

MINUTES  
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
June 14, 2022

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Dan Bennett            | Carolyn Blackshear |
| Rochelle Culver        | Sharon Flanagan    |
| Brian Hamilton         | Tim Herrington     |
| Dr. Margaret Hightower | Michelle Johnson   |
| Mac Jordan             | Mel Powell         |
| Clay Reid              | Joe Sikes          |
| Marshall Smith         | Nolan Thigpen      |
| Bobby Cox              | Lisa Livingston    |
| Roy Selph              | Meddy Settles      |
| Billy Trapnell         | John Turner        |
| Jason Whitlow          | Dr. Barry Dotson   |
| Lee Radney             | Dr. Paul Scott     |

MEMBERS ABSENT

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Roger Branch    | Cason DeVane   |
| Kim Edge        | Ashley Googe   |
| Dr. Hank Hobbs  | Martha McBride |
| Ted Buford      | Gabriela Munoz |
| Doug Rooks      | Debbie Dyal    |
| George Milligan | Guy Singletary |
| Ryan Waldrep    | Alfred Wheeler |
| Tamra Wells     |                |

GUEST

Pete Snell, Coastal Pines Technical College  
Dell Keith, State Workforce Development Board

STAFF

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Keith Dixon    | Brett Manning  |
| Sandy Bunton   | Alex Clements  |
| Allie Williams | Delores Kesler |
| Alexis Eason   |                |
| Heather Ernst  |                |

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. The WDB had a quorum of 24 members present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meddy Settles made a motion seconded by Joe Sikes to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022, Workforce Development Board Meeting. Motion carried.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Keith introduced Brett Manning, Executive Director, HOGA Regional Commission. Brett stated that they have been working on TSPLOST, and every county passed TSPLOST by at least 50%. Most counties passed with 70%. He stated that TSPLOST would last 10 years, starting January 2023. The current TSPLOST will end in December, and all projects under the current TSPLOST will have to be in construction by the end of the year. In 2010, legislation passed the Transportation Investment Act, the original TSPLOST, and in 2012, the first referendum passed in three of the twelve state regions. In 2015, they allowed a single county tax which is 2-5 years. The first TSPLOST allowed 730 projects. He stated that they collected taxes from internet sales which helped tremendously when the Covid pandemic first occurred. TSPLOST II estimates at 235.7 million dollars in revenue. GDOT will put in 102 million for regional projects. There is a total of 580 projects, with 17 of those projects being regional. He stated that the money is divided in two ways, 75% being regional projects and 25% being discretionary funds that go to the county every month. He stated that the 75% was divided between regional and local projects. He also stated that several roads still need paving, and new sidewalks are needed. TSPLOST has been a very successful program with the help of partners.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that a quorum was present to conduct business, and he thanked the WDB members for their attendance. He stated that committee meetings were held before the WDB meeting, and the committees would bring motions to the WDB. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Comprehensive One-Stop was completed and reviewed by the One-Stop Committee. The Budget and Evaluation committee reviewed a draft budget to present to the WDB as an action item. The final budget will be completed and presented to the WDB once the close-out for the fiscal year is complete. He also stated that the 2-Year State Plan was also reviewed by the Budget and Evaluation Committee.

Keith introduced guests Pete Snell, Coastal Pines Technical College, and Dell Keith, State Workforce Development Board member.

### ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION

John Raymond Turner welcomed the WDB members and thanked them for their attendance.

### BUDGET AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul Scott stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan 2-Year update. The Committee recommends allowing staff to post the Plan on the website

for public comment for the required 30-day period. Meddy Settles seconded. Motion carried. Dr. Scott stated that after the 30-day period, the Plan update will be presented to the WDB at the August meeting with any comments received for a final review before the Plan is sent to the state for state approval. Keith stated that the Plan will be posted on the website for WDB members who would like to read the full document.

Dr. Paul Scott stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee reviewed the WIOA projected formula allocations for next year's budget beginning on July 1, 2022. The Committee would like to make a motion to approve the projected budget allocations for FY22 for \$3,044,935.90. Seconded by Rochelle Culver. Motion carried.

Dr. Paul Scott referred the WDB to the Expenditure Report. He stated that the budget and finances are all current and on track.

#### ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell stated the One-Stop Committee reviewed the Comprehensive One-Stop Operator Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU is an agreement between the local WDB and the One-Stop partners to help understand the responsibilities of each partner. The One-Stop Committee recommends allowing the staff to send the MOU to the partnering agencies for signatures and to give staff the authority to make minor changes to the MOU as necessary. Seconded by Carolyn Blackshear. Motion carried.

Billy Trapnell referred the WDB to the One-Stop Report. He stated that the visitor attendance increased in January, and everything looked good.

#### PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. The report is divided into two sections, Training services and Business services. The training services customer total, which includes the ITA program, is 862. He referred the WDB members to the Evans County number of one-stop visits of 4,170 customers. Evans County One-Stop is the main point of contact, which is why it has a higher number than the other one-stops. He stated that customers are being served in each county within the region.

Tim Herrington referred the WDB to the Comparison in Customer Counts 2022 report. He commended the staff for spreading the individual service components out proportionally so customers can be served all 12 months of the fiscal year. The largest number of customers are served with to WIOA Business Services, and the largest part of the budget goes to WIOA Training Services. He stated that yearly customer counts would fluctuate based on funds or grants received. On May 31, 2021, there were 450 customers in the ITA program compared to May 31, 2022, with 288 enrolled in the ITA Program for 162 fewer customers served.

#### PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

Meddy Settles stated from April 12th - May 19th, Job Training Unlimited staff participated in 12 events promoting WIOA services, job fairs, and graduations. He stated that staff promoted

services to the students who needed extra assistance attending school. He stated that staff would attend the Coastal Pines Technical College Application Day in Jeff Davis on June 21st to give out WIOA information. Staff also participated in Family Connection meetings and other collaborative meetings across the region. He also stated that JTU would visit the apprenticeship school on June 17th.

### RETREAT/NOMINATING

Marshall Smith stated that Retreat Committee voted to postpone the WDB Retreat until spring of 2023 and that the WDB Retreat has been held at the King and Prince on St. Simons Island in previous years. Keith stated that he must get three quotes from different hotels for the committee to review before a location for the retreat can be determined.

Marshall stated that a new WDB Chair was appointed at the April meeting. He commended Chair Mac Jordan for his years of service and congratulated Dan Bennett as the new chair of the WDB. Keith thanked Mac Jordan for his outstanding service and leadership to the WDB. The WDB members gave Mac a standing ovation for his dedication and service to the Board.

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

Carolyn Blackshear stated that the Youth Committee would like to make a recommendation to add allowable supportive services to the Youth Supportive Services Policy for in-school youth as follows:

A supportive payment of \$12 per day to cover transportation expenses for physical classes where attendance is required at a location other than the high school in which the participant is enrolled for secondary education. This will be paid to all in-school youth participants (with or without children) who are participating in post-secondary education as part of dual enrollment or upon “dropping out” and entering adult education activities authorized under WIOA and verified by the institution, based on days of attendance.

Process of how participation supportive services will be provided

1. Payments will be made directly to the participant from the WIOA service provider.
2. Payments will be provided in the form of a check.
3. Payments will be dispersed biweekly.

Seconded by Marshall Smith, motion carried.

Carolyn Blackshear stated that the Youth Committee would like to make a recommendation to increase the incentive payment for In-School youth from \$50 to \$100 for obtaining a High School Diploma or GED. Seconded by Meddy Settles.

Carolyn Blackshear stated that the Youth Committee would like to make a recommendation to increase the hourly rate to \$10.00 per hour for work experience as determined by average local area entry level wage data. Seconded by Meddy Settles. Motion carried.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that Georgia's unemployment rate is 2.5%. We are the fourth-highest rate in the state.

OTHER

Dell Keith thanked Mac Jordan for his years of service and for allowing him to attend. He stated that this WDB has a good reputation at the state level.

Respectfully submitted,

*Allie Williams*

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