

SUMMARY
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MAY 12, 2026

WELCOME

CHAIR BENNETT

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

CHAIR BENNETT

*APPROVAL OF MINUTES-[Approved minutes for February 10, 2026.](#)

CHAIR BENNETT

GUEST SPEAKER

Rosanna Ierullo
OWD Programs Specialist

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

KEITH DIXON

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Committees will appoint new chair/vice chair.

ATTENDANCE/BOARD ORIENTATION DR. HANK HOBBS

REVIEW OF ATTENDANCE-A quorum was present to conduct business.

The mission of the Attendance/Board Orientation Committee is to encourage the WDB members to attend WDB meetings and to understand the mission and purpose of the WDB. The Committee will also help the new members feel comfortable in meetings and encourage their participation and make committee appointments.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

MAC JORDAN

EXPENDITURE REPORT

PROJECTED PY26 BUDGET- [Approved budget.](#)

The mission of the Budget and Evaluation Committee is to provide fiduciary oversight of WIOA Board funds and to link those expenditures to the established common measures.

DISABILITY

MICHELLE JOHNSON

The mission of the Disability Committee is to provide a workforce system by leveraging assets and resources to ensure all people, including those with disabilities, have access to services by partnering with businesses, educational systems, economic development and other agencies. The mission is also to promote independence through training and employment.

ONE-STOP/HDCI

DOUG ROOKS

ONE-STOP REPORT

COMPREHENSIVE ONE-STOP RFP- *Failed procurement approved for RC to Sole Source with JTU to operate One-Stop.*

The Office's purpose is to increase marketing strategies and to identify all resources to help meet the needs of customers and businesses within our community.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

TIM HERRINGTON

CUSTOMER COUNTS REPORT

The Plan and Program Review Committee's mission is to increase WIOA Board members knowledge and accountability of WIOA programs and to form a collaborative union with school officials at every level of education.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/EMPLOYER

ROCHELLE CULVER

PUBLICITY REPORT

The mission of the Public Awareness Committee is to increase the recognition of the Workforce Development Board and its programs in Region 9 and to 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.

RETREAT/NOMINATING

TED BUFORD

WDB CHAIR/VICE CHAIR- *The WDB voted for Chair Dan Bennett and Vice Chair Carolyn Blackshear.*

The Board Retreat Committee/Nomination Committee's mission is to plan a retreat that will increase the knowledge of the WDB members of the programs and services provided through WIOA. The committee's mission is to also nominate the best candidate of chair and vice-chair of the WDB.

YOUTH

DR. MARGARET HIGHTOWER

The mission of the Youth Committee will be to assist in implementing quality programs to better aid qualified youth with the skills to obtain and maintain employment. The Committee will assist in the development of local youth employment, future education, and training policies. The Committee will assist with establishing partnerships with schools, colleges, technical colleges, GED centers, Vocational Rehabilitation Centers, and other agencies that are active in youth workforce development to provide tools for the youth to become successfully productive. The committee will make recommendations to the full board for the selection of eligible service providers of youth activities.

UNEMPLOYMENT REPORT RC

JOHN SHAW

UPDATE

BRETT MANNING

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 11, 2026

***HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MISSION STATEMENT***

The Heart of Georgia Workforce Development Board will provide services and resources to new, existing and potential businesses and industries to supply a globally competitive, sustainable workforce. This will be accomplished by addressing the staffing and training needs of businesses and individuals by partnering with educational systems, economic development, and other agencies. These services and resources will be provided to our businesses and individuals in an effective and efficient manner through a One-Stop delivery system in our seventeen counties.

Members Present

Mac Jordan
Martha McBride
Mel Powell
Clay Reid
Marshall Smith
Dr. Barry Dotson
Dan Bennett
Carolyn Blackshear
Rochelle Culver
Matt Donaldson
Tim Herrington
Dr. Margaret Hightower
Dr. Hank Hobbs
Michelle Johnson
Ted Buford
Douglas Rooks
Roy Selph
Raymond McCullough
John Shaw
Mitch Griggs