



**SANTEE-LYNCHES**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Virtual Youth Committee Meeting via Zoom**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023 - 10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present via Zoom:**

Calvin Hastie (Chairman), Dr. Vanessa Canty, Ramona Lies, Gail Lemmon, Loretta Gaillard, Veronica Robinson

**Members Not Present**

Fred Brantley, Jeannine Gamble, Barbara Brown, Brenda Gardner

**Workforce Development 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  
Kourtney Hammond, SLRCOG Administrative Assistant I-PR

**Guests:**

Deidre Smalls, Area Manager, Eckerd Connects-Workforce Development  
Renee Alexander, Eckerd Connects - Workforce Development

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairman Calvin Hastie called the Santee-Lynch Workforce Development Board's Youth Committee Meeting to order at 10:00AM. A quorum was present.

**II. Approval of Agenda – (M)**

Chairman Hastie called for a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made by Ms. Veronica Robinson and seconded by Ms. Ramona Lies.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

**III. Approval of Minutes- January 10, 2023 (M)**

Chairman Hastie called for a motion to approve the minutes from January 10, 2023. **A motion was made by Ms. Veronica Robinson and seconded by Dr. Vanessa Canty.** There being no discussion, Chairman Hastie called for the vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. Youth Performance Update**

Ms. Deidre Smalls, Area Manager for Eckerd Connects, presented the Youth Performance Update.

## **Chart I: Total Active Enrollments (7/1/2022 through 2/22/2023)**

New - 29

Actual - 44

Goal - 105

Ms. Smalls shared with the Committee that her team still remains behind with enrolling youth to meet their end goal. However, they are actively collaborating with their partners such as Adult Ed, Road of Independence, along with other career partners to help meet the goal for the year. She also expressed that her team is currently connecting with two group homes (Turbeville Group Home and Sumter Group Home) and are waiting for a response on how we can possibly serve some of their youth. Ms. Smalls also shared with the Committee that the Eckerd team will be attending the Graduate to Greatness event to assist those students who do not have a post-graduation plan. Ms. Smalls added that they are advertising their services by word of mouth and through publications to the public while encouraging current enrollees to also provide referrals.

## **Chart 2: Occupational Skills Training**

Received Training - 18 Youth

- Training provided in the Transportation & Healthcare Sectors
  - CDL
  - Patient Care Technician
  - Clinical Medical Assistant

Ms. Smalls said that the Transportation and Medical Sectors continue to be the leading trainings of choice. Ms. Smalls sent special thanks to Youth Committee Member, Ms. Jeannine Gamble for assisting the team with her connection to Sumter County Government for helping them get two of their youth that are CDL licensed employed as Driving Assistants for Waste Management. Ms. Smalls also added that the team have successfully had five youth enrolled into employment in February with an average wage of \$17.34/hour. Chairman Hastie asked Ms. Smalls to describe the occupation of those individuals hired on as a driver assistants. Ms. Smalls explained that the individuals hired as driver assistants will be shadowing waste management drivers in order to gain experience prior to becoming a waste management driver due to insurance purposes. Chairman Hastie asked Ms. Smalls if these individuals have their CDLs and if so, RTA of Sumter has a high demand for drivers and if her team can refer individuals for employment opportunities. Ms. Smalls confirmed that the individuals do have their CDL, and staff will spread the word and assist RTA with meeting their employment needs.

Chairman Hastie also asked Ms. Smalls to share with the Committee what Graduate to Greatness is about. Ms. Smalls explained that it is a partnership in Sumter County to provide information and aid students' connections with employers for those without post-graduation decisions. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in which Ms. Smalls and her team will be in attendance. Ms. Clark further explained that Ms. Brenda Gardner is the person working on this project and its goal is to target high school students who are not going to college and help provide them the opportunity to find employment. This is the second year of hosting this event. Ms. Gardner and the economic development team encourage parents to sign the permission slips in order for their children to take advantage of the opportunity of attending the event. Mr. Esmonde Levy stated that he would provide the promotional video to the Committee for them to get a better snapshot of what the Graduate to Greatness Event is about.

Ms. Clark noted that the Youth Committee Member, Ms. Gail Lemmon, was in attendance as an employer at last year's event. Ms. Lemmon stated they had approximately 100 students attend. Ms.

Clark stated that she will ensure that the Committee receives the flyer once it is officially released by Ms. Gardner and the economic development team.

### **Chart 3: Youth Performance Outcomes Update**

Credentials - 33

Measurable Skills Gain - 83

Ms. Smalls explained to the Committee that multiple Credentials can be earned in the Health Care Sector, such as a CNA or phlebotomy certification. Chairman Hastie asked Ms. Smalls to explain what a credential and measurable skills gains is. Ms. Smalls identified credentials as an accomplishment that individuals can receive as a result of completing occupational skills training (ex. CDL License) and measurable skills are any progression that individuals have gained while being in the training program (ex. completing a required exam during the training program).

### **Chart 4: Performance Outcomes Update**

WEX/OJT - 7

Resumes Created - 25

Career Smart - 28

Adult Education - 8

### **Youth Program Highlight**

#### **Olivia Coward**

Ms. Olivia Coward entered the WIOA program in October 2022 as an out-of-school youth who was Basic Skills Deficient (BSC), low income, parenting youth and homeless. Ms. Coward had a desire to enter the medical field and enrolled into the Patient Care Technician program at Professional Development and Training Services in Lugoff, SC. Olivia successfully completed CNA and Phlebotomy training and obtained her state credentials. On February 20, 2023, Ms. Coward obtained full-time employment with McLeod Health as a Med Surg Tech at \$16 per hour with benefits. She is looking forward to starting EKG training on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **V. Financial Report**

Mr. Esmonde Levy, Workforce Manager, presented the Financial Report for PY'2022 through 1/31/2023.

### **Chart 1: Eckerd Youth Total**

Eckerd has expended \$179,742 of \$400,000 (44.94% expended) with a remaining balance of \$220,258.

### **Chart 2: Eckerd Youth Total**

Jul-22: \$17,872

Aug-22: \$12,121

Sep-22: \$47,841

Oct-22: \$20,460

Nov-22: \$23,210

Dec-22: \$20,761

Jan-23: \$37,476

## **VI. Other Business/Committee Discussion**

- Committee Member Updates/ Announcements

Chairman Hastie opened the floor for Committee Discussion. He highlighted that the “Festival on the Avenue” will be held April 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>. The point of contact is Ms. Gwen Clyburn. Chairman Hastie shared that this would be a great opportunity to have SC Works/Eckerd onsite to target youth. Mr. Levy shared that there is an agenda and flyer on their website: [www.festivalontheave.org](http://www.festivalontheave.org).

Chairman Hastie expressed to the Committee to support Coach Allen’s Afterschool Program at the South Sumter gym. He is also seeking volunteers for assistance.

Chairman Hastie extended an invitation to Committee members interested in joining him on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM to view the court process he has with three youth between the ages of 13 and 17. He stated that this opportunity will allow them to hear the stories that youth have in their upbringing and how it has caused them to be in legal troubles. Chairman Hastie stated that for those Committee members that are interested in attending, he will be happy to introduce them to the judge.

Ms. Clark extended a special thanks to the Committee for being ambassadors for the community. She encouraged them to continue doing the great things they are doing and begin sharing the official Youth Flyer created by Ms. Freda Amerson to help bring awareness of our services throughout the community. A copy of the flyer will be emailed to the Committee members.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM.

Recorded by,



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