LOWER SAVANNAH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 06 2022 @ 2:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

LSWDB Members in attendance:	Lessie Price, Dr. Dorian Newton, Gary Jones, Tommy Boyleston, Jeanette Murray, Tameka Johnson, Demeterius Smith, Curtis Randolph, Pat Black, Jr, Kenisha Grimes, Dr. Renee Ritter
LSWDB Members excused:	Darainey Hudson, Will Reynolds, Dr. Forest Mahan
LSCOG/WD Staff in attendance:	André Anderson, Wendy Mahuron, Sally Sharpe, and Nelson Nwachukwu
Guests/Visitors:	Dennis Hall (Eckerd Connects), Charlie Furtick (Eckerd Connects), and Renee Alexander (Eckerd)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tommy Boyleston called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Boyleston welcomed all attendees and guests.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Anderson conducted roll call. A quorum was present.

BOARD APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Boyleston asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Curtis Randolph and seconded by Dr. Dorian Newton. Motion was approved.

BOARD APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2022

Mr. Boyleston asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting as presented. A motion was made by Kenisha Grimes and seconded by Pat Black. Motion was approved.

REPORT OF YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING – November 8, 2022

Dr. Renee Ritter a Youth Committee update.

- Dr Ritter spoke on the success story of London Busby . Ms. Busby was a WIOA Youth participant and was placed on a Work Experience as an Administrative Assistant with Bamberg/Barnwell Adult Education. She received glowing reviews from the Adult Education staff. She intends to continue working and furthering her education.
- Dr. Ritter updated the board as it related to PY22 Slot levels for youth in this years' program . As of October 31, 2022, 13 Youth had been enrolled with 8 enrollments occurring within the last month.
- The Power-up events dates and times were mentioned by Dr. Ritter and were as follows:
    - March 16, 2023 at USC- Aiken (Aiken, SC) from 4-7pm
    - March 18, 2023 at South Carolina State University (Orangeburg, SC) during school Hours - possibly 9am-12pm

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AN UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS (NAWDP)

NAWDP held its annual Youth Symposium in Charlotte, NC from November 13 – 16, 2022 with Sally Sharpe in attendance. Ms. Sharpe spoke on how well the conference attendance was despite the recent COVID lockdowns of the last two years . She also emphasized some of the sessions which focus on innovative ways local workforce regions were reaching the hard-to serve youth in their areas. There was particular focus paid to Youth Apprenticeships and the lasting impact they could have on Workforce Development particularly in rural communities.

APPROVAL OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LOCAL/REGIONAL PLAN MODIFICATION/RELEASE

André Anderson spoke to the board about both the local and regional plan modifications and the need for the board to critique and approve the plans. The final draft versions would be sent to them prior to the public comment period and prior to the expected submission date of January 13, 2023. Mr. Anderson went on to say that the local Workforce area is required to create a 4-year Local and Regional Plan (every 4 years) and to evaluate the success of those plan at the midway point by the submission of Local and Regional Plan Modifications. The Local Plan Modification must have (at a minimum) 7 days of a public comment period. The board is being asked to permit the release of the draft plan for the public comment period and the ability for staff to make necessary alterations to the plan to align the plan with public comments received. Mr. Boyleston asked for a motion which was delivered by Pat Black and a second which was delivered by Gary Jones. The motion was unanimously approved.

SPECIALIZED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR BOARD

- **Financial** – Mr. Anderson gave a brief overview of the current expenditure rates for the three funding streams (Adult, DW, and Youth) as well as an update on the Workforce Division's current Discretionary grants .
- **Center Reports** – Mr. Charlie Furtick reported out on SC Works Centers and center traffic.
- **Business Services** – Ms. Mahuron reported on the following:
    - On-the-Job Training
        - 13 OJT contracts
        - 7 companies – Advance manufacturing sites, Printing company and Community Services locations
        - Average wage of $18.45/hr.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Anderson informed the WD Board on SCDEW's annual monitoring was being undertaken this very week and how the local area met weeks prior in preparation of a quality monitoring experience for the Lower Savannah Region.
- Mr. Anderson went over the data points of the Big Picture Report for the 1st Quarter of PY 22.
- Mr. Anderson spoke on the possibility of more discretionary funding being awarded under the Engage, Build and Serve Grant from SCDEW. The amount of that grant could possibly be $273,148.
- Mr. Anderson shared with the Board a recent Workforce/Economic Development Report performed by the Darla Moore School of Business which conducted an in-depth analysis of

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the 6-county region that comprises the Lower Savannah Region and some of the pitfalls that have the potential to harm our Workforce Development and Economic Development outcomes (lack of population density, Lower Workforce Participation Rates and systemically high unemployment)

- An update was provided on the closure of the 3 satellite centers in the region and how we are supplementing those closures by utilizing the Lower Savannah mobile unit in those areas
- Mr. Anderson extended an a final invitation to the LSCOG Annual Banquet to the Workforce Board which had already been initially extended two weeks prior to the Board by e-mail

OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Anderson for

Gary Jones
Lower Savannah Workforce Development Board SECRETARY

NOTICE OF THE MEETING and COPY OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL NEWS MEDIA PRIOR TO THE MEETING. NOTICE OF THE MEETING and COPY OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING WAS ALSO POSTED ON THE LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BULLETIN BOARD AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

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