



**Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board
Virtual SC Works Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 8:30 AM**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Kershaw – John Hornsby, Berri Outlaw
Lee – George General
Sumter – Bobby Anderson (Chairman), Deborah Young

Staff Present:

Areatha Clark, SLRCOG Deputy Executive Director, Workforce Development Chief
Esmonde Levy, SLRCOG Workforce Development Manager
Steve Berger, SLRCOG Workforce Development Business Services Lead
Freda Amerson, SLRCOG Workforce Development Operations Coordinator
Linda Jackson, SLRCOG Administrative Chief
Kourtney Page, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant I-PR

Guests:

Ray Jackson SC Works One-Stop Manager, Eckerd Connects, Workforce Development
Deidre Smalls SC Works Area Manager, Eckerd Connects, Workforce Development

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Anderson called the Santee-Lynches SC Works Committee Meeting to order at 8:47AM. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made by Mr. John Hornsby and seconded by Ms. Debra Young.** There being no discussion, Chairman Anderson called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

III. Approval of Minutes (November 15, 2022) – (M)

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 15, 2022. **A motion was made by Ms. Debra Young and seconded by Mr. John Hornsby.** There being no

discussion, Chairman Anderson called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

IV. SC Works Operator Report

Mr. Ray Jackson, One-Stop Manager/SC Works Operator for Eckerd Connects, presented the SC Works Operator Report for July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

Chart 1: Area Profile for Santee-Lynches Region

Rank #2 out of 12 Workforce Development Areas for Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Distribution for November 2022

Rank	Area	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Preliminary
2	Santee-Lynches	86,857	83,937	2,920	3.4%	Yes

Chart 2: Area Profile for SC for November 2022

Rank	Area	Civilian Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Preliminary
7	Lee	6,213	5,939	274	4.4%	Yes
14	Clarendon	11,546	11,114	432	3.7%	Yes
15	Sumter	40,496	39,081	1,415	3.5%	Yes
27	Kershaw	28,602	27,803	799	2.8%	Yes

Chart 3: Job Rankings

Mr. Jackson explained to the Committee that in addition to the Hot Jobs highlight of jobs, they began listing the ranks of jobs that have job openings to the public for the following companies:

Rank	Employer Name	Job Openings
1	Prisma Health	148
2	McLeod Health	65
3	Medical University of South Carolina	62
4	Thompson Construction Group, Inc.	50
5	Kershaw Medical Center	44
6	City of Sumter, SC	35
7	Agile Defense, Inc.	34
8	Lee County School District	31
9	Amedisys, Inc.	29
10	Kershaw County School District	29
11	McDonald's Corporation	29
12	CVS Health	28
13	Morris College	28
14	Sonic Corp.	24
15	Vibra Healthcare, LLC.	23

Chart 4: January 2023 Online Workshops

Mr. Jackson shared with the Committee that all SC Works Centers in the State are hosting a January 2023 Online Workshop beginning Tuesday, January 10th to Friday, January 27th. Santee-Lynches will host an Online Workshop every Wednesday of this month while they still host In-House Workshops for interested Job Seekers.

Chart 5: Hot Jobs

Mr. Jackson shared with the Committee the Hot Jobs listing for the month of January. It provides a listing of jobs with a job order number, minimum educational requirements, and minimum experience needed for the job.

Chart 6: Free Law Talk

An SC Works Partner, the Kershaw County Library, will host Free Law Talk Sessions the first half of the year. These sessions will provide a brief topic overview with Q&A with a volunteer attorney on the following topics:

Expungement: Wednesday, January 18th 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Special Education: Wednesday, March 22nd 5:30pm 6:30pm
Credit Card Debt: Wednesday, May 24th 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Other sessions are also held at the Kershaw County Library to include information on Family Law (March 20th; 5pm-6pm), Social Security Disability (April 17th; 5pm-6pm) and Elder Law (May 22nd; 5pm-6pm).

Ms. Clark asked Mr. Jackson can they extend this opportunity to other counties or is it only isolated to Kershaw County. Mr. Jackson explained that this particular series is currently only being conducted in Kershaw County. However, they can extend the opportunity to Sumter County through SC Legals.

Mr. Jackson finished his report by stating that they have a Management Meeting with Ollie's Bargain Outlet in Sumter with anticipation of hiring up to 80 employees.

V. SC Works (WIOA) Performance Update

Ms. Deidre Smalls, Area Manager for Eckerd Connects, presented the SC Works Committee Performance Report for July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

Chart 1: PY 22' Adult Program

New - 59
Actual - 119
Goal - 192

Ms. Smalls explained to the Committee that they were at 62% of their goal. She explained that they are working on referral pipelines to meet their goal by June 30, 2023.

Chart 2: Occupational Skills Training

Received Training- 52

- Transportation & Healthcare Sector
 - CDL
 - Clinical Medical Assistant
 - Patient Care Technician

Ms. Smalls identified to the Committee that Transportation and the Healthcare Sectors continue to be the leading Occupational Skills training programs and subsequent employment in the Region. In the trucking category, all position wages range from \$19-\$23/hour.

Chart 3: Performance Outcomes Update

Adult/DW Credentials- 53
Adult/DW Measurable Skills Gain- 177

Adult Program Highlight

Mr. Dorian McElveen came into the SC Works Sumter Center in April 2022 seeking assistance with employment and training. Mr. McElveen was unemployed and needed a career that would allow him to support his family. Dorian attended Palmetto Training Truck Driving School in Sumter and obtained in CDL Class A license. Mr. McElveen started his own business, Tru2IT Transportation LLC. Mr. McElveen reported averaging \$3,200.00 per load. The highest reported earnings per load was \$7,000.00. Mr. McElveen is excited about his earning potential and the ability to provide for his family.

