mr. Anderson discussed a single change to the LSWDB Bylaws and current Board vacancies that need to be filled as we move into PY24 and beyond. After the board voted on the bylaw changes, Mr. Anderson went on to discuss the vacancies that were present with the Workforce Board and sought assistance with getting those vacancies filled.

- Movement from 5 to 3 unexcused absences per year
- Vacancies in Allendale County
- Vacancy in Bamberg County
- Strong Committees

A motion for approval was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Gary Jones. The change to the WD Bylaws were adopted and approved.

SPECIALIZED REPORTS FOR BOARD

Were provided by:

Andre Anderson – LSWDB Financial Update

- Mr. Anderson provided the board with an update of the LSWDB Financial Outlook as of June 30, 2024. Mr. Anderson talked about our financial performance for the year highlighting the fact that we are meeting all financial expectations for PY23 as the year draws to a close. He also mentioned our intention to start PY24 deliberately and in a measured way to account for financial cuts and the actual receipt of WIOA funding which typically arrive about 30-45 days after the funds are active (which can cause some struggles/delays in program administration). A question was asked concerning Tin Thanh Group (a Vietnamese tire company) reportedly moving into Allendale and whether or not WD staff had been included in conversations related to this

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potential expansion within the region. Mr. Anderson affirmed that WD staff was included in those discussion and was just waiting for the green light to move forward. Ms. Nora Sanders commented at this point on the LSCOG and Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) working closely to accommodate this economic opportunity for the region.

Charlie Furtick – Center Reports

- Mr. Furtick provided the board an update of the traffic patterns associated with SC Works centers and statistics from each. Ultimately, over 5000 served for the 3rd quarter.
- We have a lot of hiring events in both Aiken and Orangeburg SC Works Centers and traffic is steadily increasing in both centers.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Anderson provided updates to the board on several topics.

- Mr. Anderson updated the Board on Sector Strategy Convener grant awarded to Development Results, LLC. He mentioned that the grant awarded by SCDEW to the Central Region (Catawba, Central Midlands, and Lower Savannah workforce areas) was designed to get direct feedback/workforce assistance from industry representatives (first focus - advanced manufacturing and then possibly the healthcare industry)
- Mr. Anderson updated the board on the State Innovation Grant (Due July 1, 2024) and our intention to apply for these funds to support training throughout the Lower Savannah region. If awarded it will support
  -New Technology (EV, Solar, Information Technology, Etc.)
  -Regional Aspect (1 or more Workforce Areas)
  -We are working in collaboration with the Waccamaw Workforce Region on our joint grant submission and outcomes
- Mr. Anderson informed the Board that Wendy Mahuron, our Business Services Manager, is no longer with the Workforce Division/LSCOG (cause was budgetary)
- Mr. Anderson informed the board that they have the June Calendar in their packets.
- He also mentioned that the local area was being monitored by state Equal Opportunity Division of SCDEW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WDB Meetings Next WDB meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2024

Committee Meetings	Youth	July 11, 2024, 10AM
	Disabilities	September 24, 2024

OPEN DISCUSSION

Kenisha Grimes spoke on the Tri-County Orangeburg (and surrounding counties) VA Claims for June 25, 2024 (9am-3pm).

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Anderson for

The Lower Savannah Workforce Development Board Secretary

NOTICE OF THE MEETING and COPY OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL NEWS MEDIA PRIOR TO THE MEETING. NOTICE OF THE MEETING and COPY OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS ALSO POSTED ON THE LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BULLETIN BOARD AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

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