

# SC WORKS

## UPPER SAVANNAH

**Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board Meeting  
Via In Person, Virtual and Conference Call  
Upper Savannah Council of Governments, 430 Helix Road, Greenwood  
Monday, March 7, 2022  
Meeting: 4:00 PM**

Members Present: Roy Lowe, John Calhoun, Kassie Burton, Roberta Kinard, Taiese Kidd, Ann Blanton, Candi Lalonde, Darron Wilson, Stephen Taylor, MaShonda Ashton

Members Absent: Debbie Walling, Chad Ulmer, Matt Wiggins, Scott Coleman, Theresa Stover, Shunna V. Jeter, Dale Callum, Betty Carol Jones, Julie Bagwell and Kevin Crouch

Staff Present: Ann Skinner, Erin Nodine, Linda Lagroon

Guest: Katie Craven, Marcella Kennedy, GLEAMNS; and Melissa Rodgers, SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### **Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Taiese Kidd welcomed members and guests. The meeting was called to order. While people logged in, a short video was shown featuring Debbie Walling promoting the Upper Savannah job fair.

**Approval of Minutes for December 6, 2021:** <https://upperscworks.com/workforce-system/board-minutes/>

Ms. Kidd reminded members that minutes are emailed along with the meeting agenda. They are also archived on-line. There was a motion by Stephen Taylor, seconded by John Calhoun, to approve the minutes. The minutes were adopted unanimously as submitted.

The meeting roll call was conducted by Linda Lagroon.

### **Reports**

#### **Caseload Report – Linda Lagroon**

Contractor Enrollment report showed an average of 46 participant enrollments for 5.5 case managers. The expected active caseload per case manager is 55. The contractor is continuing to recruit and enroll clients.

**Expenditures – Ann Skinner**

Mid-year expenditure rates should be between 35 and 45%. Actual rates are

- 38% for Adult Program
- 33% for Dislocated Worker Program
- 40% for Youth Program

Last year Upper Savannah underspent in the Dislocated Worker Program. Funds have been transferred from the Dislocated Worker program to the Adult Program. Upper Savannah used \$150,000 of the new state funding to serve youth.

Upper Savannah’s participant cost rate, which includes client costs such as tuition, books, and supportive services, is at 29.86%. The goal is 30% and the State average is at 29.44%.

**Performance – Linda Lagroon**

Upper Savannah is exceeding all performance measure goals for the first quarter of Program Year 2021. The performance measures for all programs include:

- Employment Rate second quarter after exit
- Employment Rate fourth quarter after exit
- Median Earnings
- Credential Rate
- Measurable Skill Gains

**Housing Assistance – Marcella Kennedy, GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission**

Marcella Kennedy discussed the GLEAMNS Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) programs. She began with the counties served by the programs and the program services provided by GLEAMNS:

- Community Services (Energy Assistance, Rent, Education, Transportation, and Youth Services)
- Early Head Start/EHS Child Care Partnership
- Head Start
- Weatherization
- Workforce Development (WIOA)
- GLEAMNS Dr. Benjamin E. Mays Historic Preservation Site

Ms. Kennedy informed the Board of the income qualifications based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines, the new and enhanced services which includes CSBG Cares, LIHEAP ARPA, and LIHWAP, COVID-19 Emergency Kits, and documents needed for assistance.

- CSBG Cares is rental and mortgage assistance which awards up to \$5,000 and clients could receive services up to 4 times until September 30, 2022, with a past due notice
- LIHEAP ARPA is energy and fuel assistance which awards up to \$2,500 until September 30, 2022, and clients could receive an unlimited number of services but must present a bill at time of assessment
- LIHWAP is water and sewer assistance which awards up to exact bill amounts until September 30, 2023, and clients could receive an unlimited number of services but must present a bill at time of assessment.

**Finding Hidden Workers: Outreach Activities – Erin Nodine**

Erin Nodine shared the Hidden Workers handout and talked about how these could be good places to find workers. The categories on the handout included New Entrants, Career Changers, Existing Workers, and Not in Labor Force. She said that Upper Savannah is helping employers recruit.

**Training Needs: Perkins Survey, Gaps in WIOA Training Menu – Erin Nodine**

Erin Nodine also shared about the Perkins Survey that had been sent out to help determine needs for the Career Centers and Technical College offerings. Upper Savannah staff is also working on an employer directory to provide graduating high school seniors. Erin shared that staff had recently conducted a keyword search to look at job postings over the last year and what type of certifications companies were interested in employees having and compared the results to the offerings on the eligible providers list for South Carolina. Included on the handout is the listings of trainings Upper Savannah currently offers. Trainings highlighted in green and yellow are on the state providers list and we can quickly work to get them for Upper Savannah. Trainings highlighted in red are certifications not currently on the providers list for the State of South Carolina. Staff are having continued conversations with Piedmont Technical College and SCMEP to work on getting some of these trainings added to the list and getting people enrolled.

**SC Works Center Certification Process – Ann Skinner and Katie Craven**

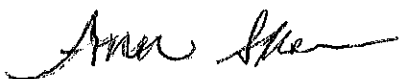
Katie Craven’s PowerPoint showed locations and hours of all the SC Works locations in the Upper Savannah Area. Ann Skinner invited all Board members to visit their centers as a “secret shopper” to help confirm that we are meeting all of the standards.

**Adjourn**

Chair Taiese Kidd called the meeting to conclusion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is set for June 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by



Ann Skinner  
Workforce Development Director