

# SC WORKS

## UPPER SAVANNAH

**Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board Meeting**  
**Upper Savannah Conference Room**  
**430 Helix Road**  
**Greenwood, South Carolina**  
**Monday, May 07, 2018**  
**Meeting: 6:00 PM**

**Members Present:** James Tisdale, Roy Lowe, Shunna Vance, Doris Watson, Dale Cullum, Jesse Sibert, Cherie Martin, and Ann Blanton

**Members Absent:** Lee Matthews, Glenn Herlong, Betty Boles, Kassie Hall, Dee Dee Setzler, Julie Bagwell, Darron Wilson, Rick Farmer, Zebbie Goudelock, Houston Matthews, Betty Carol Jones, and Kevin Crouch.

**Staff Present:** Ann Skinner, Linda Lagroon, Billy Morgan, and Delshawn Anderson

**Guest:** Katie Craven, GLEAMNS; Chad Ulmer, VR (for Houston Matthews); SheVonne Randle and Renee Alexander, Eckerd Workforce Development; and Julia Gamarra Mendoza, SCDEW.

### **Welcome and Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Ann Blanton called the meeting to order. Ms. Shunna Vance, CEO of GLEAMNS, was welcomed to the board.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the February 5, 2018 meeting were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. There being no corrections, Mr. Jesse Sibert made a motion to accept the minutes as recorded. Ms. Doris Watson seconded the motion and Ms. Ann Blanton called a vote. The minutes were accepted by unanimous consent.

### Ongoing Reports:

**Usage Report:** Ms. Katie Craven of GLEAMNS briefed the board on SC Works traffic. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter numbers increased due to a more prominent social media presence, signage, and all around better outreach.

**Layoff activities:** Mr. Billy Morgan, the Deputy Workforce Development Director, updated the board on the status of area layoffs. When the Harvey's Greenwood and Newberry grocery stores closed down, 58 people were laid off but many relocated.

SC Works held Rapid Response Services in order to reach those workers. In Newberry, 48 people were laid off but only four came to the meeting. The Walmart Regional Operational Center in Laurens moved to Little Rock. Nearly ninety people were affected. Most transferred or got other jobs.

**Customer Service Surveys:** Mr. Billy Morgan updated the board on the status of the surveys recently implemented in SC Works Centers, which rolled out in March. There were three types of surveys: the job seeker survey, unemployment survey and the WIOA survey. The surveys revealed that the centers having been doing a good job helping clients get what they need.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance:** Ms. Linda Lagroon, the Information Systems Coordinator, briefed the board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter performance of the employment rate, credential attainment rate, and measurable skill gains. Each category met or exceeded its goals for the quarter. For example, employment rate after exit, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, for adults was 79.5% despite the goal only being 73.1%.

### Old Business

**Center Updates:** Ms. Ann Skinner, Upper Savannah Workforce Director, updated the board on the operation costs and moves for each center. Over the past year, staff has been working to reduce center operation costs so more money can be put into staff and client costs. For each move, SC Works has saved money. Abbeville moved from its Piedmont Tech. location to the county administrative building. The infrastructure costs went from \$1,281 to \$190 a month. The Edgefield location moved from a condemned building to the Health Department Building. The Greenwood location will stay but it is getting more tenants to help reduce the cost. In Laurens, the center moved from the public library to Adult Education. In McCormick, the rent was reduced from \$350 to \$150 a month. In Newberry, the county manager suggested the center move to the Piedmont Tech plaza. We will move by the end of June. The Saluda location did not have enough staff to support the cost and security was also a problem. County staff members will be moved into the building by July to reduce our costs and increase the security of the employees.

Ann Skinner called for a vote on these proposed plans. Mr. Jesse Sibert motioned to approve. Mr. Dale Cullum seconded the motion. The plans were unanimously approved.

