

**Collaboration and Partnership Committee**  
**May 25, 2022 Collaboration and Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Ms. Valerie Richardson  
Mr. Cliff Bourke, Jr.  
Mr. Greg Clark  
Mr. Mike King  
Mr. Michael Sexton

**Members Excused:**

Representative Joe Daning  
Senator Ross Turner

**Welcome and Opening Remarks ..... Ms. Valerie Richardson, Committee Chair**

Ms. Valerie Richardson, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was present.

**Approval of February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes\* ..... Ms. Richardson**

Mr. Mike King motioned to approve February 17, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Michael Sexton seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

**Review of PY'21 Committee Priorities ..... Ms. Jackie Taylor**

Ms. Jackie Taylor shared a progress report on the Committee's priorities for program year (PY) 2021.

- Increase utilization of work-based learning: In PY'20, a preliminary Title I analysis was conducted, and work-based learning was added to the Productivity Dashboard. In PY'21, a cross-agency Work-based Learning (WBL) Workgroup was formed to identify strategies for expanding the utilization of WBL. Agencies on the WBL Workgroup include the Commission for the Blind, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Employment and Workforce, and Department of Social Services. The first Work-Based Learning Workgroup meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022.
- Supporting the creation of stackable credentials and career pathways: DEW has participated in stakeholder discussions to inform the development of stackable credentials and pathways. The pathways developed by the Department of Education and the Southern Regional Educational Board are under review.

**Discussion on Next Steps for Committee ..... Ms. Richardson**

Ms. Richardson explained the need to review the Committee Charter and identify next steps for the Committee to support the work of the SWDB going forward. Ms. Nina Staggers reviewed the five functions and duties outlined in the Committee's Charter and shared historical accomplishments for each.

1. Create a greater alignment with and partnership among workforce development, economic development, education, and community-based organizations.

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- The Committee supported and led the implementation of sector strategies as a vehicle for aligning education, workforce, and economic development partners to engage and meet the needs of business and industry. Sector strategies paved the way for public-private partnerships in manufacturing and healthcare and laid a foundation for local areas to work together regionally. Ms. Stagers reported that the Manufacturing Partnerships in the Upstate and South Coast regions are still active, while the South Coast and the Pee Dee healthcare partnerships are on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Improve state-level partnership through development of a cross-agency workforce development strategic plan, regular meetings, and MOU(s) to facilitate local-level collaboration.
    - The Committee supported and led the development of the state-level cross-agency MOU, which paved the way for partners to implement WIOA and engage in cross-agency strategic planning. The Committee convened the WIOA Core Partners and ensured the full implementation of WIOA and submission of the first WIOA State Plan. Prior to the legislation, each of the partners operated and planned independently. Mr. Mike King was acknowledged for his participation in cross-agency a strategic planning efforts.
  3. Implement and increase buy-in to the Certified Work Ready Communities Initiative.
    - The Collaboration and Partnership Committee led the implementation of Certified Work Ready Communities, ensuring statewide achievement of work-ready certification.
  4. Identify ways to enhance services to youth and other targeted populations through partnerships.
    - The Committee supports the Department of Education's creation of stackable credentials and the convening of a cross-agency workgroup, the Work-Based Learning Workgroup, to identify strategies for increasing the utilization of work-based learning across partners and programs, including youth programs.
  5. Provide opportunities for SWDB members to be engaged with workforce efforts and support SWDB initiatives.
    - The Board Development Committee has a similar function. It has executed its function by distributing SWDB ambassador tools, New Member Orientation, training and professional development, and encouraging engagement and participation in SWDB and workforce activities.

Ms. Richardson asked Committee members to shares pros and cons of sunseting the Committees and realigning priorities with the remaining standing committees. Mr. King and Mr. Cliff Bourke

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expressed that there is more work for the committee to do and the importance of the Committee’s role in facilitating collaboration among partners and with business and industry. Chairman Freeland asked which committee of the SWDB will focus on priority populations. Ms. Staggers explained that there is not a specific committee focused on priority population since inclusion is a guiding principle of WIOA and an overarching priority of the Board. She also explained that workgroups and taskforces can be used to address specific tasks and initiatives of the SWDB, and Ms. Michelle Paczynski explained that strategies identified by the Labor Force Participation Taskforce could possibly be assigned to committees of the SWDB for implementation. Ms. Paczynski also explained that since the formation of the Collaboration and Partnership Committee, other bodies have been formed and tasked with ensuring collaboration among education and workforce partners.

The discussion did not yield a recommendation to put forth to Chairman Freeland and the Executive Committee. Ms. Richardson recommended continuing the discussion after the June 28, 2022, Strategic Planning Session.

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

No other business was discussed. Ms. Richardson reminded members of the next SWDB meeting on June 28, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and a strategic planning session. In-person attendance was encouraged. Mr. Bourke, Jr. motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. King. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

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