

**Greenville County Workforce Development Board (GCWDB)**

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**GRENVILLE COUNTY**  
Workforce Development Board

*Preparing the workforce, growing our economy*

**Greenville County Workforce Development Board (GCWDB)**

**Youth Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

**12:00 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83895722926?pwd=-24m-qUy4F5Xlph5djKeIPCiFkapv9.1>

Meeting ID: 838 9572 2926

Passcode: 656264

One tap mobile

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**Agenda**

*\* Denotes an action item*

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Call to Order**
- III. **Quorum Validation (5 or more)**
- IV. **Minutes Approval (November 16, 2021; February 22, 2022\*)**
- V. **Contractor Update** Eckerd Connects
- VI. **WIOA Youth 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Performance** Dean E. Jones
- VII. **WIOA Youth Program Enhancements** Mr. Jones
- VIII. **Other Business**
- IX. **Adjourn**

Presentation Documents will be  
made available via  
<http://www.greenvillewib.com>

**Greenville County Workforce Development Board (GCWDB)  
Youth Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 12:00 p.m.  
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Chandler Duggan (Chair), Nita Donald, Tiffany Foster, Robin Miller, LaToya Dodson, Tammy Galindo, and Crystal Noble

**Members Absent:** Frank Floyd

**Staff Present:** Eva Anagnostis and Dean Jones

**Guests:** Amanda Mason (Eckerd Connects), Renee Alexander (Eckerd Connects), and Helena Arida (WIOA Youth Participant)

**Other GCWDB Members:** Robyn Knox

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Jones also welcomed Mr. Chandler Duggan as our new Youth Committee Chair.
- II. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m.
- III. **Quorum Validation:** A quorum was validated.
- IV. **Minutes Approval\*:** (August 30, 2021): Minutes were approved without opposition.
- V. **Contractor Update (Ms. Amanda Mason, Eckerd Connects Program Manager)**

Ms. Mason started her report by introducing Ms. Helena Arida. Ms. Arida is a participant of the WIOA Youth program through Eckerd Connects. She shared that she is originally from Lebanon and recently moved to the United States. She felt really lost because she did not know much about the education system in the US. Eckerd Connects supported her in completing her GED in one month because Greenville Technical College (GTC) would not accept her high school diploma from Lebanon. Ms. Arida is currently a student at GTC, and she has completed a work experience through the WIOA program. Ms. Mason told the committee that Ms. Arida is one of their stars and they are so proud of all she has accomplished.

Ms. Mason shared a few updates on the Youth Program for PY21. Enrollment has really grown this program year. They have spent a lot of time cultivating relationships with other organizations to create pipelines for participants. There are challenges in getting referrals from GTC because they have their own funds to use for scholarships. Ms. Mason is continuing to build a strong relationship with the other SC Works Greenville partners. Finally, related to work-based

learning, Eckerd has gotten their OJT program started with two participants. They have also increased their Work Experience wages from \$11/hour to \$12/hour in order to attract participants to those activities.

## **VI. Other Business/Roundtable Updates**

- Mr. Jones shared his new draft contractor report. We plan to have this completed and send it out to Board and Committee members once a month. The report will include information for our Youth program, as well as our Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. The report includes (but is not limited to) the following information: number of participants enrolled, number of participants exited, funds expended for participants for different activities, percent of participants co-enrolled with other programs, employment related to training, and work-based learning.
- Ms. Robyn Knox (GCWDB Chair) thanked Mr. Duggan for taking on his new role as the Youth Committee Chair. She also really appreciated hearing the success story from Ms. Arida.
- Mr. Jones shared information about Ability ASCEND. He asked that partners who work with individuals with disabilities to reach out to him if they want to use the skills matching program that has been developed to help individuals with disabilities find new employment.
- Ms. Nita Donald (Upstate AHEC) shared updates from Upstate AHEC. She reminded everyone of the resources they have available, including pipeline services for healthcare education. Students enter into their specialty areas in healthcare at different universities and colleges, and Upstate AHEC can help with clinicals and professional development.
- Ms. Latoya Dodson (Upstate AHEC) shared more information about the programs at Upstate AHEC. Students can participate virtually in their online portal and gather a wealth of information. Ms. Dodson shared her contact information so that other members can connect with her.

**VII. Adjourn:** Being there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

\*Denotes an action item

**Greenville County Workforce Development Board (GCWDB)  
Youth Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 12:00 p.m.  
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Tammy Galindo and Crystal Noble

**Members Absent:** Frank Floyd, Nita Donald, Tiffany Foster, Robin Miller, and LaToya Dodson

**Staff Present:** Eva Anagnostis and Dean Jones

**Guests:** Amanda Mason (Eckerd Connects), Teresa Smith (Eckerd Connects), Ahnamaria Farr (WIOA Youth Participant), Leah Smith (Root & Rebound), and Renee Alexander (Eckerd Connects)

**Other GCWDB Members:** Robyn Knox and Craig Kinley

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.
- III. **Quorum Validation:** A quorum was not validated.
- IV. **Minutes Approval\*:** (November 16, 2021): Minutes were not approved, as a quorum was not present.
- V. **Contractor Update (Ms. Amanda Mason, Eckerd Connects Program Manager)**

Ms. Mason introduced Ms. Ahnamaria Farr to share her story in the WIOA Youth Program. She was referred to the program through Nurse Family Partnership. She is a single mother and wanted a better way to provide for her daughter. The WIOA Youth program helped her complete her MedCerts program and be on her way to a medical administrator office assistant certification. She looks forward to having her own job and being independent. Ms. Mason shared how proud they are of Ms. Farr and all she has accomplished. Ms. Teresa Smith also commented on how well the virtual program worked out for Ms. Farr.

Ms. Mason provided some additional information about their program. She shared that they had their first Work Experience Open House. Eckerd's in-person WEX numbers have really increased, and they would like to get an additional 10 WEX activities by the end of the year.

- VI. **Presentation (Ms. Leah Smith, AmeriCorps Member, Root & Rebound)**

Mr. Jones introduced Ms. Smith, who was referred to us by Mr. Jay Blankenship. Root & Rebound is a re-entry program that has a big presence in South Carolina. They provide a lot of

different resources to individuals that have criminal background. Ms. Smith shared a short presentation, which included additional information. Some of the important resources they offer are record cleaning, ID and benefits, parole and probation help, family law, housing and employment referrals, etc. They try to connect clients to other organizations that have more capacity to help in certain areas (like SC Works to help with employment). A big part of what they do related to employment is record cleaning, which includes expungements and pardons. Ms. Smith gave the phone number and email address for how to get in touch with the organization for referrals. Meeting attendees asked some additional questions.

**VII. Other Business:** None

**VIII. Adjourn:** Being there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

\*Denotes an action item