



**Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board  
Virtual SC Works Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Kershaw – John Hornsby, Berri Outlaw  
Lee – George General, Charles “Scottie” Hayes  
Sumter – Bobby Anderson (Chairman)

**Members Absent:**

Sumter – Debra Young

**Staff Present:**

Dennis Cyphers, SLRCOG Executive Director, Government Services Chief  
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  
Kourtney Page, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant I-PR

**Guests:**

Ray Jackson, SC Works Operator/Center Manager, Eckerd Connects, Workforce Development  
Renee Alexander, Senior Operations Director, Eckerd Connects

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Anderson called the Santee-Lynches SC Works Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 AM. A quorum was present. He led the pledge of allegiance.

**II. Approval of Agenda – (M)**

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

### III. Approval of Minutes (January 17, 2023) – (M)

Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 17, 2023. **A motion was made by Mr. John Hornsby and seconded by Mr. Berri Outlaw.** 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, SC Works Operator/Center Manager for Eckerd Connects, presented the SC Works Operator Report for July 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023.

#### Chart 1: Santee-Lynches January & February

Mr. Jackson shared a recap of the Workshops and Hiring Events along with Customers visiting the SC Works Centers. Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Jackson to explain what Ollie’s is and where it is at with its hiring process. Mr. Jackson explained that Ollie’s is a new bargain store that will be located on Broad Street next to the High Point Furniture Store. They will be hiring 65 to 70 people for store set up and would later retain 30 of those individuals as regular full time employees. Mr. Jackson also shared that the Grand Opening had been rescheduled for mid-April.

Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Jackson to provide a count of how many Ollie’s applicants were hired. Mr. Jackson stated that the hiring process had not taken place due to a delay in the store opening, but they are expecting to start this process around March 18<sup>th</sup>, if they are still on track with opening in April. Ollie’s process is to hire employees approximately 30 days prior to the store opening. Mr. Jackson also shared that once the hiring process is complete, he will then present to the Committee the number of applicants that were hired.

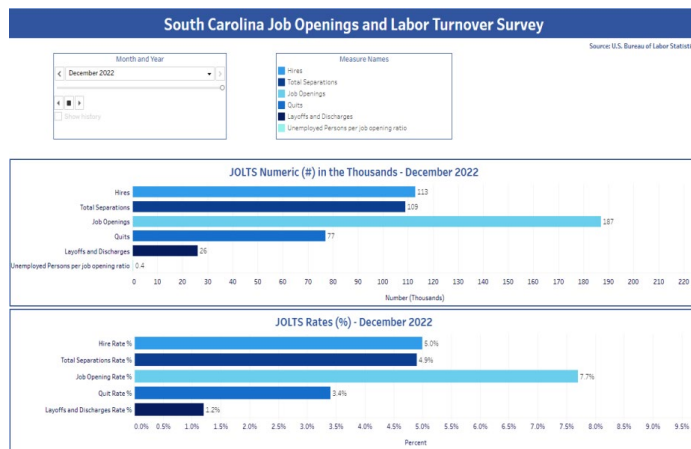
Customers:			Workshops & Hiring Events
Office	Individuals	Veterans	253 Jobseekers attended hiring events/workshops
Sumter Center	1,604	63	180 jobseekers attended- Ollie’s Hiring Events on 1/31 & 2/1
Camden Center	493	22	39 job seekers attended - Ollie’s Hiring Event on 2/28
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>85</b>	1,000+ applied for Ollie’s Online

#### Chart 2: Hiring Events-March 2023

Mr. Jackson shared that in March, Ollie’s held another Hiring Event (3/1/2023) at the SC Works Center. The SC Works Center also took part in the Adult Education Career Fair (3/2/2023). Mr. Jackson stated that once the data is collected from the career fair, he will share it with the Committee.

