

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met on February 9, 2021, via a conference call to comply with the COVID-19 requirements.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger Branch	Dan Bennett
Carolyn Blackshear	Rochelle Culver
Kim Edge	Brian Hamilton
Tim Herrington	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Mac Jordan	Martha McBride
Janice O'Brien	Mel Powell
Joe Sikes	Marshall Smith
Nolan Thigpen	Tamra Wells
Ted Buford	Bobby Cox
Lisa Livingston	Meddy Settles
Billy Trapnell	John Turner
Dr. Barry Dotson	Dr. Paul Scott
Roy Williams	Guy Singletary
Ryan Waldrep	

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Crowe	Ashley Googe
Dr. Margaret Hightower	Michelle Johnson
Clay Reid	Doug Rooks
Roy Selph	Gabriela Muñoz
Jason Whitlow	Debbie Dyal
Alfred Wheeler	Desse Davis
George Milligan	

STAFF

Keith Dixon	Brett Manning
Sandy Bunton	Delores Kesler
Allie Williams	Alex Clements
	Janice Jones

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. The WDB had a quorum of 27 members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meddy Settles made a motion, seconded by Carolyn Blackshear, to approve the December 8, 2020, Workforce Development Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith Dixon stated that we received NEG funds from the state to serve Dislocated Workers and customers with long-term unemployment due to COVID-19. He stated that we had enrolled 11 customers in work experience, two in On-the-Job Training, and 85 customers in Individual Training Accounts (ITA) to receive training through the technical schools and colleges. Keith stated that almost 100 customers were enrolled in the program to help them gain employment or enroll in secondary education. He asked the WDB members to share this information with their local communities.

Keith stated that he hopes to be back to meeting in person in April if we can find a location that can accommodate the CDC mandated 6 feet apart requirement. He also stated that the technical schools are up and running, and the One-Stop sites are all open, but some are only available by appointment. The staff and all offices are following CDC guidelines.

Keith stated that we received information about Polymer closing in Dublin. We are working with the DOL offices to figure out a plan to meet with the laid-off employees safely and help them with their unemployment being the DOL offices are closed. A new company that constructs storm door will be opening in Swainsboro, and we hope to help some of the employees being laid off from Polymer to gain employment at the new company. Also, many of the BI-LO grocery stores are closing around the region. Some of these stores are being bought by another chain of grocery stores and will only be closed for a week or so before reopening under a new name. He reminded the WDB members to let us know if any closures are happening in their local communities so we can try to help.

RETREAT COMMITTEE

Ted Buford stated that the Retreat Committee is making a recommendation to postpone the annual WDB Retreat until a time when it is safe for everyone to attend and travel to an off-site location. Seconded by Rochelle Culver. Motion Carried.

RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that the RC is working on comprehensive plans for local governments including Jeff Davis, Bleckley, and Treutlen. In 2020 the local government plans brought about nine million dollars to the region for economic development, structure improvements, roads, building innovations, and recreational grants.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Allie Williams