

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
April 8, 2025

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ted Buford	Bobby Cox
Doug Rooks	Raymond McCullough
John Shaw	Ryan Waldrep
Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Sharon Flanagan	Randall Holcomb
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Michelle Johnson
Mac Jordan	Martha McBride
Mel Powell	Clay Reid
Dr. Barry Dotson	Lee Radney
Ashley Googe	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lisa Livingston	Roy Selph
Billy Trapnell	John Turner
Jason Whitlow	Hugh Darnley
Guy Singletary	Alfred Wheeler
Rochelle Culver	Matt Donaldson
Kim Edge	Keith Miles
Joe Sikes	Marshall Smith

GUEST

Susan Woodard, Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development

STAFF

Keith Dixon	Carla Mills
Heather Ernst	Alex Clements
Allie Williams	Delores Kesler
Alexis Eason	
Angellena Griffin	
Sandy Bunton	

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. The guest present included Susan Cross with Southeastern Technical College.

Chair Bennett asked for a motion to be made to accept the Resolution honoring John Raymond Turner. Motion by Carolyn Blackshear. Seconded by Ted Buford. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mac Jordan made a motion that was seconded by Bobby Cox to approve the February 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Kayla Boyett, WIOA Youth Program Supervisor, presented a video of a youth participant, Lily Anderson. Lily was enrolled in the out-of-school youth program. She attends Brewton Parker Christian College majoring in Psychology and minoring in Music. Her family operates a small family farm and struggles to make ends meet. Lily learned of the WIOA program and applied. She is so grateful for the assistance she has received through the program. Kayla stated that each of the numbers represents a person and their story. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve the participants. Kayla said that even though a participant is enrolled in the youth program, they may also be eligible to enroll in the Individual Training Accounts program for additional funding and assistance. She encouraged the WDB members to ask questions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that as of right now, the funding for WIOA has been cut by another 10%. He stated that with the continuation of the budget cuts, we are looking at 1.2 million dollars to serve 17 counties for 12 months. He stated that major changes and decisions have to be made, including the frequency of meetings, staff cuts, and closing the One-Stops, but access points will be provided in each county. Customers can still apply for WIOA and partner programs through the kiosk systems and access points. He stated that Congress is working on the reauthorization of WIOA through the Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA). This will change the funding level distribution. Keith also stated that the youth funding is usually sent in April, but these funds have not been received. We are uncertain of what is going to come.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation committee would like to make a motion to add the following programs to the Coastal Pines Technical College Eligible Training Provider List: Basic Heavy Equipment Operator, Cyber Crimes Specialist, NCCER Plumbers Assistant, NCCER Intermediate Electrical Systems Technician, Mechatronics Specialist, Electrical Lineworker with Pintle Hook Restriction, Nurse Aide Fast Track, Associate of Applied Science in Allied Health Prof, Behavioral Health Technician, and Cosmetology for Licensure. Seconded by Michelle Johnson. Motion carried.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. This report explains the number of customers served. He encouraged the WDB members to look at their county and

the numbers represented in each program within their county. The training services increased by five customers. The business services provided increased by 2,504 customers. The total customers served was 10,589.

UNEMPLOYMENT

John Shaw stated that the state's unemployment rate is 3.5%, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region is 3.9%.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

allie williams

Allie Williams