

Governor's State Workforce Development Board Minutes March 28, 2016

Members Present:

Mikee Johnson, Chair*
Clifford Bourke, Jr.*
Charles Brave Jr.*
Glenda Page*
Fred F. DuBard, III*
David W. Dunn*
Nick P. Foong*
Thomas Freeland*
Dr. Tim Hardee*
Jay Holloway, III*
Roger A. Nutt*
Eric Wages*
Glenda Page*
Rep. Michael Forrester
*Via Conference Call

J.T. McLawhorn, Jr.*
Valerie Richardson*
Patrick Michaels*
Dr. Michael Mikota*
Cheryl Stanton*
Michelle Kelley*
Col. Craig Currey*
James W. Snead*
Robert J. Friedman*
Neal Getsinger*
Michelle Kelley*
Ron P. Roveri*

Members Absent

**Howard Metcalf
**John D. Uprichard
**Greg Tinnell
**Archie Maddox
**Dr. Joseph Patton, III
**Willis Ponds
**Michael Sexton
**Dr. Windsor Sherrill
**J. Warren Snead
**Edward Sturcken

***Excused absence*

DEW Staff Present:

Michael Buchman
Scott Ferguson
Grey Parks
Pat Sherlock
Mary jo Schmick
Abby Linden
Michael Beard

Amanda Lucas
Nina Staggers
Michelle Paczynski
Egypt Bey
Zach Nickerson
Nithya Pramekumar
Towanna Hicks

Guests:

Steve Marshall, Voc Rehab
Mark Wade, Voc Rehab
Trent Acker, WorkLink
Margaret Alewine, SCVRD
Dean Jones, Greenville
Areatha Clark, Santee Lynches
Sandra Johnson, Upper Savannah
Hank Amundson, Lowcountry

Dr. David Stout-S.C Department of Education
Kyle Walker, S.C. Commission for the Blind
Brad Neese, Apprenticeship Carolina
Andre Anderson, Lower Savannah
Joette Dukes, Pee Dee
Michael King, Adult Ed SCDE
Nicole Lawing, Catawba

Welcome and Opening Remarks, Approval of Minutes*

Chairman Mikee Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Unified Plan

Ms. Nina Staggers provided an executive summary of the changes to the Unified Plan: the Workforce, Education and Training Analysis describes the education and training activities currently delivered, the strengths and weaknesses of the workforce system, and the state's capacity to continue delivering quality workforce preparation activities. The following strengths are highlighted in the plan: workforce is a top priority for state leadership, partnership and collaboration among workforce partners is more prevalent, and there are a number of programs and initiatives aimed at serving priority populations. There are opportunities, however, to improve the workforce system through enhanced systems and data integration, resource sharing, and operational policies and practices that ensure consistent service delivery across the state, and by using Labor Market Information to better align participant training and education opportunities with the skill needs of employers.

Ms. Staggers explained that the state plan describes additional strategies that will result in better alignment of programs and a strengthened workforce system. These strategies include coordinating business engagement activity, building and using data-driven decision making, expanding partnership and collaborations, and implementing SC Works certification standards.

Ms. Staggers was asked by Mr. J.T. McLawhorn to explain the rationale behind the decision to not include African Americans in the priority populations. She responded that the section in Economic and Workforce Analysis is particularly data driven and it examines the data and demographics in our state to identify the populations most in need. There is a possibility to look into the data further when finalizing the list of groups with barriers to employment who will be the focus of the priority populations committee.

Mr. McLawhorn also asked how we can best coordinate higher education initiatives to ensure that individuals who go through the system will graduate with employable skills. Ms. Stagers explained one of the ways that the plan addresses this goal is through the sector strategies initiative and by strengthening the workforce talent pipeline. Another strategy for our state is enhancing partnerships and collaborations and identifying those partners that need to be more heavily involved in the process.

Ms. Stagers provided that the plan was published on Friday, March 4th for a two week public comment period. There were a number of responses and as a result appropriate changes were made to the plan. Upon approval by the Board, the state plan will be submitted no later than April 1st.

A motion to approve the Unified Plan was made by Chairman Johnson seconded by Mr. Charles Brave, and unanimously approved by the Board.

SWDB Funded Initiatives Updates

Ms. Michael Beard gave an update of state funded projects. For Program Year 2014, the incentive grants has a zero balance, the GED grant program has a little more than \$2,000 remaining, and funds set aside for sector strategies has a little more than \$2,000 remaining, for a total of almost \$4,500.

With regard to Program Year 2015 state-funded projects, Ms. Beard stated that the expectation is to spend the remaining balance by the end of June. Incumbent Worker Training has a zero funding balance, job profiles has \$45,000 which is expected to be spent by the end of June, Apprenticeship for Target Populations has \$200,000 remaining, Incentives for Program Year 2014 has \$80,000 remaining, the symposium has \$40,000 remaining, and the Unified Plan Facilitator has \$40,000 for a total of more than one million dollars.

Ms. Stanton reiterated that the Board approved those initiatives last spring. Money was saved because Ms. Stagers, the team at the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce and other partners were able to complete the plan without the use of a facilitator, therefore they saved the state \$40,000. She added that Chairman Johnson brought the S.C. Chamber of Commerce and the agency together and suggested to facilitate one symposium rather than separate ones, saving the State an additional \$40,000.

Repurposing of Funds

Apprenticeship Grants for Priority Populations

Mr. Nick Foong reported on a request concerning the apprenticeship grants program. The SWDB allocated \$200,000 in competitive grants and these grants were meant to identify one or more successful proposals that would increase apprenticeship opportunities for priority populations including Veterans, long-term unemployed, ex-offenders, youth and individuals with disabilities. In February, ten applications were received and all of them qualified for review. Each proposal had its own individual strengths, but two of them were exemplary and met multiple criteria which included low participant cost, and combined would fund 140 apprentices at \$1,900 per participant. Both of these proposals total about \$260,000. There is about \$80,000 available for repurposing. The SC Works Management Committee would like to make a motion to use \$67,200 of that \$80,000 earmark to help increase the amount for apprenticeship grants from \$200,000 to \$267,200. This would allow for the apprenticeship program to move to a higher level for the state.

A motion to approve the increase in funding for Apprenticeship Grants for Priority Populations was made by Chairman Johnson, seconded by Mr. Charles Brave and unanimously approved by the Board.

Job Profiles

Rep. Michael Forrester reported that the board allocated \$150,000 to job profiles for PY 2015. To date, \$105,000 has been spent. Approximately \$45,000 was spent each quarter during this Program Year. There is \$12,800 available for reallocation. Collaboration and Partnership Committee moves to repurpose these funds toward job profiles.

A motion to approve the repurposing of funds toward job profiles was made by Chairman Johnson, seconded by Isaac Dickson and unanimously approved by the Board.

Other Business/Adjournment

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Charles Brave for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.