

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
August 30, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Valerie Richardson
Mr. William Floyd
Mr. Warren Snead
Mr. Charles Brave, Jr.
Mr. Pat Michaels

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Thomas Freeland
Dr. Windsor Sherrill
Mr. John Uprichard

Welcome and Opening Remarks Ms. Valerie Richardson, SWDB Vice-Chair

Ms. Valerie Richardson, SWDB Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2023* Ms. Richardson

Mr. Pat Michaels motioned to approve the June 7, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Warren Snead seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

SNAP/E&T Program Ms. Tamara P. James

Ms. Tammy James, Director of Employment Services at the SC Department of Social Services (DSS), presented an overview of the services and programs offered by the Division of Employment Services, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T). In compliance with the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS), Ms. James consulted with the Executive Committee on program improvements and alignment with SWDB priorities.

SC@Work: Photo Contest Ms. Dorothy Weaver

Ms. Dorothy Weaver, Director of Communications, provided instructions to the Executive Committee on how to vote for SC@Work: Photo Contest winners. SC@Work is an initiative to celebrate hard work and dedication in South Carolina by showcasing "SC at work." Employers across the state photographed their employees working and submitted their entries to DEW. Ms. Weaver explained there will be five winners, one from each workforce region and an overall winner for the State. SWDB members were asked to participate in the voting process. The winners will be announced at the 2023 Workforce Development Symposium on September 19, 2023. Voting closed on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.

Committee Activity Reports..... Committee Chairs

Board Development Committee – Pat Michaels, Chair

Mr. Pat Michaels reviewed the Board Development Committee priorities:

Carryover PY’22:

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training*
 - The Committee will host the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for SWDB members on October 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., during the 2nd quarter Committee meeting.

New Priorities for PY’23:

- *High-Performance Board Initiative*

*Denotes voting item

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- The development of an initiative to reward Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) for achieving high-performance levels and utilizing innovative practices that align with State Board priorities. Local areas will have the opportunity to provide feedback via a survey, helping to determine the incentive criteria.
- *2023 Workforce Development Month/ Workforce Development Symposium*
 - The Committee reviewed the 2022 Workforce Development Month activities. SWDB members were encouraged to participate in 2023 Workforce Development Month activities in their local areas.
 - The Committee reviewed a draft of the agenda for the 2023 Workforce Development Symposium on September 19, 2023, at the Williams-Brice Stadium. Board members were encouraged to attend the Workforce Symposium, noting that Mrs. Val Richardson will be one of the speakers.

Workforce Committee on Innovation – Dr. Windsor Sherrill

Ms. Pamela Jones presented the Workforce Committee on Innovation activity report.

The Innovation Committee reviewed the status of PY'23 priorities:

- *Shared Case Management System to Support Intake, Referral, and Co-enrollment*
 - The State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) allocated \$250,000 to procure a vendor to conduct a feasibility study during PY'22. The vendor would work with partners to determine the needs and options to create a Shared Case Management System. A vendor has been selected, and Staff will continue to provide updates on this priority.
- *Investment for In-Demand Training*
 - The SWDB allocated \$1M in funding to expand the utilization of Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) to include occupational skills training, on-the-job training, and customized training strategies. Local areas can determine the type of training to offer, aligning 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 areas by August 15, 2023. Staff is currently reviewing requests from each of the 12 areas. The training funds requested totaled \$2.5M.
- *Career Exploration through Virtual Reality*
 - Staff is in exploratory conversations with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) around career exploration and training utilizing Virtual Reality Technology. We will continue to explore this and other opportunities.
- Ms. Bridgette Coates, Pee Dee Workforce Program Developer, and Ms. Ann Skinner, Upper Savannah's Workforce Development Administrator, shared an overview of the H-1B Rural Health Grant they received from the Department of Labor to expand healthcare occupations in rural areas. Target occupations include CNAs, Phlebotomists, and EMTs. The total grant award was \$2.2M. Since the grant award on February 1, 2021, the grant has served over 341 participants.

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- Ms. Amy Hill, Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Federal Bonding Programs Manager, provided the Innovation Committee with an overview of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Conditional Certification Initiatives available to employers. Employers can receive a tax credit between \$1,200 to \$9,600 for each employee.

SC Works Management Committee – Warren Snead, Chair

The SC Works Management Committee did not meet during the 1st quarter. In alignment with the Committee’s soft skills certificate priority, the Committee hosted the SC Professional Skills Certificate Employer Forum. SWDB members who serve as ‘representatives of business’ were invited to participate in the virtual demo and feedback session, at which WIN Learning demonstrated Digital Literacy and Essential Soft Skills Courseware and Assessments. Attendees were able to provide feedback on the value of the credential and offer suggestions for how to encourage employer utilization in recruiting and hiring decisions.

The Office of Adult Education asked those invited to complete the SC Digital Skills for Employment survey. The additional information gathered will be used to enhance the remediation classes offered through Adult Education programs.

Other Business/Adjourn..... Ms. Richardson

Ms. Richardson reminded SWDB members and guests that the 1st quarter full board meeting has been canceled to encourage attendance at the 2023 Workforce Symposium on September 19, 2023. Members were asked to RSVP by August 31, 2023, by emailing swdb@dew.sc.gov to register. The next full board meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Richardson also reminded members, that the Board Development Committee is hosting the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training for all SWDB members on October 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Last, she asked members to vote for their favorite photo for the SC@Works: Photo Contest by Tuesday, September 5, at 11:59 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

*Denotes voting item