

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
June 14, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

- Seven (7) local areas are trending below the expected Fund Utilization Rate (FUR).
- Six (6) areas are trending below the expected level for Participant Cost Rate.
- The two (2) local areas that did not meet fiscal performance measures in PY’20 continue to trend below the expected rate this year.
- Fund utilization typically peaks in the last quarter of the program year, and it is anticipated that most areas will meet the required fiscal measures.
- Key indicators of productivity, current through March 31, 2022
 - There are 5,111 participants enrolled in Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs; 46% of participants are in training
 - The number of participants provided soft skills training has increased, with 140 more participants having been provided instruction through 3rd quarter, compared to the total number of participants provided instruction last year.
 - Statewide expenditures indicate a reasonable average cost per participant of \$3,626.

Strategic Planning SessionMr. Freeland

The Strategic Planning Session will take place after the June 28, 2022, SWDB meeting. The planning session is an opportunity to review existing priorities and agree on current challenges, such as the continuing decline in WIOA funds and workers lacking the skills and certification that businesses need, and new priorities the SWDB can adopt to address these challenges. Mr. Freeland asked members to come prepared to share system challenges and recommended actions the SWDB could take.

Other Business/AdjournMr. Freeland

Director Ellzey advised the committee that May 2022 jobs data will be available on June 18, 2022. While there is an uptick in initial claims, the trends are continuing in a good direction, with record job postings continuing.

The Committee did not address any other business. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47am.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Thomas Freeland
Mr. Pat Michael
Mr. Charles Brave, Jr.
Mr. Jay Holloway
Mr. James Warren Snead
Mr. Dan Ellzey
Ms. Valerie Richardson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Uprichard

Welcome and Opening Remarks Mr. Thomas Freeland, SWDB Chair

Mr. Thomas Freeland, SWDB Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Freeland announced that in accordance with the SWDB Bylaws, Board members will receive emailed reminders of all committee meetings moving forward, regardless of committee membership. State Board members may attend any committee meeting. However, voting is restricted to committee members only.

He also shared that the Governor has appointed two new members to the State Workforce Development Board:

- Ms. Darline Graham, Commissioner for the SC Commission for the Blind, a WIOA Core Partner.
- Ms. Susan Cohen, President and CEO of the SC Hospitality, Restaurant, and Lodging Association.

Mr. Freeland acknowledged Ms. Val Richardson's participation in the National Skills Coalition Fireside Chat on July 14, 2022, along with the CEO of Walmart. She was a panel participant and shared talent development efforts underway in South Carolina in a national forum.

Mr. Dan Ellzey, Executive Director, SC Department of Employment and Workforce, provided an update on Unemployment Insurance claims and South Carolina employment levels. He covered the following points:

- For the week ending July 30, 2022, initial claim filings averaged 2,000 per week, consistent with pre-pandemic levels. The UI Trust Fund has a balance of more than \$1.43B. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that 78,000 are unemployed; however, only 8,000 receive unemployment payments. The preliminary Unemployment Rate for July 2022 is 3.2% in SC, compared to the national rate of 3.6%.
- South Carolina's Labor Force Participation Rate is increasing at a rate of 0.1% each month. The current LPR is 57.5%, still behind the national rate of 62.2%. The agency has awarded contracts to vendors on behalf of the South Carolina Labor Force Participation (LFP) Taskforce, to research the state's labor force participation.
- Workforce Development Month is planned for September 2022, with many activities scheduled for both job seekers and businesses.

Request for Funding* Ms. Nina Staggers

Ms. Nina Staggers presented a \$4.2M funding recommendation to the Committee, which included funding for statewide activities that support outreach, employer engagement, increased utilization of work-based learning, and data collection and reporting.

