

MINUTES  
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
February 13, 2024

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Cox	Lisa Livingston
Doug Rooks	Raymond McCullough
Billy Trapnell	John Turner
Hugh Darnley	Dan Bennett
Carolyn Blackshear	Sharon Flanagan
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Michelle Johnson	Mac Jordan
Mel Powell	Clay Reid
Lee Radney	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ted Buford	Gabriela Munoz
Roy Selph	Jason Whitlow
John Shaw	Guy Singletary
Ryan Waldrep	Alfred Wheeler
Rochelle Culver	Kim Edge
Kristen Garland	Ashley Googe
Randall Holcomb	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Keith Miles	Martha McBride
Joe Sikes	Marshall Smith
Dr. Barry Dotson	

STAFF

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

### GUEST SPEAKER

Keith introduced Angellena Griffin, WIOA Program Manager at Job Training Unlimited. She stated that she oversees the operation of the Youth Program, ITA Program, and OJT Program, along with One-Stop Coordinating through WIOA. The programs are promoted and run through the One-Stop centers within our Region. Each county has a One-Stop center. Customers meet the staff in One-Stop centers to get information on the programs and services and can complete a pre-application, which will determine their eligibility for the programs. When they complete a pre-application, they will be placed on the potential customer waiting list so that customers can be selected for the operating grant based on their needs and eligibility. Staff visit several events and locations throughout the region to promote WIOA services. These locations include but are not limited to technical colleges, high schools, local employers, and partner agencies. The Individual Training Accounts program provides financial support while attending college. Eligibility is based on the grant requirements. ITA helps cover tuition, books, fees, supplies, and a daily stipend. Daycare stipends are also available for customers paying for childcare. The program also allows the customers to receive assistance securing employment.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that WIOA reauthorization is being discussed in Washington. A bill was passed that will allow WDB members to call into meetings, but with stipulations. When the state sends out the guidance, the bylaws will be amended and will be voted on by the WDB. This will not go into effect until the steps are completed.

Keith stated that American Knits in Swainsboro changed their business models to screen printing jobs and were able to receive Rapid Response money to help offset the cost of employee training to prevent layoffs. Grants were requested for Westrock in Dublin to offset the cost of employee training on their updated equipment. Flexsteel in Dublin is closing permanently in April, and 154 people will be laid off. DAS in Metter will be hiring 75 people to send to training in Alabama. This company looks to hire around 300 employees. Keith referred the WDB to the DAS hiring event handout. DAS is a manufacturer for Hyundai that makes seats.

### BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the WDB to the Heart of Georgia WIOA Expenditure Report. He stated that this report shows about 30% spent of the three-million dollars that is allocated between the 17 county region.

### ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell referred the WDB members to the One-Stop report. He stated that some areas are increasing, but some areas are decreasing.

### PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Count Report. The report has two columns representing Training Services and Business Services. Training Services had 647 customers being served, but Tim stated that some numbers have fluctuated since the last meeting. Business Services has 16,515 customers. Tim commended the service specialists for their hard work.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

Lisa Livingston stated that the Job Training Unlimited staff participated in the following events:

December 13<sup>th</sup>- Rogers State Prison held a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop.

December 21<sup>st</sup>- Staff attended the QUEST Roundtable Discussion held on Zoom.

January 8<sup>th</sup>- Staff promoted WIOA services at Johnson County High School.

January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>- Staff attended the WorkSource Georgia Business Services Summit held at Forsyth Conference Center at the Lanier Technical College in Cumming, Georgia.

January 11<sup>th</sup>- Staff visited Southeastern Technical College in Swainsboro to promote WIOA services.

January 16<sup>th</sup>- Staff visited Wilcox County High School to promote WIOA services.

January 17<sup>th</sup>- Staff visited Meter High School to promote WIOA services.

January 18<sup>th</sup>- Staff attended the Telfair County Family Connections Meeting held at the Telfair County Board of Education Office in McRae. Staff participated in the Career One-Stop Tools for Youth webinar held on Zoom.

January 22<sup>nd</sup>- Staff attended the Laurens County Family Connections held at Laurens County Family Connections. Staff participated in Claxton High School Dual Enrollment Night held at the school.

January 24<sup>th</sup>- Staff promoted WIOA services at Vidalia High School in Toombs County. Staff promoted WIOA services at Coastal Pines Technical College's Nursing Class in Jesup.

January 25<sup>th</sup>- Staff attended the Bleckley County Family Connections held at Bleckley County Family Connections Building.

January 26<sup>th</sup>- Staff attended the Regional Meeting hosted by the Georgia Department of Economic Development held at Coastal Pines Technical College in Waycross.

February 1<sup>st</sup>- Staff attended the Beyond Difficulties: Thriving in Difficult Customer Situations meeting held virtually.

February 6<sup>th</sup>- Staff promoted WIOA services at Meter High School.

February 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>- Staff attended the Untapped Workforce Summit 2024 Meeting held in Duluth, Georgia. Staff met with potential employers across the Region.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Brett Manning stated that the state's unemployment rate is 2.9%, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region is the third highest at 3.2%.

## RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that they will be partnering with the Carl Vinson Institute to host a Planning and Zoning training on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting location is pending.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*allie williams*

Allie Williams

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett  
Mac Jordan  
Clay Reid  
Tim Herrington  
Carolyn Blackshear  
Billy Trapnell  
Lisa Livingston  
Brett Manning

The Executive Committee met on February 13, 2024, immediately after the WDB meeting. Clay Reid made the motion to approve the 2024 Retreat to be held August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island. Mac Jordan Seconded. Motion Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.