

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
April 9, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ted Buford	Bobby Cox
Lisa Livingston	Doug Rooks
Roy Selph	Raymond McCullough
Billy Trapnell	John Turner
Jason Whitlow	John Shaw
Hugh Darnley	Ryan Waldrep
Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Kim Edge	Sharon Flanagan
Ashley Googe	Randall Holcomb
Tim Herrington	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Michelle Johnson	Mac Jordan
Keith Miles	Mel Powell
Clay Reid	Dr. Barry Dotson
Lee Radney	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gabriela Munoz	Guy Singletary
Alfred Wheeler	Rochelle Culver
Kristen Garland	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Martha McBride	Joe Sikes
Marshall Smith	

GUEST

Delorice Poole, Southeastern Technical College

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett introduced guest Delorice Poole with Southeastern Technical College. He also introduced new WDB Members, Randall Holcomb and Keith Miles. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mac Jordan made a motion seconded by Billy Trapnell to approve the December 12, 2023, meeting minutes, February 13, 2024, meeting minutes, and the February 13, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Keith introduced Angellena Griffin, WIOA Program Manager at Job Training Unlimited. She stated that she attended the last WDB meeting and provided information on the Individual Training Accounts Program and the One-Stop System. The ITA program offers financial assistance to students attending a college or technical college. It helps with tuition, books, fees, and supplies. It also provides a daily stipend of \$12 a day for gas/meals and an additional \$12 a day to assist with childcare. The programs students attend must be on the State approved Eligible Training Provider List. One-Stops are in each of our 17 counties and some one-stops have partner agencies located within the one-stop. A customer seeking help through the one-stop can find resources within the community, use the one-stop to job search, or send faxes required for their employment. The Youth Program provides services to In-school and Out-of-school Youth. Each program focuses on the educational goals of the customer. The in-school program covers ages 14-21, and the out-of-school program covers ages 16-24. Both programs require customers to receive an educational diploma or a skills certification and enter employment or post-secondary education. The program helps prepare them for the workforce through work experience, modules, assistance with preparing for an interview, etc. This program also allows customers to get support and guidance. Students attending GED classes can also receive a daily stipend of \$12 a day. The Youth program helps customers become self-sufficient. The On-the-Job Training program focuses on employers by offsetting the cost of training. OJT reimburses the employer 50% of training wages for a set period. Employers must meet the employer guidelines to qualify for the program, and at the end of the program, the employer will complete an evaluation. Angellena stated that she would be around to answer questions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that the Retreat and Nominating Committee has information about the upcoming 2024 Retreat. The allocations were received for Adult and Youth funding for the upcoming year which includes budget cuts. He stated that additional funds were requested for the Quest Grant which would help off-set the budget cuts. Keith stated that he also requested additional NEG funds. He stated that several companies are coming into the area, and we are providing job fairs and offering other assistance to them.

ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Hank Hobbs stated that a quorum was present. He thanked the WDB members for their attendance and welcomed the new WDB members. He also stated that a New Member Orientation will also be held at the 2024 Retreat.

Dr.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the WDB to the Heart of Georgia WIOA Expenditure Report. He stated that this report shows that 3.5 million dollars has been allocated across the 17-county region.

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation committee would like to make a motion for the Comprehensive Four-Year Plan to be posted on the website for public comment. Seconded by Carolyn Blackshear. Motion carried.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell referred the WDB members to the One-Stop report. He stated based on the numbers, we are reaching out to customers needing jobs and employers needing workers.

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 682 customers being served. Business Services has 20,753 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:

February 15th- Staff promoted WIOA services at the Employee Information Sessions for Flexsteel Industries, Inc. in Dublin. Staff attended Mock Interview Day at Wayne County High School.

February 19th- Staff hosted a hiring event for DAS (DAS North American, Inc.) in Candler County.

February 20th- Staff attended a webinar for CareerRise and Worksource Georgia's Untapped Workforce. Staff hosted a hiring event for DAS in Evans County.

February 21st- Staff hosted a hiring event for DAS in Emanuel County.

February 22nd- Staff hosted a hiring event for DAS in Tattnall County.

February 23rd- Staff hosted a hiring event for DAS in Toombs County.

February 26th- Staff attended a webinar for WorkSource Georgia Business Services game planning. Staff also attended the Evans County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting held in Evans County.

February 27th- Staff attended the Greater Vidalia Workforce Steering Committee meeting held in Vidalia.

February 28th- Staff met with SoPoly in Eastman to discuss WIOA services.

February 29th- Staff participated in the College and Career Fair for Southeastern Early College and Career Academy held in Vidalia.

March 5th- Staff participated in the Oconee Fall Line Technical College Career Fair held in Laurens.

March 12th- Staff spoke to the Southeastern Technical College's GED class at the Swainsboro Campus. Staff met with Farmers Furniture and the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia in Laurens to promote WIOA services.

March 14th- Staff spoke to Oconee Fall Line Technical College's GED class at the Dublin campus. Staff attended a webinar meeting for the Quarterly Department of Labor ETA/Career DWG Grantees.

March 15th- Staff participated in the East Laurens High School Career Day held at East Laurens High School.

March 18th- Staff met with EcoPlastic in Statesboro to discuss WIOA services. Staff attended the Evans County Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting held in Evans County.

March 19th- Staff met with WestRock in Dublin to discuss WIOA services.

March 22nd- Staff attended the Treutlen High School College and Career Fair held at Treutlen County High School. Staff met with the City of Dublin to discuss WIOA Services.

March 25th- Staff attended the WorkSource Georgia Business Services Planning Webinar.

March 27th- Staff participated in the Career Expo 2024 held at Coastal Pines Technical College in Jesup. Staff attended the webinar meeting for Working Together the Individual Employment Plan.

April 4th- Staff attended the 2024 Lift Roundtable Meeting held in Macon.

RETREAT/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ted Buford stated that the WDB members need to complete the registration form to RSVP for the upcoming retreat at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that the state's unemployment rate is 3.1%, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region has the third highest rate at 3.5%.

RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that in May, the RC will host a One-Day Housing Conference at Southeastern Technical College.

OTHER

Dr. Barry Dotson stated that the Southeastern Technical College's Career and Resource fair will be held April 16th- 18th. They will be offering professional headshots free of charge.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

allie williams

Allie Williams