

Local Workforce Development Board Meeting

July 18, 2023 | 5:30pm

Attendance:

LWDB Attendees: (11 present) Ginger Carrington – Chair, Sara Newton – Vice Chair, Chris Bodine, Jeff Brown, John Cheek, Donald Kelley, Al Lamar, Julie Langham, Julie Miller, Ted Reid, Jeff Rice

Virtual LWDB Attendees: Kimberly David, Leah Pontani, Kimberly Woodruff-Hawkins

Guest(s): Tracy Bulharowski - DHS, Sherry Harris – Vocational Rehabilitation

WorkSource ECGC Staff: La Tunya Goodwin - Executive Director, Vivian Stewart, Pecola Wiley, Sondra Randall, Kawanna Bailey-Olive, Brenda Johnson, Adrienne Williams (virtual), Titta Bland (virtual)

Sector Partnerships: Randy Barrs

One Stop: Regina Carter-Gilliam

Acknowledgement of New Members/Guests

Welcome Sherry Harris from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. John Cheek who is resigning from the LWDA 12 & 13 boards brings Sherry in hopes to being appointed to LWDA 13's board. John Cheek will solely become a member of LWDA 19 board – WorkSource Coastal.

We also welcome Tracy Bulharowski from the Division of Child Support Services.

Roll Call – A quorum was confirmed.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginger Carrington.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ginger Carrington entertain for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 LWDB meeting. One correction to spell Tracy's name with an 'y' and not 'i'. Chris Bodine made a motion to approve the minutes, John Cheek seconded. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

Old Business/Committee Reports

LWDB Executive Committee Meeting Summary - Ginger Carrington gave a summary of the last called LWDB Executive Committee Meeting on June 29, 2023 – The meeting was held to approved a new provider for the ETPL for an individual out of Athens that wants to go to a bridge nursing type program with Oconee Fall Line Technical College. So the individual is not actually coming from our area, but they will be attending a training. So just to make sure all the i's were dotted and T's were crossed we went ahead and approved and added that program to the ETPL.

La Tunya Goodwin added that we had an ETPL that was the approval and is actually with OFTC and it is that nurse LPN re entry program. The young lady about the ETPL is a 40 hour self paced course and 120 hours of clinical. The sad story is that her husband lost his job, she was a stay at home mom and that's how her nursing license lapse and now she needs to re enter the workforce in order to stay afloat for their family.

Another action item after we've had some discussion, to allow someone that wants to know, we've had a change in personnel in our staff. Two team members resigned, Mary Stein entered retirement and Carrie Edwards, both are no longer on our team. We have a new team member, Miss Brenda Johnson. She's joining our workforce as an eligibility team member. The Executive board also voted on, that the director and leadership will be providing performance management. Performance management will be done at the beginning of the year, mid year and finally the evaluation.

LWDB Program Reports

Adult/DW – Vivian Stewart made a statement that we continually adapt to change in virtual services and will continue to provide virtual services with the help of our newly established Eligibility Team. In person services will continue to be an option for those walking through the door. (Last quarter service numbers – need copies of reports.)

Youth – Pecola Wiley stated that PY22 numbers are lower due to a late start of funding in November instead of July 1 of the program year. There was also a change in the quarterly update and Easter Seals contract was cancelled in April for noncompliance and were not serving any new participants. They were only serving 1 active participant. This meant that we were only paying out salaries after several extensions for enrolling new participants.

Based on performance and any noncompliances, sub-recipients' budgets are decreased according to the policy percentage of 5%. As far as performance measures, we are as a whole meeting performance with all green in each category.

Sector Partnerships – Randy Barrs continues to build community and employer partnerships in providing services to disadvantaged populations such as the homeless, homeless veterans,

returning citizens and youth. In honor of his late wife, Lynda Barrs, Randy continues to push initiatives and build strong partnerships with the Homeless Task Force. Representing ECGC, in collaborative partnership with Gap Ministries and the Salvation Army, comes forth a water bottle program for the homeless. The three entities collect donations of bottled waters (about 5000 bottles to date), attach a tag on them with resource contact information for housing, medical and food and pass the bottles out to the homeless community. Conversations are underway for implementing this same service in Thomson and other counties in our region service area.

