

MINUTES  
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
JUNE 10, 2025

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carolyn Blackshear	Matt Donaldson
Sharon Flanagan	Randall Holcomb
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Michelle Johnson
Bobby Cox	Lisa Livingston
Doug Rooks	Roy Selph
Raymond McCullough	John Shaw
Alfred Wheeler	Mac Jordan
Keith Miles	Martha McBride
Mel Powell	Clay Reid
Marshall Smith	Dr. Barry Dotson
Lee Radney	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dan Bennett	Rochelle Culver
Ashley Googe	Ted Buford
Billy Trapnell	Jason Whitlow
Guy Singletary	Ryan Waldrep
Joe Sikes	

GUEST

Susan Woodard, Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development  
Rich Bennett, Heart of Georgia Regional Commission  
Jan Hall, Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development

STAFF

Keith Dixon	Brett Manning
Heather Ernst	Alex Clements
Allie Williams	Delores Kesler
Sandy Bunton	
Angellena Griffin	

### CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Blackshear called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. The guests present included Susan Woodard with Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development, Rich Bennett with the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission, and Jan Hall with the Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mac Jordan made a motion, seconded by Matt Donaldson, to approve the April 8, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

### GUEST SPEAKER

Brett Manning introduced Rich Bennett, Director of Economic and Community Development at the Regional Commission. He stated that the Regional Commission manages approximately \$30 million in grants and will receive \$7-8 million in Community Development Block Grants. He stated that he is excited about the grants that they are operating in Laurens County and Candler County. They have approximately eight grants operating in those counties, totaling \$8 million, which support tier-one vendors/suppliers for the Hyundai plant in Bryan County. These grants support 250 million dollars in investments. This has created over 1,000 jobs in the region. It has helped with sewers, roads, and building operations. He stated that they have five grants operating in Dublin. They also have grants to operate projects on a smaller scale. He also stated that they receive grants to help food pantries, emergency shelters, water projects, low and moderate-income neighborhoods, drainage systems, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Senior Centers. They also have the Rural Workforce Housing Initiative, which helps developers build neighborhoods. He stated that he would be available after the meeting to answer any questions.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that the House and Senate are still reviewing the budget, and that the federal government is considering combining funding for 11 programs for the State to distribute as it sees fit. The Projected Budget for Project Year 2025 will be presented to the Workforce Development Board for approval. If approved, the projected budget will be sent to the State for approval. The Youth Program grant is usually received in April, but as of now, it has not been received. The draw-down process has also been changed at the federal level. The process requires that three people review the invoices before they are approved. There will be a turnaround time of at least three weeks to receive funds. The Federal government is exploring various ideas focusing on apprenticeship programs and potential name changes.

### BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the Workforce Development Board to the Expenditure Report, stating that everything is on track.

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation committee would like to make a motion to approve the Projected Budget for Project Year 2025. Seconded by Dr. Margaret Hightower. Motion carried.

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to make a motion to amend the WDB bylaws to change the meeting schedule from six times a year to four times a year. Second, by Clay Reid. Motion carried.

### ONE-STOP

Doug Rooks referred the Workforce Development Board to the One-Stop Report. He stated that everything looked good.

### PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. This report explains the number of customers served. The training services increased by 24 customers. The business services provided increased by 1,465 customers. The total number of customers served was 13,176. He stated that there was an increase in follow-up services that allows customers to continue receiving resources after they have exited the program.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS/EMPLOYER

Lisa Livingston stated that the Job Training Unlimited staff participated in the following events:

April 9th- Staff visited Coastal Pines Technical College in Jeff Davis to promote WIOA Services.

April 10th- Staff visited Dodge County High School to promote WIOA Services.

April 14th- Staff visited Metter High School to promote WIOA Services.

April 15th-16th- Parker's hosted a meeting in the Evans County One-Stop.

April 22nd- Staff participated in the Southeastern Technical College's Job Fair at the Swainsboro campus.

April 23rd- Staff participated in the Jeff Davis High School Lunch and Learn.

April 24th- Staff participated in the Southeastern Technical College Job Fair at the Vidalia campus. Staff attended a Webinar held by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Staff attended the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission meeting held in Mount Vernon.

April 28th- Staff attended a Rapid Response Employee Information Session for the Golden's Personal Care Home Closure webinar held by WorkSource Georgia.

April 28th-May 1st- Staff hosted the Regional Commission staff for quarterly financial monitoring.

May 1st- Staff attended the WorkSource Georgia Rapid Response Employee Information Session for the Golden Card Home Closure.

May 6th- Staff attended the WorkSource Georgia Business Services Monthly Game Planning meeting.

May 6th-7th- Staff hosted Regional Commission staff for Quarterly program monitoring.

May 13th- Staff attended a Post Legislative Updated State of the Community Lunch held at the McGrath Keen Sr. Conference Center in Dublin. Staff attend the Disaster Response Workgroup.

May 14th-15th- Parker's hosted a meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

May 20th- Roger's State Prison hosted a Job Fair at the Evans County One-Stop.

May 21st- Staff attended the Parents and Caregivers Overcoming Workforce Challenges Webinar.

May 22nd- Staff attended the State Workforce Development Meeting via video conference. Staff attended the Regional Commission meeting held in Mount Vernon.

May 29th - Staff attended the Labor Workforce and Development Agency's biweekly Conference Call.

June 3rd- Rogers State Prison held a Hiring Event at Evans County One-Stop.

June 5th- Multi-Business Services held a meeting at Evans County One-Stop.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

John Shaw stated that the state's unemployment rate is 3.1%, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region is 3.3%.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Alfred Wheeler stated that Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency will be accepting referrals. He stated that if anyone has any questions, please see him after the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*allie williams*

Allie Williams