

State Integrated Workforce Plan Public Comments

Ann Angermeier, Executive Director Upstate Workforce Investment Board

The SCDEW state office has in the past continually confused the businesses in the local areas because they send out correspondence and verbally speak of business services and do not mention the SC Works name. Business Service Teams in the area are out marketing the business services of SC Works. Businesses do not make this connection when SCDEW is out speaking only about DEW. The Business Teams are prolific in working with businesses in the Upstate area daily. They market all partner services in one package as SC Works. The new branding has taken a lot of work and has been very staff intensive. More confusion is not welcomed nor is it necessary. SCDEW has a negative reputation due to all of the problems with the unemployment insurance. It is something we certainly don't need to 'market'. The State Workforce Investment Board should require the use of the SC Works name when speaking of any business services that are a part of the one stop system. Especially until the critical failure of UI (as cited by DOL) and other UI issues are resolved.

Bridgette Coates, Workforce Program Developer Pee Dee Workforce Investment Board

The Pee Dee Youth Council began a unique partnership with Creekbridge High School in Marion County, in 2010. Marion County most consistently touts the highest unemployment in the State, and this particular school district is miles from industry and a downtown that it can call its own. Using incentive funds, the Youth Council furnished a mini "One Stop" on its campus that the school affectionately calls the Cyber Café. The Café is located in a specially paneled area in the library and it is equipped with pub tables and chairs, laptop computers and the job search software and tutorials that the Pee Dee WIB makes available in all of its SC Works Centers. Students can use the café for career exploration, to complete career assessments, improve basic skills, work on Keytrain, the WorkKeys tutorial, and other career related online activities.

The Pee Dee Local Workforce Area also boasts a best practice that has netted GEDs for nearly 600 WIA out-of-school youth dropouts since 2005! The GED Incentive program is centered around lots of participation and encouragement from devoted case managers, and a regimented, individualized schedule on Aztec Learning System and Steck-Vaughn practice tests software. The students receive cash incentives for accomplishing certain scores on each of the five areas of the GED, for achieving a 2375 on a final GED practice test, and for actually receiving their GEDs. The moral of the story is that students have different learning styles and a self-paced computerized classroom may be best for students who have either walked away from or been pushed out of a traditional classroom setting.



TO: Angela Jacobs, State and Local Boards Coordinator

Via e-mail to ajacobs@dew.sc.gov

FROM: Diane D. Rath, Senior Vice-President, ResCare Workforce Services

DATE: August 13, 2012

RE: Public Comment on the South Carolina Integrated Workforce Plan

As a proud partner to three regional workforce boards in South Carolina, ResCare Workforce Services provides SC Works Operator and other services to South Carolina residents and businesses. We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comment on the Integrated Workforce Plan.

Governor Haley and her Leadership Team have every right to be proud of the accomplishments and plans for the future of workforce development in the state. We were particularly impressed with the statewide initiative to build "Work Ready Communities" and look forward to the opportunity to participate in that initiative to an even greater degree in the future.

Clear plans for alignment of education economic development and workforce development appear to be positioned to move the state toward the ultimate goal: a better prepared workforce through the availability of more skills credentials for workers. Increasing and improving the conversations with business will allow the state to even further customize those credentials to meet the needs of employers with jobs to fill.

We have had the opportunity to see first-hand, in the regions where we provide services, the value of the integrated business services teams. We are proud participants on those teams in the Upstate, Pee Dee and Catawba regions. The process has been evolutionary and has resulted in a higher number of successful job matches for businesses and a higher rate of overall satisfaction with the services the SC Works centers can provide. We have appreciated this vision and encourage continuing its implementation as described in the plan.

During the past several months, ResCare Workforce Services has also been privileged to implement a contract for SC DSS to assist TANF applicants in searching for jobs. We have read and are impressed by the state's MOU between DEW and DSS to serve Food Stamp recipients and encourage, as all of the MOU's are redefined, your consideration of even more integration of all workforce related services through the SC Works Centers. This kind of integration will result in a reduction in both service duplication and cost.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this input.



The Agriculture Commission of South Carolina

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Request for Public Comment on the South Carolina Agricultural Outreach Plan Program Year 2012

August 17, 2012

Ms. Maria Trammell, State Monitor Advocate
South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce
PO Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
Email: mtrammell@dew.sc.gov

Dear Ms. Trammell,

The South Carolina Agricultural Commission is pleased to make comments on the Agricultural Outreach Plan for 2012. We recognize the importance of our migrant workforce and support efforts to provide a wide array of services to them while working in South Carolina.

With South Carolina employing some 11,000 migrant works annually in our state in crops from peaches to cucumbers, their services to our states farmers do not go unrecognized. South Carolina farm producers continue to seek improvements in Federal Migrant Labor programs to ensure that we can continue to employ a legal migrant workforce.

In state efforts as described in the 2012 Agricultural Outreach Plan will provide positive services to the migrant community and the Agricultural Commission supports those efforts. While we have no regulatory authority, we recognize the value that these services provide to the migrant community while in our state and hope that such efforts will continue.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on the 2012 State Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Price".

Frances K. Price, Chair
South Carolina Agricultural Commission