Chairman Anderson asked with the closing of Color-Fi, has SC Works enrolled those individuals as dislocated workers in the program. Ms. Smalls stated that her team has initiated communication with the Color-Fi individuals. They discovered that some of the individuals chose to retire, retain unemployment benefits, or are waiting until the new year to begin employment. Eckerd will ensure that this data is collected and shared with the Committee. Chairman Anderson asked if those individuals could draw unemployment during their training period. Ms. Smalls confirmed that this is an option. However, they do not provide as much information up front, especially if they are not interested in seeking employment.

Ms. Clark asked Mr. Berri Outlaw if Color-Fi is a group that is participating in DEW's REP program. Mr. Outlaw responded that they were not at the time, and that he could check into this for the Committee. Ms. Clark explained that a Color-Fi sign in sheet for individuals has been placed in the center, and there have been individuals signing up expressing interest. However, once those individuals receive unemployment, those interested individuals drop off. She expressed that staff at the center would have to stay frequently in communication with these individuals to offer SC Works services. Chairman Anderson asked how long an individual can participate in training. Ms. Clark explained that most individuals that visit the center are interested in short term training. This short term training programs can range from 4 to six weeks to a few months within specific employment categories. However, individuals turn to unemployment for more income weekly rather than working towards a job that pays an adequate salary.

Ms. Clark expressed that the Technical Colleges does offer scholarships and SC Works can offer supportive services due to the scholarships only covering tuition. She expressed that they could look into promoting services in collaboration with the technical colleges.

VI. Financial Report

Mr. Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager, presented the Financial Report for PY'2022 through December 31, 2022.

Chart 1: Percent Expended

Eckerd Adult – 35.22%

Eckerd DW – 31.87%

Chart 2: Eckerd Adult Total

Eckerd has expended \$112,689 of \$320,000 (35.22% expended) with a remaining balance of \$207,311.

Chart 3: Eckerd Adult Total Trend

Jul - 22: \$13,870

Aug - 22: \$15,829

Sep - 22: \$18,820

Oct - 22: \$17,475

Nov - 22: \$17,853

Dec – 22: \$28,843

Chart 4: Eckerd DW Total

Eckerd has expended \$31,867 of \$100,000 (31.87% expended) with a remaining balance of \$68,133.

Chart 5: Eckerd DW Total Trend

Jul - 22: \$4,211
Aug - 22: \$3,884
Sep - 22: \$5,954
Oct - 22: \$5,437
Nov - 22: \$6,260
Dec - 22: \$6,121

Chart 6: Resiliency Total

Eckerd has expended \$241,214 of the \$288,812 budget (83.52% expended) with a balance of \$47,598.

Mr. Levy explained to the Committee that they have until May 31, 2023, to expend all Resiliency Funding. He expressed how this grant served as a supplemental grant to WIOA services. Ms. Clark further explained to the Committee that the majority of the Resiliency Funding was utilized for the Adult training and supportive services. At least 70% of the funding needed to be exhausted by October 2022, which has helped fill in the gap brought up by the cut the Adult Program funding. She further explained that OJT has also picked up. There are many people that want to go to work but less individuals are interested in signing up for skills training prior to being placed in a job.

VII. Other Business

- Other Discussion Topics by Committee Members

Chairman Anderson asked if there has been any action on changes on the state level to follow up on those individuals we have put in employment – perhaps the system could be changed to capture this information. Ms. Clark explained that the state is not willing to change the SC Works system currently. She further explained that the delay in the wage system affects SC Works reports. Ms. Clark stated that because of this issue, her staff does follow-up on this data for more accurate results. She also explained that they are continuing to seek effective ways to collect the employment information needed from those employers to help resolve this ongoing issue. Mr. Anderson asked if an appeal could be made to the State since it is hindering our region's performance. Ms. Clark explained that they had more cooperation from employers prior to COVID. Ms. Clark asked Mr. Outlaw was there anyone they could communicate with on this issue. Mr. Outlaw explained that their experience was poor communication with businesses due to minor issues of employee changes.

Chairman Anderson asked if DSS refers individuals to the SC Works Center. Ms. Clark explained that SC Works does have two DSS staff housed in the center that make referrals to the SC Works staff. Ms. Young confirmed that as a community partner, her agency also gets individual referrals from DSS. She also mentioned that the individual factor is the underline issue because they are not ready to seek employment.

Mr. Outlaw mentioned that they have a WRAP Program that is mandatory for individuals that are seeking employment on unemployment benefits. Individuals that do not follow through this step will lose their unemployment benefits. Mr. Jackson highlighted that DSS also has a similar program. Chairman Anderson stated that the Committee can do more in helping SC Works to develop relationships with employers along with word of mouth in the community to refer jobseekers to the SC Works Center. Ms. Clark expressed to Chairman Anderson that this is a statewide issue. Staff are trying various ways to ensure that the word is getting out, but individuals are not giving SC Works a chance. Mr. Berri Outlaw added that surveys on the

state level are sent to employers for their feedback on how to better assist them. Chairman Anderson expressed that this as a great start, and he would be further interested in knowing the results from it.

VIII. Adjourn

The SC Works Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:34AM.

Recorded By,

Kourtney Hammond

Kourtney Hammond, Administrative Assistant I-PR
Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments