

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Rochelle Culver	Matt Donaldson
Sharon Flanagan	Randall Holcomb
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Mac Jordan	Keith Miles
Martha McBride	Mel Powell
Clay Reid	Marshall Smith
Dr. Barry Dotson	Ted Buford
Bobby Cox	Lisa Livingston
Doug Rooks	Roy Selph
Raymond McCullough	Jason Whitlow
John Shaw	Bobby Cox

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ashley Googe	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Michelle Johnson	Joe Sikes
Lee Radney	Alfred Wheeler
Billy Trapnell	Guy Singletary
Ryan Waldrep	

GUEST

Susan Woodard, Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development
Chelsea Owens, Child Care Resource and Referral
Jan Hall, Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order. A quorum was present. The guest attending included Susan Woodard and Jan Hall, both with the Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development, and Chelsea Owens with Child Care Resource and Referral.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Matt Donaldson made a motion that was seconded by Bobby Cox to approve the June 10, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chair Bennett introduced Lisa Livingston, Heart of Georgia Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging Director. She is in the Baxley location. Lisa stated that the mission of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is to provide older persons, at-risk adults, persons with disabilities, their families, and caregivers with the alternatives necessary to live healthy and as independent as possible to avoid unnecessary institutionalization and social isolation. She stated that their role is to plan, develop, coordinate, and deliver long-term care services. The funding comes from the Older Americans Act at the federal level, to the Department of Health and Human Services, down to the states, down to the AAA, and finally transfers to the service provider. There are 12 AAA areas in the State of Georgia. Ten of those are served through the Regional Commission, and the other two are stand-alone agencies. This area is one of the largest geographically in the State but the smallest in population. Funding is based on population, which is why our funding is the smallest in the State. Laurens County has the largest population at 17.35%, while Wheeler County has the smallest, at 2.06% of the population. Services provided include caregiver education and dementia specialist education. Staff who provide resources available in the area with AAA advocates for seniors, provide evidence-based health and wellness programs, and assist with technology, material aid, and modification funding. They also contract out services, which include an adult daycare center in Laurens County that provides care to people with Alzheimer's. CareStar Incorporated provides meals for clients and case management. All Ways Caring Home Care provides home maker care, personal care services, and caregiver services. Action Pact provides meals on wheels to several counties in the area. Legacy Link also provides services to Seniors. Lisa thanked the WDB members for their time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that Washington is still working to approve the budget, reauthorization, and the funding streams. He also stated that the State Board meeting will be next week to go over some of these topics. All Grants have been received, including the Helene grant, which requires work experience. He stated that he will work with the counties to help with the hurricane grant. Keith said that the next WDB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11th, which is Veterans Day. Carolyn Blackshear made a motion to move the meeting to Wednesday, November 12th. Seconded by Bobby Cox. Motion Carried.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the Workforce Development Board to the Expenditure Report. He stated that the expenditures are on track, but there is an adding error that needs to be corrected.

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to make a motion for the Business Healthcare Technology program to be added to the Central Georgia Technical College Eligible Training Provider List, seconded by Carolyn Blackshear. Motion carried.

ONE-STOP

Doug Rooks referred the Workforce Development Board to the One-Stop Report. He stated that everything looked good.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. This report explains the number of customers served. He stated that the report has Training services serving 623 participants and Business services that have increased by 735 customers since the June meeting. The total number of customers served is 13,911.

Tim Herrington stated that he appreciated Sandy Bunton for promoting the mission of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Board. He made a special presentation showing his gratitude.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/EMPLOYER

Rochelle Culver stated that the Job Training Unlimited staff participated in the following events:
June 10th-11th- Parkers held a staff meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

June 12th- Staff attended a regional meeting with WorkSource Georgia at DOT Foods Business Hub. Staff attended the Local Workforce Development Area Bi-Weekly Call.

June 18th- Parker's held a meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

June 26th- Staff attended the Regional Commission Meeting held in Eastman.

July 8th- Smith State Prison hosted a job fair held at the Evans County One-Stop.

July 10th-15th- Parkers held a meeting at the Evans County One-Stop. Staff participated in the Local Workforce Development Area Bi-Weekly Call.

July 17th- Staff participated in the Improving Title I Performance Measures by Increasing Credentials Webinar.

July 21st- Staff attended Wayne County GED Open House at Coastal Pines Technical College.

July 23rd- Staff attended a Roundtable discussion held by the Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development in Savannah. Job Training Unlimited also hosted a hiring event for Flint Technical Solutions.

July 24th- Staff attended the Regional Commission Meeting held in Eastman. Staff also attended the Local Directors meeting webinar.

July 29th- Smith State Prisoners hosted a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop.

UNEMPLOYMENT

John Shaw stated that the State's unemployment rate is 3.7%, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region's unemployment rate is at 4.3%.

RC UPDATE

Brett stated they are currently working on several comprehensive plans across the region. He stated that business is going as usual.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Williams

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