



**State Workforce Development Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. Thomas Freeland       | Mr. George “GP” McLeer, Jr. |
| Mr. William Floyd         | Ms. Elaine Morgan           |
| Mr. Charles Brave, Jr.    | Mr. Kevin Pak               |
| Ms. Susan Cohen           | Mr. Matthew Pollard         |
| Col. Craig Currey (retd.) | Dr. Windsor W. Sherrill     |
| Mr. Corey Epps            | Ms. April Simpkins          |
| Mr. Stephen Gilchrest     | Mr. Jeremy Stephens         |
| Ms. Darline Graham        | Mr. John Uprichard          |
| Mr. Chris Hall            | Ms. Britt D. Vergnolle      |
| Dr. Tim Hardee            |                             |
| Ms. Lelia King            |                             |
| Mr. Mike King             |                             |

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Hope Broadway  
Rep. Don Chapman  
Mr. Gregory C. Clark  
Ms. Nancy Ray Foster  
Ms. Felicia Johnson  
Ms. Robyn Knox  
Ms. Jennifer Moore  
Mr. Tyler Servant  
Mr. Warren Snead  
Senator Ross Turner

**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.

**Approval of March 31, 2026, Meeting Minutes\* ..... Mr. Thomas Freeland**  
Mr. Stephen Gilchrist motioned to approve the March 31, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Chris Hall seconded the motion. The SWDB unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes.

**SC Works Policy Approvals\* ..... Ms. Nina Arnone**  
Ms. Nina Arnone, Workforce Policy and Research Manager, presented four (4) SC Works policies to prevent delays or interruptions in implementing SWDB-funded initiatives, enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration with employers, assess jobseekers’ and employers’ customer satisfaction, and establish criteria for evaluating the one-stop centers. Each policy was approved by the respective committees and the Executive Committee, prior to forwarding to the full Board for final approval.

- *SWDB Funding Allocation Policy:*  
The SWDB Funding and Reallocation Policy provides DEW with the authority to expend up to 10% above the approved amount for ongoing Board funded initiatives and authorization to expend up to \$10,000 of Governor’s Reserve funds without prior SWDB approval. All reallocations must still follow internal DEW processes, and DEW will notify the SWDB Chairperson when these authorities are utilized.

The Board approved this unanimously.



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- *Integrated Business Services Team:*

The Integrated Business Services Team (IBST) policy requires each Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) to establish an IBST, comprised of WIOA core partners and optional workforce partners, to develop, maintain, and grow business relationships through the SC Works system, with a unified approach reducing redundant outreach and engagement, improving productivity, and strengthening employer engagement. Each IBST is required to hold quarterly meetings, and an IBST Coordinator is to be selected annually.

Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. motioned to approve the Integrated Business Services Team policy. Mr. Jeremy Stephens seconded the motion, and SWDB unanimously approved the Integrated Business Services Team Policy as presented.

- *SC Works Customer Satisfaction Surveys:*

State Instruction Letter (SIL) 24-02, SC Works Customer Satisfaction Surveys, provides standardized guidance for statewide customer satisfaction surveys. Change 1 requires customer satisfaction feedback from both jobseekers and employers to the standard survey questions, distributed through SC Works Online Services (SCWOS) using each user's preferred communication method. Local boards may still conduct their own surveys for improvement but no longer need to report them to the state.

Mr. Chris Hall motioned to approve the SC Works Customer Satisfaction Surveys. Col. Craig Currey seconded the motion, and SWDB unanimously approved the SC Works Customer Satisfaction Surveys as presented.

- *SC Works Certification Standards\**

Every two years, the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires the SWDB to establish objective criteria and procedures for Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to assess one-stop centers in three categories: Management, Jobseeker Services, and Business Services. Ms. Arnone provided an overview of the revisions made. LWDBs must submit their completed standards, assessment summary, and certification documentation to DEW by June 30, 2027.

Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. motioned to approve the SC Works Certification Standards. Mr. Stephen Gilchrist seconded the motion, and SWDB unanimously approved the SC Works Certification Standards as presented.

**DEW Director's Report..... Mr. William Floyd**

Mr. William Floyd, Executive Director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), presented the state's employment situation, including employment rates and current agency initiatives, reporting a 4.8% unemployment rate, the continued increase in the number of individuals employed in SC, increasing the state's Labor Force Participation Rate.



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Director Floyd also updated the committee on the Workforce Pell Grant Program. He explained that South Carolina has developed an implementation process involving DEW, the State Workforce Development Board, and the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD).

**2024-2027 SWDB: Strategic Plan Update .....Ms. Pamela Jones**

Ms. Pamela Jones provided an update on the 2024-2027 SWDB: Strategic Plan priority activities during program years 2024 and 2025. She highlighted key accomplishments, including joint trainings and meetings development to increase engagement between state and local boards, development of outreach materials for the Eligible Training Provider List and SC Career Readiness Programs designed to increase awareness of trainings for priority occupations, and the High-Performing Workforce Award ceremony.

Ms. Jones explained that during PY'26 the 2024-2027 SWDB: Strategic Plan will be updated to align with the five pillars outlined in the America's Talent Strategy.

**SWDB Member Acknowledgement.....Mr. Thomas 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'25:

- Col. Craig Currey (retd.), CEO, Transitions Homeless Center
- Mr. Pat Michaels, CEO & President, Goodwill Industries of the Upstate/Midlands South Carolina
- Mr. Warren Snead, HR Manager, Cooper Standard

Chairman Freeland recognized Mr. Jeremy Stephens for his contribution to SC's Workforce System. Mr. Stephens was appointed to the Board in January 2025 as a business representative. During his tenure, Mr. Stephens drew on his twenty-six years of professional experience in various human resources roles and in the manufacturing and healthcare industries, serving on the Board Development Committee.

**Other Business/Adjourn.....Mr. Thomas Freeland**

Chairman Freeland reminded members that, instead of a first-quarter SWDB meeting for PY'26, they are encouraged to attend the SC Workforce and Manufacturing Summit on September 1 and 2, 2026, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Members were also invited to participate in the Workforce Champion Awards and Reception on the evening of September 1, 2026, at the Governor's Mansion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33p.m.