*Denotes voting item

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- *Engage, Build and Serve (EBS) Funding - \$4,000,000:* DEW will provide funding to Local Workforce Development Areas to support business engagement, including the development or expansion of sector partnerships with demand industries and high-quality employers; community and participant outreach with an emphasis on equity and access to workforce services; and the delivery of comprehensive career and training services, prioritizing work-based learning (WBL) strategies. The agency will distribute funding to local areas through discretionary grants.
- *SC Works Online Services - \$227,000:* funding will be used to cover the WIOA portion of the SC Works Online Services System (SCWOS) costs for one program year. SCWOS is the state’s database that tracks participant outcomes for multiple programs, including WIOA. The WIOA portion of the costs includes maintenance hosting, document imaging, and reporting capabilities.

Mr. Pat Michaels asked if local areas requested the funds. Ms. Stagers responded that DEW conferred with local areas on the amount and scope of funding. Local areas will submit an application or formal request for funds. Funds that are not used by the area are returned to DEW at the end of the grant period.

Recognizing a potential conflict of interest, Director Ellzey abstained from discussion and did not vote on the funding recommendation. Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. motioned to accept the funding recommendation, Mr. James Snead seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the funding recommendation.

Planning Session RecommendationsMs. Jackie Taylor

Ms. Jackie Taylor summarized the challenges and actions offered from the June 28, 2022, Board planning session. Board members shared what they see as the biggest challenges facing employers, job seekers, and the workforce system overall in its ability to provide high-quality services and achieve performance expectations while offering suggested actions that the board can take.

The concepts discussed were placed in a matrix (attached), organized into the major themes and overarching goals associated with those themes, corresponding initiatives, and deliverables to work towards in Program Year 2022. Project plans for the deliverables will be presented to committees in Quarter 1.

In discussion about the status of current priorities, Ms. Michelle Paczynski shared that a draft of the Rural Analysis is under review and anticipates release of the final report in Quarter 1. Additionally, Ms. Ann Angermeier and Mr. Dean Jones offered progress of their regionalism efforts to share costs across areas. The Upstate and Greenville Local Areas are currently sharing approximately nine employees and issue regional instruction letters. Regular management meetings allow the areas to review processes and evaluate opportunities for expanding cost sharing efforts.

Other Business/AdjournMr. Freeland

Chairman Freeland reminded members that September is the start of Workforce Development Month, a month dedicated to highlighting ongoing workforce development activities in South Carolina. DEW will share opportunities for Board members to attend local or state-level activities.

*Denotes voting item

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Mr. Freeland also asked members to anticipate communication about the Board portal. The communication will include new resources that staff have added to the portal and instructions for using the portal to access meeting materials.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 7, at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

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Challenges	Goals	Initiatives	PY'22 Potential Deliverables
Employee Attraction and Retention	Increase Businesses and Job Seekers Use of SC Works	Outreach to employers	Implement outreach to employers around strategies and resources for creating a talent pipeline
			Develop an Employer Services Dashboard
		Outreach to Veterans*	Explore ways to retain Veteran talent in SC
		Rural Engagement	Research underway by Darla Moore School of Business will determine whether the SWDB should include job seekers in rural areas as a priority population.
		Staff Training - Learning Management System	Deployment of Learning Management System
		SC Works Customer Experience	Deployment of Secret Shopper Initiative
Declining WIOA Funds	Improve SC Works Cost Efficiencies	Virtual Services	Virtual Engagement Center will be stood up for statewide access without brick-and-mortar costs
		Regionalism*	SWDB support and incentivize local workforce development areas (LWDAs) with resources as cost-sharing practices are implemented
		Shared Case Management System to Support Intake, Referral and Co-enrollment*	Research and development across programs
Workers lack the skills and certifications businesses need	Improve Alignment of Training with Employer Needs	Soft Skills Instruction	State Soft Skills Certificate
		Investments for in-demand training*	Initiate Supply Gap Analysis
			Support a State Cybersecurity Strategy by targeting training for high-demand cybersecurity occupations
		Career exploration and training through virtual reality	Statewide scan of virtual reality use in Workforce Development
Work-based Learning (Registered Apprenticeships, On-the-Job Training, Incumbent Worker Training)	Increase rates of Work-based Learning (WBL) SWDB investment towards WBL costs, including summer youth employment programs Deployment of Career Pathways		

***New initiatives of the Board**

*Denotes voting item