

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
October 11, 2022

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Rochelle Culver	Kim Edge
Sharon Flanagan	Brian Hamilton
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Michelle Johnson	Mac Jordan
Martha McBride	Mel Powell
Clay Reid	Nolan Thigpen
Ryan Waldrep	Alfred Wheeler
Ted Buford	Lisa Livingston
Roy Selph	Meddy Settles
Billy Trapnell	John Turner
Dr. Barry Dotson	Dr. Paul Scott

MEMBERS ABSENT

Roger Branch	Cason DeVane
Ashley Googe	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Joe Sikes	Marshall Smith
Debbie Dyal	Hugh Darnley
Guy Singletary	Gabriela Munoz
Doug Rooks	Jason Whitlow
Lee Radney	Tamra Wells

GUEST

Mike Young, Southeastern Technical College

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. The WDB had a quorum of 24 members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meddy Settles made a motion seconded by Clay Reid to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022, Workforce Development Board meeting. Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chair Bennett introduced Dr. Barry Dotson with Southeastern Technical College. Dr. Dotson stated that he wanted to give a quick overview of the Technical College System and some of its initiatives. He referred the WDB members to the Technical College System of Georgia handout. He said that they are in the business of putting people in the workforce. Southeastern Technical College (STC) served 133,144 Technical Education Enrollment students, 27,470 Adult Education Students, and 82,575 Economic Development Trainees. Worksource Georgia had 19,242 participants, which included 15,000 from Region 9. The cost per credit hour is \$100, which is the cheapest in the State of Georgia. The Hope Career Grant is available for students in the listed programs in the packet. These industries are most in demand, and students can attend college at no cost through the Hope Career Grant. STC offers Dual Enrollment. High School students can take up to 30 free semester hours and receive free books. He stated that there are three new initiatives for students that do not obtain a High School Equivalent or GED, which include Option B, Dual Achievement, and Career PlusHSE.

Dr. Dotson introduced Mike Young, an Instructor at Southeastern Technical College. Mr. Young asked the WDB members if they knew the difference between an EMT and a Paramedic. He stated that an EMT is a basic first responder (checking vital signs and very basic life support), and an advanced EMT can push very few medications. The Paramedic level can cover cardiac, respiratory, and any advanced care for life-saving measures. A certificate and diploma are offered at the EMT/Advanced EMT Level. The Paramedic program offers a diploma and associated degree. The EMT and Advanced EMT take three semesters to complete. After those classes are complete, students can take the Paramedic course and complete them in three semesters. He stated that the EMT and Paramedic programs offered at Southeastern Technical College are phenomenal, and he is working on getting students interested in this career field. He is also trying to incorporate it into high schools. He invited the WDB members to tour the facility.

ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION

Ryan Waldrep thanked the WDB members for their attendance and stated a quorum was present.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul Scott stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to recommend the approval of Ogeechee Technical College's Basic Welding for the Manufacturing Program. The program is designed to perform basic welding in the manufacturing setting. This program will teach participants welding safety, blueprint symbols, and the basics of gas metal arc welding. The expected outcome of this training program is a Professional Certificate of Completion. Each successful program completer will be able to perform basic welding skills, allowing them to

become an entry level welder. The training combines traditional classroom lectures, hands-on training, and demonstration. Seconded by Rochelle Culver. Motion Carried.

Dr. Scott also referred the WDB members to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha WIOA Expenditures report. He stated that everything is current and up to date.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell referred the WDB members to the One-Stop Report. He stated that there is an increase in the number of visits. The advertising numbers have decreased. He also stated that he visited a One-Stop while attending a job fair, and they had a good turnout.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. The report is divided into two sections, Training Services, and Business Services. He stated that each WDB member could view the total number of customers served within their county. A total of 4,567 customers have been served since July 1, 2022. He also stated that there are two different funding streams for an ITA. These are Adult and Dislocated Workers, and when a customer exits the WIOA Program, they remain in follow-up for a year. Tim commended the staff for their communication with the customers.

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the performance review. He stated that all goals were met/exceeded except the Adult Measurable Skill Gains. He noted that this would be met by the end of the year.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

Meddy Settles stated that the JTU staff had attended ten events since the last report. Staff visited colleges, participated in job fairs, virtual meetings, and attended other activities where they could get the word out about jobs and WIOA programs. One of the Job Fairs was a medical Job Fair held at STC on September 20th. He stated that the message is getting out.

RETREAT/NOMINATING

Ted Buford stated that at the August meeting, the WDB members approved having the WDB Retreat March 10, 2023- March 12, 2023, at the King and Prince Resort. He encouraged the WDB members to complete the RSVP form.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that Georgia's unemployment rate is 3.1%, and Region 9 is the second-highest rate in the state at 3.8%.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Allie Williams