



**Workforce Committee on Innovation Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.**

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Phone Conference ID: 955 992 66#

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Opening RemarksDr. Windsor Sherrill, Committee Chair
- II. Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2023* Dr. Sherrill
- III. Priority Update.....Ms. Pamela Jones
- IV. H-1B Rural Health Grant Ms. Bridgette Coates/Ms. Ann Skinner
- V. WOTC/Conditional Certification Initiatives..... Ms. Amy Hill
- VI. Other Business/Adjourn..... Dr. Sherrill

*Denotes voting item

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
May 18, 2023 Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Mr. Jay Holloway*, Chair
Ms. Valerie S. Richardson*
Ms. Susan H. Cohen
Dr. Windsor W. Sherrill
Senator Ross Turner

Members Absent:

Ms. Felicia Johnson
Mr. Craig Currey

Welcome and Opening RemarksMr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair

Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Holloway welcomed Ms. Sara Pincelli, Project Coordinator, with the Digital Equity Office.

Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2023*Mr. Holloway

Dr. Windsor Sherrill motioned to approve the February 16, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Susan Cohen seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

Digital Equity ActMs. Sara Pincelli

Ms. Sara Pincelli, Project Coordinator at the South Carolina Department of Administration and the newly formed Digital Equity Office, presented on her travels across the state, speaking to residents and organizations about how the lack of high-speed internet affects their daily lives and learning about successful programs. The information Ms. Pincelli has gathered will be used to create the SC Five-Year Broadband Plan. Ms. Pincelli explained the comprehensive plan will be submitted to the Federal Government for funding opportunities. At the time of her presentation, the timeline for funding and how it would be dispersed were unavailable.

During Ms. Pincelli’s presentation, committee members and attendees discussed opportunities and shared how the lack of internet access affects the areas in which they live and work. SWDB members and partnering agencies offered assistance and referrals to Ms. Pincelli and her team.

SC at Work Road TripMs. Diana Goldwire

Ms. Diana Goldwire, Area Director and Interim Assistant Executive Director of Employer Services, presented on DEW’s SC@Work Road Trips. These Road Trips are part of DEW’s ongoing rural initiative to make DEW and SC Works services assessable to jobseekers in rural and underserved areas. Utilizing the SC Works Career Coach and partnering with local vendors and service providers, the Road Trips are mobile job fairs and community events. The Road Trips visited six locations in the Pee Dee, resulting in 40 potential hires and 163 follow-up interviews. Ms. Goldwire advised of future stops dates and regions.

Priority UpdatesMs. Pamela Jones

Ms. Pamela Jones provided an update on the Committee’s Program Year (PY) 2022 priorities.

- *Rural Engagement: Economic and Workforce Analysis*
 - The Darla Moore School of Business conducted an economic and workforce analysis of the state. The Rural Analysis study and presentation are available on scworks.org.

*Denotes voting item

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- Using the findings from the Rural Analysis, a Rural Outcomes Memo is being developed to be used as a reference tool for the Local Workforce Development Areas to combat long-term unemployment for job seekers in rural areas.
- DEW has also created SC@Work Road Trips, using the SC Works Career Coach to bring the services of DEW and the SC Works One-Stop Centers to the rural areas as part of its ongoing rural initiative.
- *LMI Training for Board Members*
 - LMI training for members has been accomplished. Additionally, we have placed training webinars on the Portal and will continue to update them as necessary.
- *Shared Case Management System to Support Intake, Referral, and Co-enrollment.*
 - The SWDB allocated \$250,000 in funding to procure a consultant to conduct a feasibility study, working with partners to determine the needs and requirements for a Shared Case Management System. At the end of the 12-month contract period, the consultant will provide recommendation(s) to the partners and DEW on how to achieve a more integrated system to support intake, referral, and co-enrollment. Staff will continue to provide updates on the procurement process for selecting a vendor. This priority will carry over into PY’23
- *Investments for In-Demand Training*
 - The SWDB allocated \$1M in funding to expand the utilization of the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT), to allow occupational skills training, on-the-job training, and customized training strategies for those who are employed and for unemployed people. The Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) can determine the type of training to offer but should align investments with training in high-growth industries and preparing for emerging-demand occupations. This priority will carry over into PY’23
- *Career Exploration and Training through virtual reality*
 - The preliminary research was completed to learn how Virtual Reality is being utilized within education and workforce development. Staff will continue to identify opportunities for the SWDB and the Committee to expand the utilization of Virtual Reality for training and career exploration. This priority will carry over into PY’23

Other Business/Adjourn.....Mr. Holloway

Mr. Holloway informed the Committee that he would be resigning as Chairman of the Workforce Innovation Committee but will continue to serve on the Innovation Committee. He announced that Dr. Windsor C. Sherrill had been appointed as the Committee’s Chair.

Mr. Thomas Freeland, Chairman of the State Workforce Development Board, thanked Mr. Holloway for his leadership and continued service as a member of SWDB. Mr. Freeland thanked Dr. Sherrill for accepting the position of Committee Chair.

Mr. Holloway reminded Committee members that the next SWDB meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. He also reminded members that the 2023 Workforce Development Symposium will be at the Williams Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC, on September 19, 2023, and encouraged everyone to attend.

