



QUARTERLY MEETING
November 10, 2020
Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments

AGENDA

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Les Echols, Chairperson

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

RECOGNITION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Billy Hogge

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 4, 2020*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Program Year 2019 Performance Outcomes
- Program Year 2020 Performance Negotiations
- Program Year 2020 Funding Update *

Ms. Joette Dukes

Workforce Development Director

BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE/DISCUSSION

Ms. Brianna Dennis, Executive Director
Kelly Center for Economic Development
Francis Marion University

BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

- Workforce Issues/Concerns
- Advocacy Activities
 - Chairperson & Other WDB Members
 - Staff

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURN

**Denotes Voting Items*

**PEE DEE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES
November 10, 2020**

Zoom Conference

Members Present: Pam Company, Jeffrey DeLung, Les Echols, Carol Hill, Lauren Holland, Darrell Jameson, Rena McLain, James Roberts, and Mel West

Members Excused: Bernell Evans, Terry Gainey, Billy Hogge, Debbie Locklair, John Nichols, Tommy Pruitt, Vicky Tyner, and Kyle Wagner

Members Unexcused: Sam Bass, Wayne Simon, and Jeff Singletary

Staff Present: Bridgette Coates, Joette Dukes, April Gaskins, Dianne Herrington, Teresa Jacobs, Mamie Legette, and Tammy Rowell,

Guests Present: Marquel Jackson, Eckerd Youth Alternatives
Amanda Wagner, Eckerd Youth Alternatives
Craig Butler, Blue Ribbon Management and Consulting
Brianna Dennis, Kelly Center of Economic Development, Francis Marion University
Shelanda Deas, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Joe Bittle, CareSouth Carolina
Robert Taylor, Northeastern Technical College
Connie Mason, Connie's Workforce Connections LLC
Cheryl Lewis, SC Department of Commerce

The Pee Dee Workforce Development Board met on November 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom conference.

The meeting was called to order by Les Echols, Chairman. He acknowledged the guests that were in attendance and thanked them for their support.

A motion was made by Lauren Holland and seconded by Darrell Jameson to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020 meeting. The motion carried.

Joette Dukes reported on Program Year 2019 performance outcomes. A handout detailing the Pee Dee Local Workforce Development Area's performance and the overall performance for the State of South Carolina was e-mailed to Board

members prior to the meeting and is included as an attachment to the minutes. The local area met or exceeded all performance goals for Program Year 2019. Ms. Dukes commended the contractors for their diligence in serving customers and making them and our programs successful.

In addition, Ms. Dukes reported that each local area negotiated performance goals with the State for Program Years 2020 and 2021. She stated that the local areas who substantially exceeded their goals in previous program years have been challenged to raise the bar in the negotiations with the State. For the first time, performance indicators that were being tracked to determine a baseline at which to set performance, will have goals attached to them. A handout detailing the negotiated performance goals for the Pee Dee LWDA was e-mailed to Board members prior to the meeting and is included as an attachment to the minutes.

Prior to the virtual meeting, Ms. Dukes e-mailed handouts detailing the allocation of adult, dislocated worker, and youth program to various activities authorized by the Board. The handouts are included as attachments to the minutes. She indicated that there was essentially no change to the information since the August 2020 meeting. The local area was not allowed to request a new Rapid Response for Additional Assistance Grant by the State, since there was an existing grant, containing unexpended funds, in place. The LWDA would be required to close out its open grant and relinquish the unexpended funds in order to obtain a new grant. Staff requested an extension of the current grant's period from September 30, 2020 until March 31, 2021 in lieu of making a new request. The dislocated worker award to Eckerd was reduced by \$100,000 in the absence of a new grant. **In order to fund the activities of the adult program as outlined, it is the staff's recommendation that the transfer from the dislocated worker funding to the adult program be increased by \$25,000 and that a total of \$550,000 in dislocated worker funding be transferred and earmarked to serve participants in the adult program. A motion was made by Darrell Jameson and seconded by Carol Hill to accept the staff's recommendation. The motion carried.**

Ms. Dukes reported that, with regards to special grants, there were several opportunities pending application and/or award, to include a \$2.5 million Rural Healthcare Grant from the US Department of Labor. Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments, on behalf of the Board and in collaboration, with Upper Savannah Regional Council of Governments plans to apply for the grant to prepare a talent pipeline of rural healthcare workers. The partnering employers are McLeod Health and the seven county governments in the Upper Savannah Region. McLeod Health will focus on a variety of occupations, while the county governments will focus on EMS/EMT. The grant application is due November 13, with the grant commencing on January 15, 2021.

The floor was yielded to Brianna Dennis, the consultant chosen by the Pee Dee Workforce Development Board to conduct strategic planning for 2021-2024. Ms.

Dennis met with all of the Board's committees between the August and November Board meetings and a list of priorities was e-mailed by the Board for its information. The document is attached.

Ms. Dennis indicated that her next steps would be to meet with existing committee chairpersons and their staff support person to further develop the priorities into strategic plan goals for the Board's consideration at its February meeting. She also shared the proposed mission and vision statements, developed with input from staff, for the Board's consideration and feedback. No feedback was provided for the mission. Adjustments to the vision statement were proposed and will be incorporated by Ms. Dennis in a draft of the strategic plan.

In the Board's discussion about how it can leverage its relationships with other organizations, Ms. Dennis provided a preliminary list of organizations involved in some form of business engagement and invited Board members to add others that she might have omitted from the list. The following additions were proposed:

Community Action Agencies
Faith-based organizations
Chambers of Commerce that were not already specifically listed, especially
Pageland Chamber of Commerce
Pee Dee AHEC

Committee members and staff were invited to e-mail any others they think of to Ms. Dennis.

Ms. Dennis also shared several issues for which the Board might wish to engage for proactive progress, but were not assigned to a specific committee, as follows:

Transportation
Future skill sets (especially involving automation)
Generational poverty
Soft skills
Specific population focus – veterans, homeless, offenders, etc.

The Board was invited to choose one or two they wish to tackle, in addition to the priorities assigned to the committees.

One suggestion was made by Youth Committee member, Cheryl Lewis. She stated that she would love to see the Board convene discussions with businesses to address the future skill sets of youth and influence them to become more receptive to internships and apprenticeships.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.