

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
March 12, 2023

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Sunday, March 12, 2023, at The King and Prince, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Roger Branch	Kim Edge
Sharon Flanagan	Lee Radney
Brian Hamilton	Tim Herrington
Dr. Margaret Hightower	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Michelle Johnson	Mac Jordan
Martha McBride	Mel Powell
Marshall Smith	Guy Singletary
Alfred Wheeler	Ted Buford
Doug Rooks	Raymond McCullough
John Raymond Turner	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rochelle Culver	Cason DeVane
Ashley Googe	Clay Reid
Joe Sikes	Nolan Thigpen
Tamra Wells	Debbie Dyal
Hugh Darnley	Ryan Waldrep
Bobby Cox	Lisa Livingston
Gabriela Munoz	Roy Selph
Billy Trapnell	Jason Whitlow
Dr. Barry Dotson	Dr. Paul Scott

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. The WDB had a quorum with 21 members present. Chair Dan Bennett introduced the new WDB member, Raymond McCullough.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Marshall Smith made a motion seconded by Carolyn Blackshear to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023, Workforce Development Board meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith Dixon stated that additional grants are coming in. The QUEST Grant will be received soon. The grant was originally written for \$500,000. Before any additional funding is requested, an eligibility guideline had to be established. Once QUEST gets established, additional grant funds will be requested.

ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION

Dr. Hank Hobbs thanked the WDB members for their attendance and stated a quorum was present.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to recommend the proposed amendments be made to the By-Laws. Seconded by Carolyn Blackshear. Motion carries. Chair Bennett stated that all members would need to sign the amended By-Laws.

Mac Jordan referred the WDB to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha WIOA Expenditures Report. It shows around 4.7 million in grants received with 1.4 million spent. He stated that everything is current.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Dr. Martha McBride referred the WDB members to the One-Stop Report. She stated that the One-Stops visits have increased from last year.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. The report shows customers served in each county and is divided into two sections: Training Services and Business Services. There was a total of 1,023 new customers. The Training Services increased by seven customers since the last WDB meeting. The Business Services increased by 1,016 customers. He commended the staff for their hard work.

Tim referred the WDB to the Population Comparison Percentage with WIOA Customer Counts Report. This shows the population and percentage of customers represented in each county. The high number for Evans County Business Services reflects the number of customers who contact the Claxton Office via computer, phone calls, direct visits for assistance, or One Stop visits. The Claxton office is also the grant administrator. Telfair County exceeds county percentage due to a plant layoff with eighteen customers using dislocated worker ITA funds. He encouraged the WDB to review their county.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

Keith referred the WDB members to the Publicity Report. He stated that the staff had attended several events.

RETREAT/NOMINATING

Ted Buford stated that the WDB Retreat Committee would like to make a motion to cancel the April 2023, WDB Meeting. Seconded by Dr. Hank Hobbs. Motion Carries.

Ted Buford stated that the WDB Retreat Committee would like to make a motion to get quotes for the upcoming WDB Retreat in 2024. Seconded by Dr. Martha McBride. Motion Carries.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that Georgia's unemployment rate is 2.7%, and the Heart of Georgia area is one of the highest in the state with 3.3%.

RC REPORT

Brett Manning thanked the WDB members for their attendance and participation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Allie Williams