**Transition intake services from Upper Savannah Staff to contractor staff:** Ms. Ann Skinner informed the board that Upper Savannah staff, due to state policy, can no longer serve clients. To take over these duties, Ann proposed two possible options:

1. Bid out the service so new as well as existing contractors can have an opportunity to offer the services. This means developing a Request for Proposal and having the board meet to select the winner. Altogether, there is \$148,000 available.
2. Add money to existing contracts and let contractors be responsible for this intake. It would mean adding \$65,000 for adult, \$45,000 to dislocated worker, and \$38,000 to youth contracts.

After discussion, members felt the second option was in the area's best interest.

Mr. Jesse Sibert motioned to approve the second option. Mr. James Tisdale seconded the motion. Ms. Shunna Vance, CEO of GLEAMNS abstained. The motion was approved.

## New Business

**Update on outreach activities:** Mr. Billy Morgan, the Deputy Workforce Development Director, gave the board a workforce event update. At the Laurens County Job Fair on April 24, 44 high school students (Laurens High school and Clinton High School) came in the morning. There were employer panels held at each high school prior to the event. There was also student preparation workshops conducted at each school including resume assistance and basic first impression training. At the job fair held after the event for students, there were 66 job seekers and 23 employers. The primary partners were SC Works, Laurens County Development Corporation, West Piedmont Education Consort, Piedmont Technical College and South Carolina Department of Commerce.

The Newberry County job fair, which took place on May 3, 2018, was much the same. About 26 high school students from Newberry High School, Mid-Carolina, and Whitmire School signed up. There were 173 job seekers, and 24 employers. The primary partners were SC Works, Newberry Economic Development, Newberry Chamber of Commerce, West Piedmont Education Corporation, Piedmont Technical College and South Carolina Department of Commerce. This job fair was much more successful. It may have been helped by more advertisement such as social media and articles in the newspaper.

Greenwood Edge accepted 18 students. "Signing Day" will occur on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Plans for video series:** Ms. Delshawn Anderson, Upper Savannah Intern, talked about the video project they have been working on for the past few months. The videos feature employers at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> job fair responding to questions and concerns job seekers usually have. The finished videos have a problem (addressed by the speaker) and a solution. There are about 15 videos, each about 1 minute. They will be created to help develop a job seeker's soft skills as well as direct more traffic to our SC Works Centers. They will be uploaded on the SC Works website as well as on various social media platforms.

## Other Business

Ms. Ann Skinner, Upper Savannah Workforce Director, proposed that the following items be approved together.

### **1. Grant application for logistics training and commercial truck driver training**

The construction industry will grow. She plans to apply for a \$400,000 grant for logistics, truck driver training and road construction to help people get these positions.

### **2. Increase Transportation Payments**

Currently we pay clients \$10 if he or she is traveling at least 25 miles per day for training. Gasoline prices have increased. And so, we would like to offer \$12 a day for those who travel 25 miles one way and offer \$5 for those traveling 5 to 24 miles.

### **3. Amend training policy to require select training program to have the availability of in-person training.**

Ann said training providers can request to be placed on the area's approved training list. The board makes policies that the staff uses when considering adding a school. One problem has been the growth of on-line schools. There are some occupations which can be learned by solely by participating in online

classes as such as computer programming. However, most occupations require a person to demonstrate the ability to craft a product or fine-tune a process. Ann suggested requiring training for skilled trades and healthcare to have a hand on component. The following training would be included in the policy: maintenance, electronics, mechanical engineering, automotive technology, HVAC, nursing, and surgical tech. Exceptions could be made for review courses, for example staff might approve a RN study course for a student who did not pass the exam..

Mr. James Tisdale motioned to approve all proposals. Ms. Cherie Martin seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

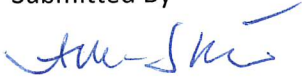
**Review of workforce strategies to set next year's agenda.**

Because of low attendance, Ann suggested sending a survey rather than polling members at the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting:

Submitted By



Ann Skinner

Workforce Development Director