

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
October 10, 2023

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Rochelle Culver
Ashley Googe	Tim Herrington
Dr. Margaret Hightower	Michelle Johnson
Mac Jordan	Mel Powell
Marshall Smith	Ted Buford
Doug Rooks	Raymond McCullough
Billy Trapnell	John Turner
Hugh Darnley	Ryan Waldrep
Bobby Cox	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carolyn Blackshear	Roger Branch
Cason DeVane	Kim Edge
Sharon Flanagan	Brian Hamilton
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Martha McBride
Clay Reid	Joe Sikes
Nolan Thigpen	Tamra Wells
Lisa Livingston	Gabriela Munoz
Roy Selph	Jason Whitlow
Dr. Barry Dotson	Lee Radney
Dr. Paul Scott	Debbie Dyal
Guy Singletary	Alfred Wheeler

GUEST

Ruby Cox, Rotary Corporation
Jan Hall, WorkSource Rapid Response Georgia
Demme McManus, Oconee Fall Line Technical College

STAFF

Keith Dixon	Brett Manning
Sandy Bunton	
Allie Williams	
Alexis Eason	
Heather Ernst	

GUEST SPEAKER

Heather Ernst introduced Ruby Cox with Rotary Corporation. Ruby stated that she has enjoyed working with the Job Training Unlimited staff. Several employees were hired and enrolled in the On-the-Job Training program. The employees hired may have been looked over if going through a regular interview process. She mentioned one employee who is eighteen years old and would not have done well in a traditional interview. Before working at Rotary, he washed trucks and did handy work. He is shy but always has a smile on his face, and he was hired to work in the shipping department. Since working at Rotary through the On-the-Job Training Program, he has gained health insurance, confidence, and a new skill that he will be able to use. The OJT program has saved Rotary training time and made it affordable to mentor these employees. Most of the employees have been successful. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to utilize the OJT program, and she also thanked the staff for all their hard work.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that additional QUEST OJT funds will be requested from the state, and additional ITA funds have already been requested to help with additional layoffs. He stated that the budget is divided between seventeen counties to cover books, tuition, childcare, work experience, salaries, etc. Once all factors are included, the original grants will be spent which is why the additional grants are requested. The grants that the government has awarded are approved, but the grants that have yet to be approved may be delayed due to a hold on budget approvals. The grants that have been approved will need to last until the next group is awarded. Keith asked the WDB members to let him know of any events that are happening in your area that he or Heather could speak at. We will also set up Job Fairs in the area. Hugh Darnley stated that a Job Fair for a poultry processing plant was held in Wrightsville, where they received 120 applications.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the WDB to the list of programs to be approved for the ETPL. Due to a quorum not being present, the motion will be sent to the Executive Committee for approval.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell referred the WDB to the One-Stop report. He stated that the visits are increasing, and the job postings are decreasing. The number of hits on the website has not varied that much. The ads have slightly increased.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB to the Customer Count Report. He stated that a new section was re-labeled under Business Services called Employer Hiring Events, Outreach Events, and Job Fairs. The report has two columns representing Training Services and Business Services, showing a total of 5,029 customers served, which is an increase of 3,176 customers. Training Services has a total of 597, an increase of 44 customers. The ITA participants increased by 29 participants. Business Services had a total of 4,432, an increase of 2,579 customers. The total number of One-Stop visits increased by 1,610. He commended the staff for their hard work.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

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

August 8th- Staff participated in the CDL orientation at Ogeechee Technical College in Hagan. Staff participated in a hiring event at Rotary Corporation in Glennville.

August 9th- Smith State Prison and Rogers State Prison hosted a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop.

August 10th- Claxton Head Start hosted a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop. Staff attended the Youth Program Round Table meeting held at Southeastern Technical College Economic Development Center in Vidalia.

August 11th- Staff participated in a hiring event at Rotary Corporation in Glennville. Staff attended a hiring event for Valmont in Evans County.

August 15th- Department of Juvenile Justice hosted a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop. Staff participated in the Tri-County Family Connection Meeting held on Zoom. Staff also attended a virtual meeting with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Workshop.

August 17th- Staff participated in New Student Orientation at Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin.

August 21st- Department of Juvenile Justice hosted a hiring event at the Tatnall County One-Stop. Staff also spoke at Jeff Davis High School to promote WIOA services.

