

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
November 12, 2025

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, November 12, 2025, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ted Buford	Bobby Cox
Doug Rooks	Roy Selph
Raymond McCullough	Billy Trapnell
Lakeisha O'Neal	Dan Bennett
Carolyn Blackshear	Rochelle Culver
Matt Donaldson	Sharon Flanagan
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Michelle Johnson
Mac Jordan	Mel Powell
Dr. Barry Dotson	Lee Radney

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lisa Livingston	Jason Whitlow
John Shaw	Guy Singletary
Ryan Waldrep	Ashley Googe
Randall Holcomb	Keith Miles
Martha McBride	Clay Reid
Marshall Smith	

GUEST

Steve Jones
Alfred Wheeler, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

STAFF

Keith Dixon	Brett Manning
Heather Ernst	Alex Clements
Allie Williams	Delores Kesler
Sandy Bunton	
Angellena Griffin	

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. Alfred Wheeler introduced a new member, Lakeisha O'Neal. Bobby Cox introduced a guest, Steve Jones.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Matt Donaldson made a motion that was seconded by Mac Jordan to approve the August 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that he attended the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) conference. At the conference, he was informed that federal funding is available, and once the government opens, they can allocate those funds to the state. The formula for allocating these funds has been in place for a long time. The factors for this formula include the unemployment rate and population. Keith stated that he is trying to encourage them to factor in the wages of living and poverty levels. Hopefully, Washington legislators will vote to reopen the government soon.

The Regional Commission and Job Training Unlimited were monitored by the state and received zero findings and zero observations. He commended the staff at the Regional Commission and Job Training Unlimited.

Keith also stated that Mr. Bobby Cox has been an active member of the WDB for 25 years. Mr. Bobby is planning to retire, and he will be missed. Keith thanked him for his many years of service.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the Workforce Development Board to the expenditure report, stating that everything is on track and about 30% of funding has been allocated. Keith stated that we have a total of approximately 1.8 million which is about 1/3 of the funding we normally receive.

ONE-STOP

Billy Trapnell referred the Workforce Development Board to the One-Stop Report. He stated that we are receiving fewer visits at the One-Stop, but the number of website visits has increased. Keith stated that due to the One-stop closures, the number of visits has decreased; however, case managers can schedule appointments to meet with customers.

Billy Trapnell stated that the One-Stop committee would like to make a motion to allow Job Training Unlimited to continue as the One-Stop operator for an additional three years, or a request for proposal would have to be released. Mac Jordan seconded. Motion carried.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. He stated that the report is divided into two sections, training services and business services. He stated that the training services category has a total of 682, which is an increase of nine customers. Each county has an ITA customer. The business services category has a total of 4.128 customers, which is the total of customers at the start of July. Evans County has the most customers because that is

where the main office is located. The total is 4,810 customers with training and business services.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/EMPLOYER

Rochelle Culver stated that the Job Training Unlimited staff participated in the following events:

August 13th-14th- Parker's hosted a meeting in the Evans County One-Stop.

August 14th- Staff virtually participated in "Monitoring Matters" training hosted by the Technical College System of Georgia.

August 18th- Staff attended the WorkSource Georgia Apprenticeship Bootcamp at Middle Georgia Regional Commission in Macon.

August 18th-19th- Staff hosted Financial Auditors at the Evans County One-Stop.

August 21st- Staff virtually participated in the Local Workforce and Development Agency meeting.

August 21st-22nd- Staff attended the Georgia Workforce Leadership Association meeting held in Albany.

August 25th- Staff visited Southeastern Technical College to promote WIOA services in Vidalia.

August 28th- Staff attended the Regional Commission Board Meeting in Montgomery.

August 29th- Staff virtually attended the Local Area Director's meeting.

September 4th- Staff virtually attended the Local Workforce and Development Agency meeting.

September 9th- Parker's hosted a meeting in the Evans County One-Stop.

September 10th- Staff visited Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia to promote WIOA services.

September 17th- Parker's hosted a meeting in Evans County One-Stop.

September 18th- Staff participated in the Southeastern Technical College Resource Fair at the Vidalia Campus. Staff virtually attended the Local Workforce and Development Agency meeting.

September 23rd- Staff visited Southeastern Technical College GED class in Vidalia to promote WIOA services.

September 25th- Staff virtually attended the Local Area Director's Meeting. Staff attended the Regional Commission Meeting held in Montgomery County.

September 26th- Staff visited Metter High School to promote WIOA services.

September 28th-Oct 1st- Staff attended the SETA fall conference held in Biloxi, Mississippi.

October 1st- Staff participated in the Coastal Plains Career Fair in Hazlehurst.

October 2nd- Staff participated in the Georgia Summit at Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge Conference Center. Staff attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Evans County hosted by the Evans County Chamber. Staff virtually attended the Local Workforce and Development Agency meeting.

October 2nd and 3rd- Staff hosted Regional Commission monitors at the Evans County One-Stop.

October 8th- Parker's hosted a meeting at the Evans County One-Stop. Staff visited Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Laurens County to promote WIOA Services.

October 9th- Staff participated in the Wayne Works Career Expo at Coastal Pines Technical College in Jesup.

October 10th, 14th, & 15th - Parker's hosted a meeting in the Evans County One-Stop.

October 15th- Staff virtually attended the Family Connections Meeting held on Zoom.

October 16th- Staff virtually attended the Local Workforce and Development Agency meeting.

October 17th- Staff participated in the Treutlen Senior Career Day held at Treutlen Elementary School.

October 23rd- Staff attended the Regional Commission Meeting held in Montgomery. Staff virtually attended the Local Area Director's Meeting. Staff participated in the Coastal Plains High School Job Fair at Tattnall County High School.

October 24th- Staff participated in the Jeff Davis High School College and Career Fair at Jeff Davis High School.

October 27th- 28th- The staff hosted Technical College System of Georgia monitors at the Evans County One-Stop.

October 28th- Staff visited Bleckley High School to promote WIOA services.

October 30th- Staff virtually attended the Local Workforce and Development Agency meeting.

November 6th & 12th - Parker's hosted a meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that the state's unemployment rate is 3.6%, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region is at 4.0%.

RC UPDATE

Brett stated that the Regional Commission will host a listening day with Senator Larry Walker and community leaders from Laurens, Bleckley, Dodge, and Treutlen Counties on December 3rd. He stated that on Friday, aging services will run out of federal dollars. Services will be suspended, or providers will continue to provide services and bill at a later time.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Williams

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