

Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
August 17, 2023, Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Dr. Windsor Sherrill*, Chair
Ms. Valerie S. Richardson*
Ms. Susan H. Cohen
Col. Craig Currey
Dr. Tim Hardee
Mr. Jay Holloway
Ms. Elaine Morgan
Mr. Tyler Servant

Members Absent:

Ms. Felicia Johnson
Sen. Ross Turner

Welcome and Opening RemarksDr. Windsor Sherrill, Committee Chair

Dr. Windsor Sherrill called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present. Dr. Sherrill welcomed new Committee members Dr. Tim Hardee and Mr. Tyler Servant.

Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2023*Dr. Sherrill

Col. Craig Currey motioned to approve the May 18, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Jay Holloway seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

Priority UpdatesMs. Pamela Jones

Ms. Pamela Jones provided an update on the Committee’s Program Year (PY) 2023 priorities.

- *Shared Case Management System to Support Intake, Referral, and Co-enrollment*
 - During PY’22, 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. A vendor has been selected, and Staff will continue to provide updates on this priority. 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.
- *Investments for In-Demand Training*
 - During PY’22, 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 unemployed. 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.
 - Local areas were encouraged to submit requests for all training funds needed within their local areas by August 15, 2023. Requests from the 12 LWDAs totaled \$2.5M. Staff is currently reviewing the submissions and will update the Committee.
 - SWDB has allocated a total of \$2M for training funding.
- *Career Exploration and Training through Virtual Reality*
 - The preliminary research to learn how virtual reality is used within the workforce was completed during the first quarter of PY’22. Staff are in exploratory conversations with

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other state agencies and partners around career exploration and training utilizing Virtual Reality technology. Staff will continue to identify opportunities for the SWDB and the Committee to expand the utilization of Virtual Reality for training and career exploration.

- *Rural Engagement: Economic and Workforce Analysis*
 - Rural Engagement is an ongoing priority for the SC Department of Employment and Works. The SC@Work Road Trips will continue to host mobile job fairs and community events with stops in Allendale, Bamberg, Summerton, Manning, and Sumter Counties during the month of September as part of the Workforce Development Month activities. SWDB members will receive curated lists of WDM activities in their local areas.

H-1B Rural Health Grant Ms. Bridgette Coates/Ms. Ann Skinner
Ms. Coates, Pee Dee Workforce Program Developer, and Ms. Skinner, Upper Savannah Workforce Development Administrator, provided an overview of the Level Up Rural Healthcare Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s H-1B Rural Healthcare Grant Program to expand healthcare occupations in rural areas by providing employment and training opportunities.

In February 2021, the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments and the Upper Savannah Council of Governments partnered and were awarded \$2,271,023 in grant funding. The Level Up Rural Health Grant provides participants with employment and training opportunities that lead to an occupational license as a Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Emergency Medical Tech/Paramedic, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomist, and Certified Nursing Assistant.

In June 2023, through partnerships with training providers such as Northeastern and Florence-Darlington Technical Colleges, employer partners McLeod Health System and EMS in Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda Counties, and state apprenticeship agencies, the Level Up Grant had served over 341 participants in classroom or On-the-Job training, 80 have completed a training activity, and 70 have received a credential. In February 2022, the Upper Savannah Council of Government provided a grant to Piedmont Technical College to purchase an Ambulance Simulator. The transportable ambulance simulator is used for EMS training at multiple campuses.

Ms. Coates and Ms. Skinner explained that the EMS training provided through the Level Up Rural Healthcare Grant is one of the career pathways a person can take toward a higher-level medical occupation.

WOTC Conditional Certification Initiatives.....Ms. Amy Hill
Ms. Amy Hill, Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Federal Bonding Program Manager, provided an overview of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Conditional Certification Initiatives available to employers.

WOTC Program provides employers between \$1,200 to \$9,600 in federal tax credits for each qualified employee hired. The tax credit is an incentive for employers to hire individuals with

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barriers. There isn’t a limit on the number of new hires nor the amount of tax credit an employer can receive.

The Conditional Certification Initiative provides prescreened employees with a certificate they can share with potential employers about the WOTC federal tax credits they could receive. WOTC has partnered with the SC Department of Corrections (SCDOC) and SC Works Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) to issue a conditional certification for up to \$2400 and \$9600 in tax credits, respectively. SCDOC recipients are also instructed on obtaining a Federal Bonding Voucher from their local SC Works center.

In PY’22, SC Businesses received \$115,351,200.00 in tax relief that could be reinvested into the state’s economy.

Other Business/Adjourn.....Dr. Sherrill

Dr. Sherrill reminded Committee members that in lieu of a 1st quarter meeting, members are encouraged to attend the 2023 Workforce Development Symposium on September 19, 2023, at the Williams Brice Stadium. Members were asked to email swdb@dew.sc.gov to register for the Symposium.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

