



Governor's State Workforce Development Board

June 19, 2025, State Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Thomas Freeland
Mr. William Floyd
Mr. Cliff Bourke, Jr.
Mr. Charles Brave, Jr.
Mr. Gregory C. Clark
Col. Craig Currey (retd.)
Ms. Darline Graham
Ms. Felicia Johnson
Mr. Mike King

Rep. Randy Ligon
Mr. George "GP" McLeer, Jr.
Mr. "Pat" Michaels
Ms. Elaine Morgan
Mr. Tyler Servant
Dr. Windsor W. Sherrill
Mr. Jeremy Stephens
Mr. Gregory L. Tinnell
Ms. Britt D. Vergnolle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Susan Cohen
Mr. J. Chris Hall
Dr. Tim Hardee
Mr. Jay Holloway
Mr. Michael W. Sexton
Mr. Warren Snead
Senator Ross Turner
Mr. John Uprichard

Welcome and Opening Remarks **Mr. Thomas Freeland, SWDB Chair**

Mr. Thomas Freeland, State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Mr. Freeland acknowledged the guest speakers:

- Latoya Roundtree with the Department of Social Services,
- Ken Srebnik and Jeff Deaton with AESC
- Brigitte Coates, Pee Dee Local Workforce Development Area

He thanked the State and Local Workforce Development Board members who attended the SWDB training(s) in April and noted that:

- 72 board members participated in the Annual Ethics Training, marking the first invitation for local board members
- 62% of SWDB members participated in the WIOA Funding Allocation Formula Training, including several who joined virtually

Approval of March 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes* **Mr. Freeland**

Col. Craig Currey motioned to approve the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. seconded the motion. The State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes.

Review of SWDB Bylaws* **Mr. Pat Michaels**

Mr. Pat Michaels recommended the following *key* revisions to the SWDB Bylaws:

- **Article III** –remove “the option for reappointment for one consecutive term” and add that a second term would automatically begin at the end of the first term. Add language to Section 3.2 Term Limits for Holdover Status to address the scenario where board members, at the discretion of the governor, may continue to serve in a hold-over capacity at the end of their second term until they are formally reappointed, or a successor is duly appointed.



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- **Article V** - add language in Section 5.1(C) permitting the State Board and/or Committees to attend trainings or special events approved by SWDB staff and the Board chair to serve as substitutes for hosting formal meetings, to fulfill the quarterly full board and/or Committee meeting requirements allowing flexibility to meet quarterly meeting requirements within a given year.

Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. motioned to approve the amended SWDB Bylaws. Mr. George "GP" McLeer, Jr. seconded the motion. The amended Bylaws were unanimously approved by the State Workforce Development Board.

PY'25 SWDB Funding*Ms. Pamela H. Jones

Ms. Pamela Jones presented the following interim funding recommendation of \$2.1 million for PY'25 statewide activities, including funding to support outreach, LWDA funding, security at SC Works Centers, and operational costs.

- *Workforce Development Symposium Sponsorship – \$15,000*: This funding will be used to cover the sponsorship costs for the 2025 Workforce Development Symposium hosted by the SC Chamber of Commerce in partnership with DEW and the State Workforce Development Board.
- *Workforce Heroes and High-Performing Workforce Board Awards – \$1,600*: This funding will be used for the costs associated with trophies and awards for Workforce Heroes and High-Performing Workforce Boards.
- *SC Works Conference – \$150,000*: The SC Works Conference will bring together WIOA programs, SC Works staff, and partners to discuss current and future workforce development challenges, while facilitating networking among workforce development leaders and staff across our state.
- *LWDA Funding – \$864,000*: Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA) that received a decrease in Program Year (PY) 2024 funding would be provided a grant in the amount of 75 percent of the loss experienced. These grants would have a period of performance of one program year.
- *SC Works Branding and Outreach – \$100,000*: Outreach is a key component of any workforce strategy. Funding will support state-level outreach and promotion of the SC Works system and workforce programs.
- *Statewide Operating Costs – \$25,000*: Funding will be used for SWDB and SC Works operating costs, including the annual Blanket Accident Insurance policy renewal, participation in national organizations such as the National Governors Association, software, and other operating expenses.



