

Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
May 18, 2023 Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Mr. Jay Holloway*, Chair
Ms. Valerie S. Richardson*
Ms. Susan H. Cohen
Dr. Windsor W. Sherrill
Senator Ross Turner

Members Absent:

Ms. Felicia Johnson
Mr. Craig Currey

Welcome and Opening RemarksMr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair

Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Holloway welcomed Ms. Sara Pincelli, Project Coordinator, with the Digital Equity Office.

Approval of Minutes from February 16, 2023*Mr. Holloway

Dr. Windsor Sherrill motioned to approve the February 16, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Susan Cohen seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

Digital Equity ActMs. Sara Pincelli

Ms. Sara Pincelli, Project Coordinator at the South Carolina Department of Administration and the newly formed Digital Equity Office, presented on her travels across the state, speaking to residents and organizations about how the lack of high-speed internet affects their daily lives and learning about successful programs. The information Ms. Pincelli has gathered will be used to create the SC Five-Year Broadband Plan. Ms. Pincelli explained the comprehensive plan will be submitted to the Federal Government for funding opportunities. At the time of her presentation, the timeline for funding and how it would be dispersed were unavailable.

During Ms. Pincelli’s presentation, committee members and attendees discussed opportunities and shared how the lack of internet access affects the areas in which they live and work. SWDB members and partnering agencies offered assistance and referrals to Ms. Pincelli and her team.

SC at Work Road TripMs. Diana Goldwire

Ms. Diana Goldwire, Area Director and Interim Assistant Executive Director of Employer Services, presented on DEW’s SC@Work Road Trips. These Road Trips are part of DEW’s ongoing rural initiative to make DEW and SC Works services assessable to jobseekers in rural and underserved areas. Utilizing the SC Works Career Coach and partnering with local vendors and service providers, the Road Trips are mobile job fairs and community events. The Road Trips visited six locations in the Pee Dee, resulting in 40 potential hires and 163 follow-up interviews. Ms. Goldwire advised of future stops dates and regions.

Priority UpdatesMs. Pamela Jones

Ms. Pamela Jones provided an update on the Committee’s Program Year (PY) 2022 priorities.

- *Rural Engagement: Economic and Workforce Analysis*
 - The Darla Moore School of Business conducted an economic and workforce analysis of the state. The Rural Analysis study and presentation are available on scworks.org.

*Denotes voting item

Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
May 18, 2023 Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting Minutes

- Using the findings from the Rural Analysis, a Rural Outcomes Memo is being developed to be used as a reference tool for the Local Workforce Development Areas to combat long-term unemployment for job seekers in rural areas.
- DEW has also created SC@Work Road Trips, using the SC Works Career Coach to bring the services of DEW and the SC Works One-Stop Centers to the rural areas as part of its ongoing rural initiative.
- *LMI Training for Board Members*
 - LMI training for members has been accomplished. Additionally, we have placed training webinars on the Portal and will continue to update them as necessary.
- *Shared Case Management System to Support Intake, Referral, and Co-enrollment.*
 - The SWDB allocated \$250,000 in funding to procure a consultant to conduct a feasibility study, working with partners to determine the needs and requirements for a Shared Case Management System. At the end of the 12-month contract period, the consultant will provide recommendation(s) to the partners and DEW on how to achieve a more integrated system to support intake, referral, and co-enrollment. Staff will continue to provide updates on the procurement process for selecting a vendor. This priority will carry over into PY’23.
- *Investments for In-Demand Training*
 - The SWDB allocated \$1M in funding to expand the utilization of the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT), to allow occupational skills training, on-the-job training, and customized training strategies for those who are employed and for unemployed people. The Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) can determine the type of training to offer but should align investments with training in high-growth industries and preparing for emerging-demand occupations. This priority will carry over into PY’23.
- *Career Exploration and Training through virtual reality*
 - The preliminary research was completed to learn how Virtual Reality is being utilized within education and workforce development. Staff will continue to identify opportunities for the SWDB and the Committee to expand the utilization of Virtual Reality for training and career exploration. This priority will carry over into PY’23.

Other Business/Adjourn.....Mr. Holloway

Mr. Holloway informed the Committee that he would be resigning as Chairman of the Workforce Innovation Committee but will continue to serve on the Innovation Committee. He announced that Dr. Windsor C. Sherrill had been appointed as the Committee’s Chair.

Mr. Thomas Freeland, Chairman of the State Workforce Development Board, thanked Mr. Holloway for his leadership and continued service as a member of SWDB. Mr. Freeland thanked Dr. Sherrill for accepting the position of Committee Chair.

Mr. Holloway reminded Committee members that the next SWDB meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. He also reminded members that the 2023 Workforce Development Symposium will be at the Williams Brice Stadium in Columbia, SC, on September 19, 2023, and encouraged everyone to attend.

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**Governor's State Workforce Development Board
May 18, 2023 Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting Minutes**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

APPROVED

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