

SC WORKS

UPPER SAVANNAH

**Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board Meeting
via Conference Call
Monday, December 7, 2020
Meeting: 4:00 PM**

Members Present: Ann Blanton, John Calhoun, Candi Lalone, Kassie Burton, Taiese Kidd, Shunna V. Jeter, Betty Carol Jones, Roberta Kinard, Camilla Haigler, Darron Wilson, Roy Lowe, Chad Ulmer, and Matt Wiggins

Members Absent: Scott Coleman, Theresa Stover, Debbie Walling, Julie Bagwell, Dale Callum, and Kevin Crouch

Staff Present: Ann Skinner, Billy Morgan, and Linda Lagroon

Guest: Katie Craven and Ursula McFadden, GLEAMNS; and Melissa A. Rodgers, SC DEW

Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Ann Blanton welcomed members and guests. The meeting was called to order.

The meeting conference call roll call was conducted by Linda Lagroon.

Approval of Minutes for September 14, 2020: <https://upperscworks.com/workforce-system/board-minutes/>

Ms. Blanton reminded members that minutes are emailed along with the meeting agenda. They are also archived on-line. The minutes were adopted unanimously as submitted.

Reports – Linda Lagroon, Ursula McFadden

Ursula McFadden reviewed the Quarterly Usage Report which covered July through September 2020. The Centers are doing well even with the closure in the spring. Referrals are being accepted and staff are assisting employers.

Linda Lagroon reviewed the Performance Summary for PY 2019 and the Enrollment Report.

Performance Summary showed that Upper Savannah exceeded all required performance measures for all programs: Employment Rate for second and fourth quarters, Median Earnings, and Credential Rate. The Measurable Skills Gains measure is being measured for baseline for future goals.

Contractor Enrollment report showed an average of 42 participant enrollments for 4.5 case managers, which is an increase over the last two reports. The expected active caseload per case manager is 55.

Hiring Events, Plant Closures – Billy Morgan

Packaging Corp of America, located in Newbery, closed November 20. This was a non-trade closure which affected 89 employees in a union environment. The rapid response was conducted virtually, and information was sent electronically. The company did not allow SC Works Center staff on site, but Upper Savannah and SC Works Center staff did everything they could to help workers. A couple employees have come into center. Salaried employees were relocated to another plant.

ZF, located in Gray Court (Laurens County), is looking to hire 250 people by January 2021. An onsite drive thru job fair was held on December 1 from 10 am to 2 pm. Persons with resumes and completed applications were interviewed. About 400 people attended of which over 200 were interviewed. The event was very successful.

Board members were encouraged to check into the On-the-Job training component.

Success Stories – Katie Craven

Lily Marshall enrolled in the Adult program in April 2019 for assistance with pursuing her Associate Degree in Nursing. Through a WIOA Individual Training Account Scholarship, Lily was able to receive assistance with tuition and books as well as transportation assistance. The WIOA program was also able to pay for her NCLEX exams and licensure fees. With the support and encouragement of the WIOA program, Lily was able to obtain her ADN Degree, pass her licensure exams, and secure employment as a Registered Nurse at Self Regional Healthcare.

Brandon Oberdier came into the Laurens SC Works Center in January of 2020 to seek assistance with obtaining his GED and securing employment. His ultimate goal and prime motivation for pursuing his GED was to meet hiring requirements for ZF Transmissions. Brandon was found to be eligible for the Youth program and began receiving assistance with GED classes, testing fees, and transportation assistance. By April, Brandon was making great progress and only lacked one test to complete his GED, but, due to COVID restrictions, all classes went virtual and testing was placed on hold. He continued to attend Zoom classes and work towards his goal. Even though his progress was slowed, he was able to pass the final test and obtain his GED in October and received a \$200 incentive. Familiar with his goals and aware of his recent success, Billy Morgan reached out to a contact at ZF Transmissions and shared Brandon's "success story" letting them know that employment with their company had been his main catalyst. Billy coordinated communication between Margaret Glasgow, Business Services Representative, and his contact at ZF. Margaret was able to promote Brandon and the WIOA OJT Program. Brandon began On-the-Job Training at ZF on November 9th. He is progressing well and loves his job.

William McCurry reached out to WIOA staff in August 2020, as his job at Mayville Engineering Company would be ending due to plant closure. Mr. McCurry was deemed eligible for the Dislocated Worker Program. He was anxious to secure employment but wanted to move away from the manufacturing field

for several reasons. Mr. McCurry was quickly connected with the Business Services Representative who got right to work in promoting him for positions in the area. He was able to begin an On-the-Job Training opportunity with Rush Heating & Cooling on September 8, 2020. His maintenance background made him a great candidate for transitioning to a service technician for heating and cooling systems. During a recent OJT monitoring, Kristy Rush stated that Mr. McCurry is doing a great job and that they are very pleased with his work and with the OJT in general. Mr. McCurry is set to complete his OJT training this week and will have his own truck. He is excited to take a new path in his career and has really enjoyed his new job so far.

Center Status, EMT Grant Application and Contract Extension Discussion – Ann Skinner

SC Works Center Status

All Upper Savannah SC Works Centers are open. The State Workforce Board agreed to pay security costs for six months, which allows Upper Savannah Centers to be open for longer hours. Laurens and Newberry Centers were splitting security staff. Now Laurens will be able to open for 4 days a week and Newberry for 5 days a week.

EMT Grant Application

Ann Skinner was very involved in October and November responding to a National Grant for rural areas to strengthened healthcare training – Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). EMT boot camp would be held during the summer and then training for the next level. The grant is for four (4) years for half a million dollars. The grant has been submitted and expecting to hear the outcome by the end of December or early January.

Ann Skinner has found another grant for rural areas for \$200,000 for one (1) year.

Contract Extensions

Normally staff would look at extensions this time of year. Because grantee is not at caseload goals, staff is not ready to make a recommendation to extend current contracts or go out for bid. Hopefully, will be at a point to make a decision by next meeting.

Adjourn

Chair Blanton called the meeting to conclusion and reminded members that the next scheduled meeting will also be a call-in meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

Ann Skinner
Workforce Development Director