

SC WORKS

UPPER SAVANNAH

Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board Meeting

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

Monday, November 11, 2025

Meeting: 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Darron Wilson, Billy Morgan, Shelby Reed, Tracy Freeman, Roy Lowe, Roberta Kinard, Shelby Reed, Mike Hembree, Courtney Gunter, Dabs Davis

Members Absent: Dale Cullum (excused), Scott Coleman (excused), Keli Fewox (Leandra Arvazzetti attended in place), John Calhoun, Theresa Stover, Taiese Kidd, Daniel Grove, Raweewan Ross, Stacie Phylcia,

Staff Present: Kal Kunkel, Amber Bearden, Ashley Shaffer, Sam Leaman

Guest: Kimbearly Smith, Deidre Smalls, Genaya Nesbitt

Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call

Darron Wilson welcomed members and guests. The meeting was called to order.

Amber Bearden conducted the meeting roll call.

Approval of Minutes for

Darron called for a motion to approve minutes. Mike Hembree motioned to approve. Seconded by Billy Morgan. 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 24 Performance

Refer to packet. Kal explained these are numbers for the entire state performance: Federal and State performance. The goal is always for the numbers to be in the green. Our metrics are meeting the state and federal goals. Eckerd has worked diligently to get those metrics up from prior.

2. PY 25 Board Budget & Funding

Refer to packet. Kal announced as an update we have gotten our allocated money for adult and dislocated worker this past Friday to carry up through the rest of the year. We are hoping to see the DOL provide additional funding as it has been declining over the last several years. We will have more details in the Feb 9th meeting.

3. *Board Seat Vacancies & New Appointments*

- a. Laurens County-Sherri Gordon, Assistant Vice President Self Regional Healthcare
- b. Newberry County- Chris Milstead, Senior Manager of Operations, Komatsu
- c. Saluda County- Caleb Polatty, Director of Human Resources, Saluda Nursing & Rehab Center

Kal explained the above will be going up for appointment to their respective counties Council's in November. We hope to have these appointments by the next Board meeting. We would like to add that we are asking that more Board members serve on some of the sub-committees to increase insights of our members among these committees.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Board Committee Reports ACTION

Darron Wilson 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.) This was returned to Kal.*

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

1) PY'26 Request for Proposal (RFP) approval for release.*

Every 4 years we are required to re-bid for our contractor. This is currently contracted through Eckerd. Below is the timeline of which these new possible proposals will be considered.

Kal explained that these are advertised through local media and is marketed to the

- a) February 2, 2026: RFP Released
- b) February 23, 2026: Deadline for Receipt of Written Questions
- c) March 23, 2026: Proposals Deadline (Must be received by USWDB by 12:00 PM – EST)
- d) April 1, 2026: Staff Review & Preparation for Executive Committee
- e) April 13, 2026: Executive Committee Proposal Review Meeting (3:00pm)
- f) June 1, 2026: Upper Savannah Workforce Board Meeting (Contract Recommendations)
- g)

Darron called for 2nd motion to approve this as is. Mike Hembree seconded. Approved unanimously.

2) ETPL Training Vendor – Possible appeal (information only - Kal)

Kal explained this is an ongoing list. We have applicants that apply throughout the year, but we do have guidelines as to what a provider needs to fit to be approved. Roadmaster Driver applied and was denied due to being out of our 60-mile radius. They did reach out explaining that they would be starting a site in Newberry. Kal sent more information to this provider explaining the appeal process and that if they did open in Newberry they would fit the radius. If this were the case, we would then need to complete a site visit. We have yet to get an appeal from this provider at this time.

3) SC DEW Funding for Security Update. (Kal)

Kal explained that a new policy could possibly be coming out that is requiring new guidelines that we must satisfy to be eligible for the funding that assists with paying for security utilized in the Centers. This has raised some concerns as the requirements would call for additional funding each year. He explained that at the next administrators meeting, leaders will be inquiring as yearly state funding will be made available to regions to continue to cover these additional costs. This is still evolving and more information regarding this will be available at the next Board meeting.

B. Youth Committee Updates

Shelby reported that they are actively working on marketing material that we will be sharing with school counselors and other school leaders regarding services that Kimbearly and her WIOA team can offer to their students.

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 explained this is through July 1, 2025 through September 2025; our first quarter. Refer to the PowerPoint for full information.

Roberta inquired about numbers that do not include carryover. Kimbearly explained that she will email those to her as she does not have them with her currently.

Kimbearly asked if there were any other questions. No questions. She then enlisted Diedra to provide her portion of the presentation.

Diedra Smalls, Regional Manager

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

Other Business

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

Darron explained he has been on the Board for 30 years and he said it is a rarity to always be fully in the green and he would personally like to commend the staff for this report.

ADJOURN

Darron Wilson called to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn made by Billy Morgan. Mike Hembree seconded. The next meeting will be February 9, 2026.