*Denotes voting item

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The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

DRAFT

*Denotes voting item



H-1B Rural Healthcare Grant

Grant Specifics

To expand healthcare occupations in rural areas by providing employment and training opportunities that lead to well-paying, middle- and high-skilled jobs

Award: \$2,271,023

Grant period: 02/01/2021 to 01/31/2025

1 of only 17 H-1B Rural Healthcare grants awarded by USDOL

Through 06/2023:

191 participants in classroom training or On-the-Job Training (OJT)

80 have completed a training activity

70 have received a credential

REGIONS

Upper Savannah Local Workforce Area's counties-Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Laurens, Newberry and Saluda

Pee Dee Local Workforce Area's counties-Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion and Marlboro, plus Clarendon & Williamsburg for the purpose of the grant

Urgent South Carolina Need

South Carolina has been identified as having the 5th greatest shortage of Registered Nurses in the nation. Considering SC's size, the skills gap is urgent.

The shortage of nurses endangers the health of all state residents. It also drives up healthcare costs for patients and employers who pay insurance premiums.

Pee Dee and Upper Savannah developed separate strategies to fill the healthcare pipeline with an ultimate goal of growing more registered nurses.

Targeted Occupations at McLeod Health

CNAs

(McLeod's MSTs)

Phlebotomists

Pharmacy Techs
(incumbent workers
only)

Medical Assistants
(CMAs)

LPNs

RNs

Surgical
Technologists

Pee Dee Success Stories

Ms. Lattymer and Ms. Lawhon, Level UP participants, were featured in McLeod Magazine, Volume 38, Issue 2, 2023

They graduated from Florence-Darlington Technical College's Certified Pharmacy Technician Program and received certification.

Ms. Lawhon's certification brings her one step closer to her goal of becoming a pharmacist.



Upper Savannah

Employers: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda County Emergency Medical Services.

Occupations: Emergency Medical Technician (Basic and Advanced) and Paramedic.

Rural Needs

Traditional WIOA funding has been reduced, but rural areas have a large geographic area to serve.

Rural areas have less resources.

Populations are often older, less educated and poorer.

Level UP Innovations

Employer-centric format has helped us understand their needs.

Our partnership with training providers has helped us recruit trainees in other program areas. (New student orientation, faculty orientation at tech campus.)

Looked at retention and built-in tutoring.

Streamlined intake process - virtual application.

Ambulance Simulator



Piedmont Technical College received the grant-funded ambulance simulator in February 2022. This has allowed for training to be provided to students at all campus locations.

Upper Savannah Success Story

Jessica Depauk completed her EMT training in May of 2023. She completed her National Registry EMT exam in June, successfully passing on her first attempt, and earning her full EMT credential.

Jessica is now employed with Laurens County EMS as an EMT.

“I am forever thankful for Level UP helping me in realizing my dream”

National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians

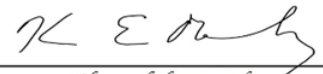
Hereby Certifies

Jessica E. Depauk

as an

Emergency Medical Technician

*duly registered together with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto
in consideration of having satisfied the prescribed national standards for certification.
In Testimony Whereof, the seal of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
and signatures as authorized by the Board of Directors are hereunto affixed this
Fifth day of June, 2023 A.D.*


Chair of the Board




Executive Director

Registry Number: E3755479

How can State Workforce Development Board support rural innovative strategies?

- Highlight best practices at board meetings.
- Target resources to rural areas - It is hard for local areas to be innovative when they are struggling with keeping centers open.
- Support efforts to seek additional funding.
- SCDEW helped Level UP with:
 - Labor Market Information
 - reporting services
 - connections with statewide partners
- Help us find and apply for other funding.

QUESTIONS?



Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Better Bottom Line for South Carolina Business

- The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program provides federal tax credits for businesses each time they hire a new, eligible employee.
- The program is simple. Businesses make the hiring decision and complete minimal paperwork to apply for the certification to take a tax credit.
- With absolutely no limit on the number of qualified hires businesses can claim, they can receive a maximum credit anywhere from \$1,200 to \$9,600 for each one of their eligible new employees.
- WOTC increases their return on investment while helping targeted employees become self-sufficient and earn a steady income.

Certification vs Conditional Certification

- **CERTIFICATION:** A business prescreens a newly hired employee and submits a request for the certification to take a Work Opportunity Tax Credit.
- **CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION:** An individual was prescreened and received a conditional certification from an authorized partner.
 - An individual that possess a Conditional Certification may leverage a job opportunity with a business by presenting the possible tax incentive

Conditional Certification Efforts

- **SC Department of Corrections**
 - Qualified returning citizens may receive a conditional certification upon release
 - Conditional certification (maximum \$2,400)
 - Returning citizens are instructed to obtain a Federal Bonding Voucher from their local SC Works center
- **SC Works Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP)**
 - Qualified veterans may receive a conditional certification from the DVOP staff
 - Conditional certification (maximum \$2,400 to \$9,600)

Stronger South Carolina Economy

- **PY 2022 STATISTICS: (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)**
 - **Issued certifications for a maximum of \$115,351,200.00**
 - ✓ \$15,016,800.00 veterans
 - **Assisted 42,765 job seekers leverage employment**
 - ✓ 3,633 veterans

Thank You

Any Questions?

Amy Hill, Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Federal Bonding Manager

(803) 737-3228 or ahill@dew.sc.gov

Equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

For program funding details in compliance with the Stevens Amendment, please visit www.dew.sc.gov/funding.