#### Chart 3: South Carolina Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey

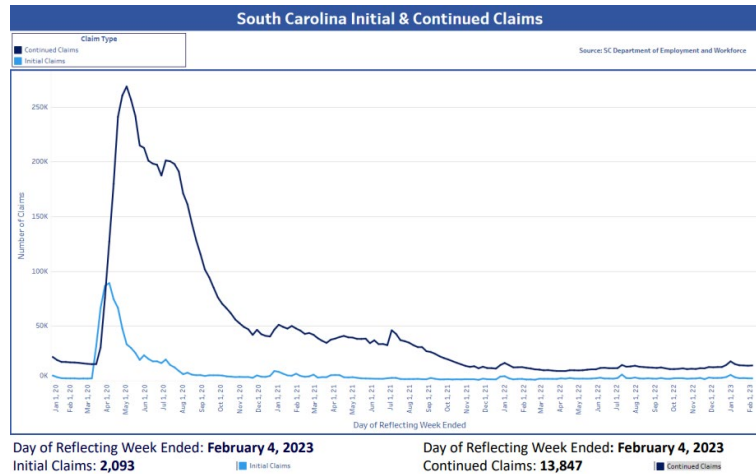
Mr. Jackson provided information on South Carolina Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. Such information was not available yet for the local workforce development area.



Mr. Jackson explained that the survey was sent out by the State to measure the number of hires, total separations, job openings, quits, layoffs, discharges, and unemployed persons per job opening ratio. He expressed that the information supplied is not broken down by county yet. However, he will provide the region's data once it is extracted from the statewide survey. Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Jackson to identify how this data is compared to previous months. Mr. Jackson explained that he will need to pull this data for the Committee to compare past to present SC Job Openings and Labor Turnover Surveys. This report will be presented at the next SC Works Committee Meeting.

**Chart 4: South Carolina Initial & Continued Claims**

Mr. Jackson indicated that the state has less than 15,000 individuals filing unemployment claims. He expressed that unemployment has dropped from a 3.4 to 3.3% statewide.



**V. SC Works (WIOA) Performance Update**

Mr. Jackson presented the SC Works Performance Report for July 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023.

**Chart 1: Adult/DW Total Active Enrollments (7/1/2022 through 2/28/2023)**

New: 87  
 Actual: 145  
 Goal: 192

**Chart 2: Occupational Skills Training**

Received Training: 71

Training provided in Transportation & Healthcare Sectors

- CDL
- Clinical Medical Assistant
- Patient Care Technician

**Chart 3: Adult/DW Performance Outcomes Update**

Credentials: 80  
 Measurable Skills Gain: 245

**Adult Program Highlight:**

**Mr. Michael Kirkland**

Michael Kirkland came into the SC Works Sumter Center in July of 2022 seeking aid with employment and training. Mr. Kirkland was unemployed and needed a career that would allow him to support his family. He

attended Palmetto Training Truck Driving School in Sumter and obtained a CDL Class A license in December and he also obtained full-time employment with Senn Freight Lines, Inc. Mr. Kirkland is paid .50/mile with benefits. Mr. Kirkland is excited about his earning potential and the ability to provide for his family.

## **VI. Financial Report**

Mr. Esmonde Levy, Workforce Development Manager, presented the Financial Report for PY'2022 through February 28, 2023.

### **Chart 1: Percent Expended**

Eckerd has expended 66.36% of Eckerd Adult funding and 48.08% of Eckerd Dislocated (DW) funding.

### **Chart 2: Eckerd Adult Total**

Eckerd has expended \$212,367 of \$320,000(53.95% expended) with a remaining balance of \$107,633.

### **Chart 3: Eckerd Adult Total**

Jul-22: \$13,870  
Aug-22: \$15,829  
Sep-22: \$18,820  
Oct-22: \$17,475  
Nov-22: \$17,853  
Dec-22: \$28,843  
Jan-23: \$59,962  
Feb-23: \$39,716

### **Chart 4: Eckerd DW Total**

Eckerd has expended \$48,076 of \$100,000(48.08% expended) with a remaining balance of \$51,925.

### **Chart 5: Eckerd DW Total**

Jul-22: \$4,211  
Aug-22: \$3,884  
Sep-22: \$5,954  
Oct-22: \$5,437  
Nov-22: \$6,260  
Dec-22: \$6,121  
Jan-23: \$6,097  
Feb-23: \$10,112

### **Chart 6: Resiliency Total**

Eckerd has expended \$274,428 of \$288,812 (95.02% expended) with a remaining balance of \$14,384.

Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Levy to explain what the Resiliency Grant is used for. Mr. Levy explained to the Committee that the Resiliency Grant is funds used alongside Adult and DW funds to assist with the lack of funds received for regular formula funds. This funding was primarily for participation costs and a little overhead.

Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Jackson to provide a count of how many employers are seeking assistance for new hires through SC Works. Mr. Berri Outlaw stated that job orders are tracked from employers visiting the SC Works Center along with those employers that submit their own job orders in the SC Works System. He stated that the number of job orders will have to be pulled from the SC Works Online System. However, based upon his monthly reports, Mr. Outlaw shared that approximately 100 to 150 job orders are submitted per month for our region. Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Outlaw if the number and type of job orders

submitted for employers and SCDEW are available for his team to review. Mr. Outlaw confirmed that the information is available and that the consultants are required to review those job orders to ensure that employers are compliant with policy and the law. Once this step is completed, the consultants would follow up with those employers on results from the job orders.

Chairman Anderson asked how long the process take for consultants to begin following up with the employers. Mr. Outlaw stated that it takes 30, to 60 to 90 days to complete this process. The first 30 days is to follow up and give the employer time to find someone. The 60 to 90 days is extended time to obtain hiring information from employers. Mr. Outlaw expressed that the challenging part was getting employer results back particularly if they manage their own job orders in the SC Works Online System. Mr. Outlaw shared that employers don't follow up with results for various reasons like HR procedures since SC Works require identification of the employee and there are some that can't make time during their day-to-day operations. He expressed that they are trying to build those relationships. Chairman Anderson expressed that this has been an ongoing issue for years. He asked Mr. Outlaw if the information shared on the State level is accessible. Mr. Outlaw confirmed that it is available. However, the information lags a quarter behind current data just like unemployment data.

Chairman Anderson asked Mr. Outlaw how many of those job orders submitted for the region are small businesses. Mr. Outlaw expressed to Chairman Anderson that he would have to research this information and provide a response at a later date. Mr. Outlaw shared that SC Works does have a Small Business Outreach Program that they are currently working on. They reached out to Suri Industries, but the outcome was unsuccessful due to personnel changes. This program was going to set up a boot camp for the company to develop employment soft skills as well as set up a hiring event. He shared that they have developed a database across the state for employers of small businesses to help educate them on the services provided at SC Works. Ms. Clark stated that the number of employees that characterizes a small businesses is not tracked at the same level at the State as some may think when they think of a traditional small business of 10-25 employees. This number may be around 250 or so. Chairman Anderson expressed that businesses that have up to 15 employees should also have assistance at the center. Chairman Anderson asked if the SC Works Center had reached out to the schools since he recently read in the newspaper about School District's utilization of Kelly Services for hiring assistance – which has increased nearly 50% in the school district's hiring process. Mr. Jackson stated that SC Works had hosted Kelly Services hiring events once a month last year for Sumter County School District. Ms. Clark shared that Sumter School District was also a vendor at the Sumter Adult Education Career Fair. Ms. Clark added that despite the increase in the hiring process with Kelly Services, there is a high turnover level with the school district that she believes will be an ongoing issue. She did state that the increase in pay that the school district has granted to employees should hopefully assist them with keeping these positions filled long term. Chairman Anderson stated that he believes that this issue will get better since the Board of Trustees are working diligently to make this better. Mr. Jackson clarified to the Committee that that the only positions that Kelly Services were hiring at the Job Fair last year, were teachers.

Mr. Jackson also highlighted that during the previous week, SC Works received a Workshop Opportunity for free expungement with SC Legal. This event will be held on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm.

## VII. Other Business

- **Release of Request for Proposals for WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker Services (M)**

Ms. Clark provided a quick update on the history of when the last Request for Proposal was released for Title I WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Services – PY'18/PY'19. She indicated that after 4 year, the local area must release another RFP. In response, Chairman Anderson entertained a motion to approve releasing a Request for Proposals for WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Services. **A motion was made by Berri**

**Outlaw 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.**

## **VIII. Adjourn**

The SC Works Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:36AM.

Recorded By,

*Kourtney Hammond*

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