One Stop – Regina Carter-Gilliam gave a review of the previous PY22 quarterly meetings. First quarter meetings focus on all partners coming together to share offerings of their agencies. Second quarter meetings are workshop-training based discussing ways of improving delivery of services. The third quarter meeting focused on Medicare needs and benefits for seniors and the fourth quarter focused on insurance. Different types of insurance such as health, homeowners, and information on purchasing a home.

Regina also proudly announced that One Stop referrals have increased by 77%.

New Business

Areas 12 and 13 Merger Ginger Carrington brought forth attention to the LWDB, intentions of the Local Elected Official Board to merge LWDA 13 with LWDA 12 and that the LEO board has met with Augusta Regional Commission on the matter. Ginger proposed the idea that LWDA 13 should consider absorbing LWDA 12 instead. La Tunya shared with the group that our local area receives about \$500K less federal funding than the CSRA region; however, ECGC service outcomes are greater. Area 13 has the highest in median earnings in the state whereas Area 12 is next to last. Area 13 outcomes in enrollment, skill gains, and entered employment rates higher than that of Area 12.

This merger is an item on the agenda for the LEO Board meeting. Ginger asked all LWDB members to attend this meeting which will be held at ECGC, Thursday, July 20th at 6:00pm. Not only for this upcoming LEO meeting but also attend Commissioner meetings, city councils and other meetings as such.

Possible Disallowed Costs – Attorney fees WIOA funds were used to pay for attorney fees on a financial forensic audit after previously told that the fiscal agent will pay for it. The LWDB Executive Committee voted to invoice the fiscal agent to pay those funds back to the LWDB as the LWDB did not approve for them to be drawn down. **Executive Director Vacation Payout** LEO board has not authority to fire the Executive Director nor payout for vacation. Ginger entertained

a motion from the board to invoice the fiscal agent, Lincoln County for the disallowed costs of attorney fees and La Tunya's vacation pay.

ACTION: Jeff **Brown or Rice** made a motion to invoice Lincoln County for the disallowed costs of attorney fees and La Tunya's vacation payout. Ted Reid seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Vacancies Proposing to submit the following to the LEO Board, three candidates to fill vacant positions on the LWDB to become board members. And also ask for a board waiver to fulfill other vacant businesses seats.

1. Sherry Harris – Vocational Rehabilitation
2. Letrisha Simms – Legacy Links
3. Renee Januski – Department of Labor

ACTION: **Jeff Rice** made a motion to approve all 3 candidates to be presented as new board members. Ted Reid seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Youth Contracts – Pecola Wiley proposed that we give \$30K to each subrecipient contracts to serve 10 participants youth services for seven counties.

ACTION: Chris Bodine made the motion to approve 30K for each youth contractor. Jeff Rice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Budget – Budget will be sent out to the full LWDB for review. The Executive Committee will meet at a later date to approve.

Executive Director's Report

La Tunya announced that the mobile unit will arrive Thursday, July 20th.

Desktop Review – La Tunya stated that there was only one finding in the desktop review and it was not related to purchasing the mobile unit. The finding was related to erroneous documents that were sent to the state and questioned internal controls. It was found that this issue had already been resolved as we have a policy locator established where when staff searches for a policy, they will only get the current policy. Staff have been trained through a Lunch & Learn on January 25 on how to access policy documents

Comments/Updates

La Tunya announced that she is trying to get us a seat at the table dealing with the workforce hub in Augusta. We received an email from the Office of Workforce Development to tell us what our involvement would be with the workforce hub.

Adjournment

Jeff made the motion to adjourn. John Cheek seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.