

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
August 11, 2024

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Sunday, August 11, 2024, at The King and Prince Resort, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Rochelle Culver	Matt Donaldson
Kim Edge	Sharon Flanagan
Ashley Googe	Randall Holcomb
Dr. Margaret Hightower	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Michelle Johnson	Mac Jordan
Martha McBride	Mel Powell
Marshall Smith	Dr. Barry Dotson
Lee Radney	Ted Buford
Doug Rooks	Billy Trapnell
Raymond McCullough	Jason Whitlow
John Turner	Hugh Darnley
John Shaw	Ryan Waldrep
Guy Singletary	
Clay Reid	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tim Herrington	Keith Miles
Joe Sikes	Bobby Cox
Lisa Livingston	Gabriela Munoz
Roy Selph	Alfred Wheeler

GUEST

Kristin Laarhoven, Technical College System of Georgia

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Matt Donaldson made a motion seconded by Rochelle Culver to approve the June 11, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that the State applied for an NEG Grant to help with counties that were affected by Debbie. He is still waiting to hear back from county officials to see what areas need assistance.

ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Hank Hobbs awarded Raymond Mccullough his perfect attendance award.

Dr. Hank Hobbs stated that the Attendance/Board Orientation Committee would like to make a motion to approve the Workforce Development Board By-Law amendments and the Workforce Development Board Operating Procedures. Seconded by Mac Jordan. Motion Carried.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the WDB members to the Heart of Georgia WIOA Expenditure Report. He stated that about 6 million dollars is allocated across 17 counties. Keith stated that the grants are received at different times throughout the year.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell referred the WDB members to the One-Stop report. He stated that the number of jobs posted, and the website visits are down. Billy Trapnell also stated that the One-Stop Committee would like to make a motion to move the Comprehensive One-Stop from Dodge County to Evans County. Seconded by Carolyn Blackshear. Motion Carried. He also stated that he would remain chair and Doug Rooks would serve as co-chair of the One-Stop Committee.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Barry Dotson referred the WDB members to the Customer Count Report. He asked the WDB members to review the numbers to make note of all the lives being changed by WIOA programs. He commended the WDB and the staff for making a difference.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER COMMITTEE

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

June 12th- Staff participated in New Student Orientation at Wiregrass Technical College in Fitzgerald.

June 13th- Staff attended the Virtual Quarterly Department of Labor/ Career Dislocated Worker Grantees Meeting.

June 19th- Parker's held a staff meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

June 20th- Staff visited Southeastern Technical College in Swainsboro to promote WIOA services.

June 21st- Staff participated in the McRae Women's Facility hiring event at the Dodge County One-Stop.

June 26th- Parker's held a staff meeting at the Evans County One-Stop. Staff visited Pinewood Christian Academy to promote WIOA services.

June 27th- Ecoplastics held a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop.

June 28th- Parker's held a staff meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

July 17th- Staff visited the JF, MW: Military Hiring Event in Hinesville.

July 19th and 26th- Parker's held a staff meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

Rochelle also stated that she would remain chair and Lisa Livingston co-chair of the Public Awareness/Employer Committee.

RETREAT/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ted Buford stated that the Retreat/Nominating Committee would like to make a motion to elect Dan Bennett for Chair and Carolyn Blackshear as Co-Chair of the WDB. Seconded by Mac Jordan. Motion Carried. Ted also stated that he will remain as chair and Ryan Waldrep as co-chair of the Retreat/ Nominating Committee.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Carolyn Blackshear stated that Dr. Margaret Hightower would serve as chair and Lee Radney will serve as Co-Chair of the Youth Committee.

UNEMPLOYMENT

John Shaw stated that the state's unemployment rate is 4%, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region is at 4.7%.

RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that they are wrapping up the drafts of the comprehensive plans for Toombs, Laurens, Wheeler, and Evans. The Plans will be submitted in September and should be approved by October. They are also working with the Eastern Downtown Dublin Development Authority to prepare a downtown redevelopment plan for them to submit a rural zone application on their behalf.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

allie williams

Allie Williams