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- *SC Works Security Funding – \$1,000,000:* Funding will be used to deploy security guards at SC Works centers to ensure a safe environment for staff and customers by monitoring activities and intervening to de-escalate volatile situations.

Ms. Jones explained that the funding request for security in the SC Works Centers is to ensure the safety of customers who receive services and SC Works staff and partners. Staff is reviewing the method by which the funding will be deployed.

Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. motioned to approve the PY'25 interim funding recommendation. Mr. George “GP” McLeer, Jr. seconded the motion. The State Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the PY'25 interim funding recommendation.

LWDA Subsequent Designation & LWDB Certification*.....Ms. Tameka Pauling
Ms. Tameka Pauling, Workforce Support Manager, presented on the subsequent designation of local workforce development areas (LWDA) and certification of local workforce development boards (LWDB). She explained that WIOA requires the Governor in each state to designate local areas and certify local boards every two years. All 12 local areas submitted timely petitions and are compliant with subsequent designation and certification requirements. Ms. Pauling recommended subsequent designation and certification for all 12 local areas and local workforce boards for Program Years 2024 and 2025.

Mr. George “GP” McLeer, Jr. motioned to approve the subsequent designation and certification for all 12 areas and boards for Program Years 2024 and 2025. Mr. Gregory C. Clark seconded the motion. The State Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the LWDA Subsequent Designation & LWDB Certification.

DEW Director’s Report.....Mr. William Floyd
Mr. William Floyd, Executive Director, S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), presented the state’s employment situation, including employment rates, current agency initiatives and projects, and an update from the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD).

Partner Spotlight.....Department of Social Services
The Partner Spotlight showcases the innovation and accomplishments of partner programs that significantly impact workforce development, enhances collaboration, and raises awareness of partner services. The 4th quarter partner spotlight was SC Department of Social Services (DSS), presented by Ms. Latoya Rountree, SNAP E&T Program Director. Ms. Roundtree’s presentation focused on the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Work Programs, administered by DSS’s Division of Employment Services.



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In compliance with the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) Ms. Roundtree facilitated a discussion seeking input from the Board on how the SNAP E&T program can better support the Board's initiatives.

LWDA/Business Spotlight..... Pee Dee/AESC

In Program Year (PY) 2023, SWDB allocated \$3 million for Workforce Innovation Grants (INN) to support Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) in piloting new strategies for enhancing the delivery of workforce development resources. Pee Dee LWDA was awarded Workforce Innovation funding. Ms. Brigitte Coates, Workforce Regional Director of the Pee Dee LWDA, along with Mr. Ken Srebnik, AESC Director of Marketing, and Mr. Jeff Deaton, AESC Sr. VP, presented on how the funding has been used to engage and support employers in the energy sector in the Pee Dee Region.

SWDB Member Acknowledgement.....Mr. Freeland

Chairman Freeland recognized the following members for their contributions to the state's workforce development system through relevant initiatives or notable accomplishments in PY'24:

- Col. Craig Currey (retd.), CEO, Transitions Homeless Center
- Commissioner Felicia Johnson, SC Vocational Rehabilitation
- Representative Randy Ligon, House of Representatives
- Mr. Pat Michaels, CEO & President, Goodwill Industries of the Upstate/Midlands South Carolina
- Ms. Elaine Morgan, CEO, Berkeley Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Warren Snead, HR Manager, Cooper Standard
- Mr. Jeremy Stephens, Executive VP and Chief HR Officer, Tidelands Health

Ms. Pamela Jones recognized SWDB Chair, Mr. Thomas Freeland and Vice-Chair Mr. Warren Snead, for "leading by example" presenting to local workforce development boards in support of the Board's priority to increase engagement between the state and local workforce areas.

Other Business/Adjourn.....Mr. Freeland

Chairman Freeland reminded members that in lieu of a PY'25 1st quarter SWDB meeting, members are asked to attend the 2025 Workforce Development Symposium on September 17, 2025, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center Board.

The next full board meeting will occur during the second quarter of PY'25 in the C. Lem Harper Building. Following the SWDB meeting, members and guest will celebrate the Local Workforce Development Board's High-Performing Workforce Development nominees presenting them with the 2024 Workforce Hero Award.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.