

SC WORKS

UPPER SAVANNAH

Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board Meeting

Held at 430 Helix Road, Greenwood, SC or via Zoom

Monday, September 8, 2025

Meeting: 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: John Calhoun, Scott Coleman, Roberta Kinard, Roy Lowe, Shelby Reed, Darron Wilson, Mike Hembree, Raweewan Ross, Keli Fewox, Dabs Davis, Daniel Grove, Theresa Stover

Members Absent: Dale Cullum (excused), Stacie Phyllicia, Courtney Gunter, Jeannie McCallum, Taiese Kidd

Staff Present: Kal Kunkel, Amber Bearden, Sam Leaman

Guest: Kimbearly Smith, Deidre Smalls, Renee Alexander

Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call

Scott Coleman welcomed members and guests. The meeting was called to order.

Amber Bearden conducted the meeting roll call.

Approval of Minutes for

Scott called for a motion to approve minutes. Billy Morgan motioned to approve. Seconded by Mike Hembree. Minutes approved as is.

Director's Report (Kal Kunkel)

Kal presented several updates. (Note: Reports covered were included in board packet that is emailed to all members and posted online.)

1. PY 25 Board Budget

Refer to page 5 of packet. Total revenue for PY 25 is \$1,554,313.87 with total expenses coming in at \$1,452,302,74. This leaves about \$102, 000—which we like to have atleast \$100,000 buffer to carryover into PY26 until those funds are released. Rolling into a program year does not automatically make the new funding available so we need that buffer.

2. PY 25 Eckerd Contracts & Final Budgets

Continued on page 5 of the packet. These contracts had to be decreased from the previous year—a difference of \$209,000. This is impartially due to going into the PY25 year, we did not receive certain grants, like the IET grant, that we had previously.

Roberta Kinard posed a question about the IET grant, asking if this was reoccurring and generally inquiring as to how the budget is determined. Kal explained that the IET grant is not reoccurring, and this particular source of funding was generally rolled into participant costs—which was a practice that was done by his predecessor that was continued. However, with that source of funding not received, this is why cuts are being seen in participant costs. He added this budget was solely determined by federal funding because we had zero grants for this program year.

3. *PY 24 Performance*

Refer to page 6. This reflect last July through this June. We are in the green and exceeding all state and federal metrics for the program for the Rolling 4. Looking at the 4th quarter, there is red reflected for 2 metrics; However, data clean up is ongoing and we expect these numbers to come up and do not expect to be subject to any corrective action in the future.

4. *PY 24 State Monitoring*

Upper Savannah is monitored in June—we are the very last region for this. We have not received the final report back as of yet. Once we have gotten this, we will update everyone on those results.

5. *Board Seat Vacancies & New Appointments*

- a. Edgefield: Tracy Freeman, a multi-business owner, goes before the Edgefield County Council in October for appointment.
- b. Saluda and Newberry: Vacancies in both. We were working with possible candidates, but at this time, neither are prepared to commit so we are open to any suggestions or recommendations from the Board to fill these seats.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Board Committee Reports ACTION

Scott Coleman turned the floor over to Roy Lowe, SC Works Operations Committee Chair, for his update. (Note: SC Works Operations and Priority Population Committees meetings are combined.)

*A. SC Works Operations & Priority Populations Committee Updates (ACTION *)*

- 1) Approval to transfer up to \$125,000 of Dislocated Worker funding to Adult fund stream. *
SC Works Operations Committee presented item as a motion. Seconded by Darron Wilson.
APPROVED.
- 2) New Local EO Officer Appointment of Ashley Shaffer, Workforce Operations Manager *
SC Works Operations Committee presented item as a motion. Seconded by Darron Wilson.
APPROVED.
- 3) ETPL Training Vendor*
SC Works Operations Committee presented item as a motion to DENY new vendors due to out

of regional area. Seconded by Billy Morgan. APPROVED.

4) Supportive Services Policy Change*

SC Works Operations Committee discussed and voted to approve the change in supportive services concerning transportation and incentives. Due to budget cuts and in the move to align our policy with other regions, these changes in monetary amounts are recommended. Let it be noted that currently our region was paying the highest in transportation and incentives—bringing those allowed costs down will now align us with what all of the other regions are offering.

Roberta voiced concern with the verbiage of the policy stating that she believes this could single out certain agencies. Kal explained that the verbiage within the policy was the same as the previously published policy and invited Roberta to provide suggestions on the specific areas she believes need attention.

The SC Works Operations Committee's original motion to approve the changes as is was again made. Seconded by Mike Hembree. APPROVED.

5) Security Changes*

SC Works Operations Committee discussed and voted to approve the hiring of the current security guard with United Way covering benefits and brings this forward as a motion. Seconded by Billy Morgan. APPROVED

B. Youth Committee Updates

Shelby Reed explained discussions took place regarding adding members to the committee. She is pleased to announce the addition of Laurie Burgess and Jennifer Holiday as ad-hoc members to the Youth Committee.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Kimbearly Smith, WIOA Program Manager

(*Note: Kimbearly utilized a PowerPoint presentation that will be attached to the minutes. This is included in the emailed packet and is posted online.)

Kimbearly noted that the partnership with Adult Education was a great support with gaining measurable skill gain results for their Youth participants. She also added that they are looking to grow their in person WEX program, which is an internship program for youth to allow them to gain life and work skills.

Kimbearly opened the floor for any comments or questions. No further discussion.

Diedra Smalls, Regional Manager

(*Note: Kimbearly utilized a PowerPoint presentation that will be attached to the minutes. This is included in the emailed packet and is posted online.)

Diedra added that due to funding cuts, WIOA will be creative with how we continue to serve our participants at the same level as prior years. She explained it will be important to continue working with our partners.

This is workforce development month so you will see so many of our events coming up. She wanted to touch on our regional job fair had over 300 individuals turn out.

Unemployment rates for July 2025 were discussed. Upper Savannah's region has one of the higher unemployment rates in the state.

Kal added—the Virtual Engagement (VEC) has launched this month. This allows for individuals to live chat or video chat with a SC DEW employee to get more information on services. There is a link to the VEC on our website that allows you to get to the platform as well as being posted on our social media. We would like to keep pushing out word of this service to let the community know it is available.

Other Business

Scott opened the floor for other business. No other business was introduced.

ADJOURN

Scott Coleman called to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn made by Darron Wilson. The next meeting will be November 10, 2025.