August 24th- Staff attended the Telfair Family Connections Meeting at the Telfair Board of Education. Staff also spoke with the Licensed Practical Nurses Class at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia.

August 28th- Staff spoke with the Cosmetology Program Class at Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Laurens County.

August 29th- Staff attended the Virtual meeting Using Dislocated Worker Funds Can Be Easy.

August 30th- Staff attended the Toombs County Family Connections meeting held on Zoom.

September 11th- Staff attended the Laurens County Family Connections meeting held on Zoom.

September 19th- Staff attended the Tri-County Family Connections meeting held on Zoom. Staff also participated in the Golden Farmer Hiring Event in Johnson County.

September 27th- Staff participated in the Toombs County Medical Job Fair held at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia.

Upcoming

October 10th- Staff will participate in the Emanuel County Job Fair at Southeastern Technical College in Swainsboro.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Keith stated that the State is looking at a different way to serve the Youth. They are throwing around different ideas within the House and Senate, and they will be taking a budget cut from somewhere. WIOA is back on the table for reauthorization, and we need to be prepared for change.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that the unemployment rate for the state is running at 3.8%. The Heart of Georgia Altamaha area's unemployment rate is 4.5 %, the second highest in the state, but the people

included in these rates are only the people who receive UI benefits. This unemployment rate does not include everyone who is unemployed.

RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that grants were awarded to the City of Hazelhurst and the City of Eastman for one million dollars each for sewer improvements. Johnson County received just under 300,000 for water improvements. The Comprehensive Plan they have been working on is making its rounds for approval, and they should hear something by the end of the month. The Master Plan for the City of Vidalia has been submitted. They are just waiting for approval.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

allie williams

Allie Williams

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 10, 2023

Minutes

The Executive meeting was called to order by Dan Bennett. Mac Jordan made a motion for the following programs to be added to the ETPL:

East Georgia State College

Associate of Arts in Elementary Education

An Associate degree in Elementary Education prepares students to take advantage of the growing teacher shortages in this state. Students complete their program in approximately two years. This program serves as the pre-professional block, required to be completed before applying to a School of Education.

Bachelor of Sciences in Criminal Justice

The Bachelor of Sciences in Criminal Justice is designed to prepare students for employment or advancement within the criminal justice system by providing a foundation of the knowledge, principles, theories, and functions common to the American criminal justice system. Offered entirely online, the program is ideal for those who need to balance work and family responsibilities with their pursuit of higher education.

Associate of Sciences in Business Administration

The Associate of Science in Business Administration program

Describe or attach) at East Georgia State College has specific learning outcomes for the graduates to ensure they are ready for the next steps, whether transferring into a baccalaureate program or into the workforce.

Associate of Sciences in Financial Technology

The Associate of Science in Financial Technology eMajor degree is a 100% online degree created through collaboration with FinTech industry leaders to create a talent pipeline to fill the demand of this exploding field in Georgia.

Associate of Sciences in Natural Science

The Associate of Science in Natural Sciences provides students with the foundation for professional careers in the sciences, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, mathematics, or engineering – all at a highly competitive cost compared to other institutions.

We would not use the next two programs because the students would not be work ready. HOWEVER, we can help the school get these programs on the ETPL in case other areas would like to use them:

Associate of Arts in Social Sciences

The Associate of Arts in Social Sciences provides students with the required knowledge of history, political science, psychology, sociology, economics and criminal justice, allowing for a successful transfer to a bachelor program.

Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts

The mission of the Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts is to give a base knowledge and skills to students who have not yet decided what field they would like to pursue and provide these students with an opportunity to prepare to transfer to another institution or enter the workforce.

COASTAL PINES TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Electric Vehicle Professional Technical Certificate of Credit

The Electric Vehicle Professional Technical Certificate of Credit was designed in conjunction with Hyundai subject matter experts to provide students with the knowledge and skill to prepare them for entry level employment in the electrical vehicle production industry. Emphasis is placed on safe and effective automotive shop operations, automotive electrical principles, and operation and service procedures for EV and Hybrid vehicles. This certificate prepares the student to enter into the electrical vehicle production industry with basic knowledge.

The motion was seconded by Rochelle Culver. Motion Carried.

There being no further business, the committee meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Williams