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| **Members Present:** | **Members Absent:** |
| Mr. John Uprichard\* | Mr. Warren Snead\* |
| Mr. Gregory Cannon Clark | Mr. William Floyd\* |
| Ms. Darline Graham | Ms. Swati Patel |
| Mr. Mike King | Mr. Gregory L. Tinnell |

**Welcome and Opening Remarks Mr. John Uprichard, Committee Co-Chair**

Mr. John Uprichard, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of May 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes\* Mr. Uprichard**

Mr. Mike King motioned to approve the May 11, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Darline Graham seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

**Unified State Plan Mr. Charles Appleby**

Mr. Charles Appleby, Senior Advisor, Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, provided an update on Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act (Act 67) activities, focusing on the Unified State Plan (USP), a comprehensive education and workforce development plan.

The USP is a systematic approach to statewide education and workforce development to streamline and unify the efforts of entities involved throughout the state. Mr. Appleby noted that the USP does not replace nor negate the required program and agency-required plans. Rather, the USP will provide an opportunity to address and further collaborate around the state’s workforce and educational needs. The USP’s vision, “Achieve and sustain South Carolina’s workforce potential,” has been adopted as the vision for the 2024 Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan. Both plans include strategies to address education and workforce in three topic areas: awareness, skills, and obstacles.

**SC Professional Skills Certificate Mr. Adam Paige**

Mr. Adam Paige, Director of Workforce Initiatives, provided an update on the Committee's SC Soft Skills Certificate priority to develop a strategy to prepare the workforce and support the needs of employers around the six essential soft skills: Communication, Digital Literacy, Problem Solving, Professionalism, Teamwork, and Time Management. DEW partnered with WIN Learning to create the SC Professional Skills Certificate, which launched in August 2023.

The SC Professional Skills Certificate is awarded to job seekers who pass two, 60-minute proctored assessments available at over 250 career readiness sites across the state. The Digital Literacy Assessment measures the foundational digital/technology skills needed in the workplace. The Essential Soft Skills Assessment measures attitudinal and behavioral skills. Completers receive a certificate that lists the skills demonstrated. The credential is backed by the National Work Readiness Council.

**PY’22 Performance Overview Mr. Zach Nickerson**

Mr. Zach Nickerson reviewed Program Year (PY) 2022 local area WIOA programmatic and fiscal performance. As a state, SC met or exceeded all WIOA program performance measures. State-identified fiscal measures require LWDAs to meet an 80% obligation rate, 70% Fund Utilization Rate (FUR), and 30% Participant Cost Rate (PCR) by June 30, 2023. All 12 LWDAs met the expected obligation rate for each of the WIOA Title I funding streams (Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth). Eleven local areas met or exceeded the 70% FUR for the Adult program funding stream, 10 local areas met the FUR for the Dislocated Worker program funding stream, and eight local areas met the Youth FUR. Ten local areas met the PCR.

The six local areas that did not meet fiscal performance have triggered progressive sanction measures. For the four local areas, for which this is the first year they have failed the measure(s), the LWDB will be required to submit a Corrective Action Plan within 45 days of the formal notice, describing how it will improve and meet performance. Upon acceptance of the CAP, the LWDB will submit progress reports to DEW on a mutually agreed upon schedule.

This is the second year of failure for two local areas. These two areas will receive a formal notice of performance failure. DEW will also present the performance, sanctions, and potential consequences to the local workforce board. The local area will be required to commit funds for dedicated external technical assistance. Both areas failed the Youth FUR requirement and are unable to receive Youth Discretionary funding until compliance with this measure is met. If each local area does not meet the Youth FUR for PY’23, then the excess Youth funding (any amount over the 30% allowed) will be recaptured by the State and reallocated to those local areas that met the requirement for PY’23.

**Other Business/Adjourn Mr. Uprichard**

Mr. Uprichard invited Committee members to attend the Executive Committee meeting on November 14, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., when EvalGroup will share the SC Secret Shopper Initiative results. Members were also reminded of the SWDB meeting on December 12, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:44 a.m.