Workforce Committee on Innovation Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

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AGENDA

I.   Welcome and Opening Remarks ....Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair

II. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2021* ....Mr. Holloway

III. Introduction of LMI Director..Dr. Bryan Grady

IV. Promising Practices/Success Stories... Ms. Jadai Bergolla

V.   WIOA State Plan..Ms. Jackie Taylor

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

*Denotes voting item

Members Present: **Members Excused:**

Mr. Jay Holloway   None
Col. Craig Currey
Mr. Archie Maddox
Ms. Felicia Johnson

Welcome and Opening Remarks .... Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair
Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of August 24, 2021 Minutes*.. Mr. Holloway
Mr. Archie Maddox motioned to approve the August 24, 2021, meeting minutes. Col. Craig Currey seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Digital Economy Ecosystem ....Ms. Kim Bowman
Ms. Kim Bowman, Founder, SC Rural Innovation Network (SCRIN), presented to the Committee on the development of Digital Economy Ecosystems (DEE) in Williamsburg, Barnwell, and Orangeburg counties. A DEE is a mix of technical education, job training, and community planning to bring digital jobs, local entrepreneurship, and remote work opportunities to rural communities. A US Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant, awarded to the SC Office of Rural Health, is currently funding these projects. The projects begin with the development of a roadmap, which is a strategic planning tool for kick-starting a digital economy; an economic development tool for revitalizing counties and communities through the advancements of digital literacy and skills; and a guide for creating a digitally skilled workforce and pipeline for local and remote tech jobs, new businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovations. Key community stakeholders create DEE roadmaps through a process of assessing community readiness, evaluating community assets, and prioritizing short and long-term goals. The DEE projects in Barnwell and Williamsburg are making progress toward implementing several strategies outlined in their roadmaps. Orangeburg is in the discovery phase of its project, and SCRIN is evaluating Newberry and Greenwood as future project sites. There was a discussion about the lack of broadband Internet access in rural areas and the implications on DEE projects. Ms. Bowman emphasized the project's focus on taking advantage of broadband Internet access in downtown or central locations by creating co-working/collaborative workspaces that will enable individuals to train and work remotely.

Committee Priorities Update ....Ms. Nina Staggers
Ms. Nina Staggers provided a progress report on two Committee priorities:

- *Distribute relevant publications:* Board members received the September issue of the Trends publication, created by DEW's Division of Labor Market Information, and will continue to receive the publication monthly. The September issue featured data on several important labor market measures, including job openings, new hires, and layoffs and discharges.

- *Develop Labor Market Information (LMI) training for board members:* with the Committee's emphasis on data and statistics, staff recommended the addition of an LMI module to New Member Orientation. The training module will include an introduction to LMI, covering topics such as what is LMI, types of LMI, and common definitions. The training will also provide tutorials on reading and understanding the weekly data dashboard, the monthly employment

announcement, and the Trends publication. The goal of LMI training is to help board members understand how to use data for planning and decision-making.

Other Business/Adjourn... **Mr. Holloway**
The Committee did not discuss any other business. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

South Carolina WIOA State Plan Priorities PYs 2020-2023

+ Vision

To expand and develop a skilled workforce and a responsive workforce system that meets the needs of business and industry leading to sustainable growth economic prosperity and regional and global competetiveness for South Carolina.

+ Mission

To align resources to position South Carolinians to meet business needs and promote our workforce in a global economy.

+ Guiding Principles

- Focus solely on activities that support the mission.
- Evaluate economic and labor market data, and actively listen to an inclusive group of partners, employers, and job seekers.
- Base strategies and decisions on data and input.
- Be accountable for outcomes that support business growth and economic opportunities for all South Carolinians.

Objectives	Priorities	Action Steps
1 Identify, invest in and support educational and developmental strategies to better prepare and expand a skilled workforce for current and emerging jobs.	**1.1** Increase participation in work-based learning (WBL) activities, including registered apprenticeships. **1.2** Increase the formal assessment of soft-skills and provision of soft-skills training. **1.3** Increase resource investment into direct services for job seekers through results-oriented discretionary grants.	**1.1.1** Benchmark current work-based learning activities and identify regional and national trends. **1.1.2** Develop technical assistance tools and guidance to ensure a proper framework is in place to promote work-based learning. **1.2.1** Review local practices in the assessment of soft-skills and provision of soft-skills training. **1.2.2** Recommend use of formal soft-skill assessments and curriculum as part of education or training. **1.3.1** Develop a data-driven framework to distribute discretionary funds.
2 Align resources, policies and strategies between state, local and regional systems to continuously improve outcomes for businesses, partners, and individuals, including those with barriers to employment.	**2.1** Increase co-enrollment across partner programs. **2.2** Develop and implement cross-partner front-line staff training to enhance service delivery to businesses and job seekers. **2.3** Streamline intake systems and referral processes. **2.4** Implement strategies that increase access to reliable transportation, affordable housing and access to identification and vital records. **2.5** Increase the number of regional, industry-led, sector partnerships.	**2.1.1** Develop guidance that sets the expectations of enrollment in multiple programs in order to meet the education, training and supportive service needs of individuals. **2.2.1** Pursue a shared learning management system – a software-based platform that facilitates the management, delivery and measurement of learning across partner programs. **2.2.2** Train front-line staff on best practices in serving individuals with barriers to employment. **2.3.1** Evaluate intake and referral systems across the state to identify problems and develop policy to implement process improvements. **2.4.1** Develop tools and resources to help job seekers be better connected to community resources. **2.5.1** Share progress of industry-led, sector partnerships through strategic discussions and a public facing website. **2.5.2** Develop and implement a long-term technical assistance plan with state partners to sustain and grow sector partnerships.
3 Identify current and future workforce needs of South Carolina business and industry to support career pathways in growth sectors.	**3.1** Identify the challenges and opportunities in rural communities. **3.2** Develop career pathway tools and templates.	**3.1.1** Support efforts of the Rural Taskforce formed through the State Workforce Development Board. **3.2.1** Inventory and analyze career pathway programs.
4 Engage job seekers, employers and other workforce partners through marketing and outreach and articulate a value proposition specific to each.	**4.1** Share best practices across partner programs in order to increase awareness of partner services, promote a workforce environment of growth and continuous improvement, and encourage a system viewpoint. **4.2** Improve strategic outreach to employers.	**4.1.1** Develop a method and common framework for submitting best practices to be shared across partner programs. **4.1.2** Develop system-wide innovation awards to incentivize best practices. **4.1.3** Adopt one workforce development area at a time to recognize and share innovative initiatives and programs underway, helping other areas across the state identify effective and replicable programs and learn from the success of their peers. **4.2.1** Develop a common framework for business engagement. **4.2.2** Create communication tools for business service representatives to use in sharing state and local services available to businesses.