

MINUTES  
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
OCTOBER 12, 2021

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at Southeastern Technical College, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Rochelle Culver	Kim Edge
Brian Hamilton	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Michelle Johnson	Mac Jordan
Dr. Martha McBride	Mel Powell
Clay Reid	Marshall Smith
Nolan Thigpen	Tamra Wells
Ted Buford	Bobby Cox
Lisa Livingston	Meddy Settles
Billy Trapnell	Jason Whitlow
Dr. Barry Dotson	Dr. Paul Scott
Lee Radney	George Milligan
Ryan Waldrep	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Roger Branch	Desse Davis
Ashley Googe	Tim Herrington
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Janice O'Brien
Joe Sikes	Doug Rooks
Roy Selph	Gabriela Munoz
John Turner	Debbie Dyal
Guy Singletary	Alfred Wheeler

GUEST

Bobby Smith, MidCoast Aviation  
Holly Nielsen, MidCoast Aviation  
Helen Thomas, Southeastern Technical College

STAFF

Keith Dixon	Brett Manning
Sandy Bunton	Alex Clements
Allie Williams	Delores Kesler
Alexis Eason	

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. The WDB had a quorum of 25 members present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meddy Settles made a motion seconded by Dr. Margaret Hightower to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021, Workforce Development Board Meeting. Motion carried.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that there are more open jobs in the region than he's ever seen doing this job. He stated that within the next 5-8 years many people with the workforce knowledge will be retiring and no one will be able to fill those jobs. He stated that additional grants have been requested and that our area received the approval for one of the requested grants. He stated that the grant we received is at the federal level. The additional grant will help with people laid off with COVID, however, the regular funding went down another 10% per program. The youth committee reviewed the youth budget which also decreased. Keith stated that one-stops are up and running but at this time will be serving people by appointments only. The Department of Labor staff are back in their offices but are not open to the public.

### ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION

Chair Jordan stated that 25 WDB members are present for a quorum to conduct business and he thanked the WDB members for their attendance.

### BUDGET AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul Scott stated that that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to make a motion to add the Nursing Program at Brewton Parker College to the Eligible Training Provider List. The nursing program consist of 126 semester hours, and students will be prepared to pass the NCLEX- RN exam which is mandatory before the Georgia Board of Nursing will issue a Registered Professional Nurse license. Seconded by Meddy Settles. Motion Carries.

Dr. Paul Scott referred the WDB to the Expenditure Report and he stated that everything is on track.

### ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell stated the WDB members will vote on releasing the Comprehensive One-Stop RFP at the WDB meeting on December 14, 2021. He also referred the WDB members to the One-Stop report and stated that everything looked good.

### PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Chair Jordan referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. He stated that each county has two sections which is training services and business services. He referred the WDB members to review the numbers for their county. Chair Jordan stated that the total number of contacts for business services was 4286.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

Meddy Settles stated that the Job Training staff attended nine events which is good considering COVID restrictions. He commended the staff for promoting WIOA services. He also stated that Job Training Unlimited will host a Job Fair on October 13<sup>th</sup> for the Department of Juvenile Justice at the Evans County One-Stop in Claxton. It will be 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

Carolyn Blackshear stated that the Youth Program funds have decrease. She stated that we are currently serving a total of 69 in-school youth and 94 out-of-school youth. The funds available for In-School youth is \$304,746.00 and the funds available for out-of-school youth is \$457,119.00 for a total of \$761,865.00. Keith stated that the number of the in-school youth and out-of-school youth for each county is budgeted based on the funds received.

### RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that the unemployment rate is down, and the participation rate is also down. He also stated that we have applied for additional funds to make up for where funds were cut.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Keith referred the WDB members to the Vocational Rehab hand-out. He stated that they will be transitioning to a virtual approach.

Rochelle Culver stated that broadband would be available in Wheeler County with Windstream. Marshall Smith also stated that Evans County received grants to receive broadband in the rural areas. He stated that this would be done with PAC services.

Respectfully submitted,



Allie Williams