

# SC WORKS

## UPPER SAVANNAH

### Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board Meeting

Held at 927 East Cambridge Avenue, Greenwood, SC or via Zoom

Monday, November 6, 2023

Meeting: 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: John Calhoun, Candi Lalonde, Julie Bagwell, Roberta Kinard, Chad Ulmer, Scott Coleman, Debbie Walling, Betty Carol Jones, Darron Wilson, Taiese Kidd, Susan Goodwin, Roy Lowe, Charles Camp

Members Absent: Ann Blanton, Dale Callum, Theresa Stover, Kelli Fewox, Shelby Reed

Staff Present: Ann Skinner, Willie Matthews

Guest: Tammy Keesee, SC DEW; Charleen Allen and Nikki Green, SC Commission for the Blind; Valeria Gaines, SC DSS; Margaret Glasgow and Tasha Harrison, GLEAMNS; Angela Kilgore, Goodwill Industries; Welline Bowles, Job Corp; Kimberly Smith, Kal Kunker, and JT Parnell, Eckerd; Amber Bearden, Upper Savannah COG

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

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

The meeting roll call was conducted by Ann Skinner.

### **Approval of Minutes for**

Minutes are emailed along with the meeting agenda. They are also archived on-line. There was a motion by Darron Wilson, seconded by John Calhoun, to approve the minutes. The minutes were adopted unanimously as submitted.

### **Success Stories from SC Works Partner Agencies**

Tammie Keats works at SC DEW. Tammie told us of a veteran whom she calls Sgt. Simms. He served in the army for nine years. And had previously worked as a hospital food service specialist. Sgt. Simms walked over an hour to his initial appointment at the Newberry SC Works.

He completed a veteran intake form and qualified for case management due to his income level and lack of transportation. Mary Brown (veteran workforce consultant) conducted an interview, assessment, intake, and initial employment plan. Sgt. Simms resume was uploaded to SC Works system. He was never late or missed any appointments. A month later he was interviewed by Manpower Staffing and was offered a job and completed onboarding the same day. He currently makes \$19 an hour.

Chad Ulmer works at Vocational Rehab. Chad told us about a gentleman who was in an accident on Hwy 26 that caused him to need reconstruction on his skull. He started with private rehab where they were unsure if he would ever walk again. He begins to use the Vocational Rehab's occupation and physical therapy services and within months he was walking again. Prior to his accident, he owned a construction business. Vocational Rehab connected him with a business development specialist to build on prior skills and knowledge. He was connected with a hardware store where he works 16 hours a week and has never missed a day.

Nikki Green works at SC Commission for the Blind. Nikki told us of a young lady who came to the Commission with two sensory issues. She was legally blind and partially deaf. The young lady wanted to get a college degree. The Commission helped her attend Clemson University where they provided tuition assistance and helped her understand what assistive technology was available to her. She became a member of Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society, ranked top in her class, made the Dean's List, and graduated with her bachelor's in computer science. Charlene Allen from the Commission encouraged her to participate in the Development Carolina Fellowship, a 6-month program that helps recent graduates in software development begin a career. Through this program, she worked with Texas Instruments to complete a software application of her own design that helps students with visual impairments use calculators. She is currently employed as a software developer for Booz Allen Hamilton.

Valeria Gaines works at SC DSS. Valeria told us about Ms. Jones who was referred to the agency earlier this year looking to begin a career path. She submitted a resume and received a job she was a perfect fit for. However, Ms. Jones did not disclose her background to the company and the job offer fell through. Through lots of determination, Ms. Jones is currently employed with UberEATS and is much more content as she has found a job which she succeeds at that also works with her young son's school schedule.

Margret Glasgow works with GLEAMS. She informed us that they have provided 132 gas cards to clients to help get them to and from work. They also were able to provide 50 air conditioners to clients that were delivered and set up for elderly clients. They have also provided 193 clients with rental assistance. They are also providing a driver's training program at no cost to clients. Besides the seven Upper Savannah counties they have expanded to cover Spartanburg and Cherokee counties as well.

David Rosenbaum works for PTC. He sent in a letter which was read by Willie Matthews. David tells us of a young man who was struggling to find a career for when he graduated. He had no

programming experience and was almost ready to graduate with his Computer Technology degree. David found an entry level programmer position at Newberry County Memorial Hospital and shared the student's resume with them. The student was interviewed in September and is currently employed there and is likely to stay on after graduation.

Angela Kilgore works for Goodwill Industries. She told us of how she began in 2019 at Goodwill as a job seeker in the SCSEP program. After COVID host agencies were limited and she was working at job connection. In February of 2022 she was offered a position with Goodwill Industries. Angela also told us of a lady named Cathy who was at Goodwill Industries and had applied for over 80 jobs. She was struggling due to health concerns of her own and being the primary caregiver for her significant other. Upon her significant other's death, Cathy fell apart. Angela and her peers offered her grief counseling and resume counseling to help get her back on her feet. After attending a job fair held at PTC, Angela stopped in to speak with the chief operating officer at Piedmont Area of Aging. She told them about what SCSEP does and asked if they had any job needs. They told her of a teaching position they had opened, and Angela knew Cathy would be a perfect fit. Cathy was hired in May of 2022 and in March of 2023 was named teacher of the year.

Welline Bowles works at Job Corp. Welline told us of a young man from the islands who came to them to learn a trade and is now making \$23 an hour.

Roberta Kinard works in Adult Education. Roberta told us of Ms. Jeannie who came to them with no high school diploma and limited job skills. They were able to get her individualized tutoring, WIOA, career counseling, and occupational training. Ms. Jeannie is now employed and making \$21 an hour and is currently enrolled at PTC as a radiology technician. Roberta states she and others in adult education are pleased with the partnerships that are offered.

Kimberly Smith works as a career services manager for WIOA at Eckerd. Kimberly tells us about Mr. Mills who came to them after becoming unemployed. The agency was able to help Mr. Mills fulfill his dream to become a truck driver by providing financial assistance for his CDL license. Afterwards they helped him create a resume which helped him land his current job making \$20 an hour.

Amber Bearden works at Upper Savannah COG for the Level UP Rural Healthcare Grant. Amber tells us about Ashley Williams who attended an information session at PTC in January 2022. She was a part-time medical scribe but wanted to be an EMT. She completed the program in May 2022 and was able to pass her certification on the first try. She begins to work with McCormick EMS. She came back to complete her advanced EMT and while working full-time as an EMT completed the program and passed her certification on the first try. She currently works as an advanced EMT in McCormick and is hoping to come back to become a paramedic. Level Up provided Ashley with assistance for tuition, fees, supplies, and transportation.

### **Center Operations Report-Charles Camp**

Charles Camp told us of the numbers of visits to each of our locations. Greenwood had 593 visits, Laurens had 186 visits, Edgefield had 20 visits, Abbeville had 23 visits, McCormick had 7 visits, Newberry had 200 visits, and Saluda had 14 visits. WIOA had 20 orientations. There was one hiring event. There were 24 referrals. There were 13 clients served for soft skills. The hiring event was the Upper Savannah Job Fair held at PTC. 67 employers were present and over 415 jobseekers attended.

### **Expenditure Report-Ann Skinner**

Ann Skinner reported that we are given approximately \$1.2 million a year and 30% needs to be spent on clients. Last year, we fell short at 29.8%. A corrective action plan was submitted to help with meeting dislocated worker and youth expenditures. The spreadsheet presented shows numbers as of the end of September 2023. The staff/operating total is low due to some vacancies. Work Experience and Occupational training is low because PTC is offering free training. This amount can be increased by providing supportive services i.e. transportation, childcare, books and fees. On the Job Training is spent when the client finishes the training.

When looking at the summary by case management we have almost achieved the 30% for adult at 28%. We exceeded expected enrollment by five. For dislocated workers, we have only enrolled two of our expected five. For youth, we have only enrolled two of our expected eight.

When looking at Work Based Learning, for adults we have two of the seven expected trainees. For dislocated workers, we have zero of one expected trainee. For youth, we have zero of our two expected trainees.

We are seeing more activity in October and will review the spending and enrollment in December.

### **Proposed Supportive Services Changes-Transportation – Ann Skinner**

By the time clients come in for services they have exhausted their personal resources, they may be recently released from jail, or they may be homeless.

Transportation payments are available for anyone attending classroom training or in work-based learning for three weeks. We propose to change this to include all active clients attending scheduled: career planning, assessment, training (still limited to work-based training up to 3 weeks), soft skills instruction, resume preparation, job development assistance, financial aid consultations, career guidance and counseling, and pre-vocational training.

We currently pay \$6 a day for 5-24 miles one way and \$16 dollars a day for 25 or more miles one day. We propose to change this to \$6 a day for 2-10 miles one way, \$12 a day for 11-25 miles one way, \$16 a day for 26-40 miles one way, and \$20 a day for more than 40 miles one way.

Currently we require documentation that shows time attended from school/work-based learning. School attendance cannot be virtual. We propose to change this to include

documentation that shows time attended from school/work-based learning or a record of the visit for any activity listed above. For transportation assistance for the first three weeks of job if they participate in a job retention counseling session to review soft skills, client must submit pay stub or have placement verification completed by employer.

There was a motion to update changes by Darron Wilson, seconded by John Calhoun. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Designation of Business Services Lead- Ann Skinner**

This will be postponed until the next meeting.

**Upcoming Event- Ann Skinner**

An event will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Meeting place has yet to be decided. This event will have a guest speaker as well as many of our partners. The guest speaker is from a committee that is currently working on a new workforce law that will go into effect next year and they are looking for input from community leaders in rural areas.

**Adjourn**

Scott Coleman announced that the next scheduled workforce board meeting will be held February 5, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Leaman".

Sam Leaman  
Assistant Director, Upper Savannah COG