

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
February 8, 2022

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at Southeastern Technical College, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Branch	Dan Bennett
Carolyn Blackshear	Rochelle Culver
Kim Edge	Ashley Googe
Brian Hamilton	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Michelle Johnson
Mac Jordan	Dr. Martha McBride
Mel Powell	Clay Reid
Joe Sikes	Marshall Smith
Nolan Thigpen	Tamra Wells
Ted Buford	Bobby Cox
Lisa Livingston	Meddy Settles
Billy Trapnell	Dr. Barry Dotson
Dr. Paul Scott	Alfred Wheeler

MEMBERS ABSENT

Desse Davis	Tim Herrington
Doug Rooks	Roy Selph
Gabriela Munoz	John R. Turner
Jason Whitlow	Lee Radney
Debbie Dyal	George Milligan
Guy Singletary	Ryan Waldrep

GUEST

Andrea Walker

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 26 members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meddy Settles made a motion seconded by Rochelle Culver to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021, Workforce Development Board Meeting with an amendment to add Bobby Cox as present for the December meeting. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that the Covid Grant received two years ago would be ending soon, but a request to extend the grant has been sent to U.S. DOL due to the excess funds in other regions that need to be spent. He stated that the Covid Grant allowed us to help over 200 participants with their financial needs. Keith also stated that a few grant requests sent to the state for approval are still in the approval process, and another region would be sending our region \$170,000 in Youth Funds. He stated that if the WDB members knew of anyone looking for employment to contact him due to many employers needing employees.

ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION

Dr. Hank Hobbs stated that 26 members were present, and we had a quorum to conduct business. He thanked the WDB members for their attendance.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul Scott stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to make a motion to add the following programs to the Eligible Training Provider List for Coastal Pines Technical College:

Basic Electrical Technician, TCC

Basic Electronic Assembler, TCC

Cybersecurity, TCC

Engineering Technology Basics, TCC

Engineering Technology Fundamentals, TCC

Engineering Technology, AAS

Foundations of Computer Programming, TCC

Seconded by Meddy Settles. Motion Carried.

Dr. Paul Scott stated that all expenditures are current and on track.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell stated the One-Stop Committee would like to recommend the One-Stop Certification Criteria Forms: Form C, Form A, Form B, and Form D, as provided by TCSG, be approved to use for the One-Stop Certifications. Seconded by Rochelle Culver. Motion Carries.

Billy Trapnell stated the Request for Proposals for One-Stop Operator Services was released on December 15, 2021. Letters of Intent were due by January 21, 2022. No Letters of Intent were received, resulting in a failed procurement. He stated that the One-Stop Committee would like to

recommend that the Regional Commission sole source with Job Training Unlimited to provide One-Stop Operator services. Seconded by Dr. Paul Scott. Motion Carries.

Billy Trapnell referred the WDB members to the One-Stop Report. He stated that everything looked good.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Joe Sikes referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. He stated that the report is divided into training and business services, and each member should review the number of customers being served in their county. Joe stated that the total number of customers served through business services was 8,431.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

Meddy Settles stated that the mission of the Public Awareness Committee is to increase the recognition of the Workforce Development Board and its programs in Region 9 and improve communication to all employees of the services and programs available to them through WIOA. The mission is to develop marketing strategies through communication media and to identify employers to the targeted market. Meddy referred the WDB members to the Publicity Report. He stated that the Job Training staff has been recruiting in the technical schools and attending virtual meetings. He commended the staff.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Carolyn Blackshear stated that the Youth Committee would like to recommend increasing the hourly wage rate for youth participating in work experience to \$8.00 per hour. This increase is due to the average hourly rate of pay within the local workforce area. Seconded by Meddy Settles. Motion Carries.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that Georgia's unemployment rate is 2.4%. The region is in the top three in the state with a 2.7% unemployment rate. The two highest counties are Telfair (4.7%) and Wheeler (4.2%). Tattall has the lowest unemployment rate.

RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that the RC assisted Development Authorities by hosting a Legislative Meeting in Atlanta. They look forward to meeting again after the legislative session is over. He stated that he would be speaking at the City of Cochran Retreat and Southeast Director's Institute. Brett also stated that information on T-SPLOST will be running in the newspapers and will be on the ballots in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Williams
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