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March 11, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Felicia W. Johnson, Commissioner
S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department
1410 Boston Avenue
West Columbia, SC 29171
fjohnson@scvrd.net; jchorey@scvrd.net; abrown6@scvrd.net

RE: Follow-up questions from prior subcommittee meetings

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

The Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee appreciates the agency's partnership in the oversight process. Based on information provided during the subcommittee meeting on education and workforce development, various members request answers to the following questions be gathered.

- 1) Based on a cost benefit analysis noted in your most recent Accountability Report, it is estimated that rehabilitated consumers will pay back \$4.49 for every dollar spent on their services by becoming taxpayers, repaying the cost of those services in approximately 3.9 years. When did the agency begin tracking this metric?
- 2) Would you be willing to discuss your methodology with agencies interested in learning how you calculate your return on investment?

- 3) Please state any changes that have occurred at your agency, or are planned at your agency because of the meeting with the Subcommittee (e.g., joining labor force participation rate taskforce after learning about during the meeting, etc.)
- 4) To determine where the same information is held by multiple agencies and, therefore, may be used to link information in the different agency systems, please provide a data dictionary for all information the agency maintains related to each of the items below.
 - a. S.C. employer
 - b. S.C. job seeker
 - c. S.C. K-12 school (public)
 - d. S.C. student
- 5) Please provide a list of case management and other data systems utilized by your agency and the following for each:
 - a. Does it include information on job seekers
 - b. Does it include information on employers
 - c. Does it include information on students
 - d. Does it include information on teaching entities
 - e. List of agencies with which the system can integrate data
- 6) What data, outside of the data currently available to your agency, may be helpful to your agency reaching potential customers, if any?
- 7) What data, outside of the data currently available to your agency, may be helpful to your agency in determining the results/impact your agency services are having on individuals it serves?
- 8) Please list all entities, other than those listed in the attached flow chart, you believe may be involved in the education and workforce ecosystem and role of each.
- 9) What topics does your agency believe may be helpful to have in a statewide unified workforce plan (e.g., marketing plan, central portal for customers to enter information through which their information could be shared with all applicable entities, etc.)?
- 10) What potential obstacles can your agency think of that may have to be overcome to successfully implement a statewide unified workforce plan?

11) To allow the General Assembly and public to access information related to multiple agencies in a single location, would your agency be willing to contact the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) and provide information necessary for RFA to create and regularly update, through data sharing, maps applicable to your agency? Below is a list of initial maps for consideration (Note: Not all will be applicable to your agency). Please include others agency leadership believes may be useful to members of the General Assembly or public.

Location/Boundaries

- a. Local Workforce Development Board Areas/Regional Workforce Advisors
- b. S.C. Works Center and Connection Point Locations
- c. Vocational Rehabilitation Facilities and Locations (e.g., job readiness training centers and other facilities)
- d. Vocational Rehabilitation Regions
- e. Commission for the Blind Office Locations
- f. Commission for the Blind Vocational Rehabilitation Office Territories
- g. Department of Veteran's Affairs Regional Modules for Service
- h. First Steps 4K Provider Locations
- i. First Steps Local Partner Office Locations
- j. Public 4K Provider Locations
- k. K-12 School Locations
- l. Local School District Boundaries
- m. SC School Report Card District Comparison
- n. Adult Education Technical Assistance Network Boundaries/Regions
- o. Technical College main and branch campus Locations
- p. Public and Private college and university (non-technical college) Locations
- q. Regional Non-Profit Economic Development Alliance Regions
- r. County Tiers for purposes of incentives
- s. Counties eligible for State Rural Development Grants
- t. Counties eligible for Appalachian Regional Commission Grants

Data by County

Following information by county:

- a. Percent of kindergartners who were
 - i. ready for school based on kindergarten readiness assessment in total and by the following:
 1. in poverty
 2. race
 3. subject
- b. Child care supply v. demand
- c. Percent of children age 0-35 months who have full immunization coverage
- d. Percent of children ages 1-5 who have received at least one preventive dental visit in the past year
- e. Percent of child care providers participating in ABC Quality

Commissioner Johnson

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Please provide responses to the questions by Friday, March 25, 2022.

The agency's responses will be posted online for transparency to the public. Accordingly, please do not provide any information that may not be posted online due to legal or contract prohibitions, that may harm the competitive advantage of the state in recruiting and retaining business, or that may jeopardize the life, health, or safety of anyone.

In responding to these questions, please remember the Committee's expectations, which are provided in the Committee's Standard Practice 6. The Subcommittee looks forward to working collaboratively with the Department of Commerce during the oversight process. Thank you and your team for your service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Hixon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Representative William M. "Bill" Hixon
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee