

MINUTES  
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
August 8, 2023

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Carolyn Blackshear
Rochelle Culver	Kim Edge
Sharon Flanagan	Tim Herrington
Dr. Margaret Hightower	Dr. Hank Hobbs
Bobby Cox	Lisa Livingston
Doug Rooks	Roy Selph
Raymond McCullough	John Turner
Lee Radney	Hugh Darnley
Ryan Waldrep	Alfred Wheeler
Mac Jordan	Martha McBride
Mel Powell	Clay Reid

MEMBERS ABSENT

Roger Branch	Cason DeVane
Ashley Googe	Brian Hamilton
Michelle Johnson	Ted Buford
Gabriela Munoz	Billy Trapnell
Jason Whitlow	Dr. Barry Dotson
Dr. Paul Scott	Debbie Dyal
Guy Singletary	Joe Sikes
Marshall Smith	Nolan Thigpen
Tamra Wells	

GUEST

Shamada Carr, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency  
Tara Cordero, Coastal Georgia Area Community Action Authority  
Teddra Jakes, Coastal Area Community Action Authority  
Deseree Houston, Telamon  
Robin Cove, Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development

STAFF

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

### GUEST SPEAKER

Chair Bennett introduced Teddra Jakes and Tara Cordero with Coastal Area Community Action Authority. Teddra Jakes thanked the staff for their support during this time. She stated that the Coastal Area Community Action Authority serves nine counties, which include Evans, Tattnall, and Wayne. After Covid, they need help finding qualified staff for their program in the Education Field. Three weeks ago, they only had one permanent teaching staff and one service worker, but they needed 30. Tara Cordero stated that they were in a bind with Head Start starting soon because they needed more employees. The Job Training Unlimited staff set up a Job Fair for Coastal Area Community Action Authority. They have currently had two job fairs held at the Evans County One Stop, and another will be held soon. Teddra Jakes stated that the Job Fairs were successful because they had ten hires with the possibility of 14 being hired. They can now open at least four classrooms. Tara Cordero stated they also offer assistance to new mothers. They accept children at six weeks old but start working with the mom during pregnancy. This agency provides several social services. They have several partner agencies that they work with to help their clients grow and become self-sufficient. Their goal is to make families' lives better. She thanked the staff for helping.

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order. A quorum was present. Dan Bennett introduced guest Shamada Carr with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Deseree Houston with Telamon, and Robin Cove with Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mac Jordan made a motion seconded by Rochelle Culver to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023, Workforce Development Board meeting.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that we will receive extra grants, including Adult Funds, Dislocated Worker Funds, and Youth Funds. Keith also stated that there will be a shift in numbers due to students graduating, and they will be replaced starting in the fall. Business services include One-stops allowing companies to do Job Fairs. It also gives the customers access to computer labs and the programs offered. He stated that twenty customers have been enrolled in the OJT program under the QUEST grant in the last few weeks, and the COVID grant will end in September.

### ATTENDANCE/BOARD ORIENTATION

Dr. Hank Hobbs stated that a quorum was present, and no new members had been added to the WDB since the last meeting.

### BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan referred the WDB to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha WIOA Expenditures Report. The report shows that the grants total approximately five million dollars to be allocated across the counties, with approximately two million dollars spent. Keith stated that the budgets come in cycles that allow two years to use. He stated that the budgets also come in at various times. The State has three years to use the funds, allowing them to redistribute unspent funding throughout the regions.

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation committee would like to make a motion to approve the following programs to the eligible training provider list:

Coastal Pines Technical College

(5 Programs)

***Education Paraprofessional, TCC***

A program that prepares individuals to assist a teacher in regular classroom settings or in providing instruction and supervision to special student populations such as bilingual bicultural students, special education students, adult learners and students learning English. Includes instruction in techniques of general classroom supervision maintaining order assisting with lessons and carrying out related assignments.

***Geriatric Care Assistant, TCC***

The Geriatric Care Assistant Technical Certificate provides the basic knowledge and skills needed to qualify for employment as a nurse aide in nursing homes, elder personal care homes, and home healthcare agencies. The certificate emphasizes geriatric patient care, CPR, and first aid. Students successfully completing the certificate are eligible to be placed on the State Registry for nurse aides.

***NCCER Carpentry Fundamentals, TCC***

The Carpentry Fundamentals certificate introduces the student to the basic levels of carpentry skills. Topics include introduction to the trade, safety, hand and power tool usage, site layout, structural framing, building envelope systems, and exterior finishes. The program emphasizes a combination of carpentry theory and practical application necessary for successful employment. Program graduates receive a carpentry fundamentals certificate and have the qualifications of an entry-level framing carpenter.

***NCCER Basic Electrical Systems Technician, TCC***

The Basic Electrical Systems Technician Certificate provides training in basic electrical wiring skills enabling students to gain entry level employment in the construction and maintenance industry. Topics include basic electrical principles and practices, blueprint interpretation, industrial safety procedures, and basic wiring operations.

***Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), TCC***

The Emergency Medical Responder certificate program prepares students to initiate immediate lifesaving care to critical patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional EMS response and to assist higher level personnel at the scene and during transport. Emergency Medical Responders function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. The Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) technical certificate of credit provides students with the opportunity to prepare for entry-level into the emergency medical services professions for possible employment in a variety of prehospital, industrial and first responder settings. After successful completion of a SOEMST approved EMR program the graduate may take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians EMR certification examination.

Ogeechee Technical College

**EMS Professions Diploma**

The primary focus of the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician is to provide basic and limited advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary

to provide patient care and transportation. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance. The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system. Successful completion of the program allows the graduate to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians AEMT certification examination and to apply for Georgia licensure as an AEMT.

### Southeastern Technical College

#### **Electric Vehicle Professional**

This program introduces automotive technicians to the operation and service procedures for EV and hybrid vehicles.

Seconded by Clay Reid. Motion Carried.

### ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Keith referred the WDB to the One-Stop report. He stated that the numbers have decreased, but we are hopeful they will pick back up soon. The website totals have increased which means they are looking for employment virtually.

### PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB to the Customer Count Report. He stated that there are two columns that represent training services and business services. He stated that 95% of funding goes into training services, and 5% goes into business services. There was a total of 553 customers enrolled in training services with 277 being active and 276 in follow-up services. There was a total of 1300 in business services for the month of July. This report reflects the beginning of a new physical year. The ITA numbers will increase when the fall semester starts. Several customers were exited, causing a decrease in ITA and Youth numbers.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

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

June 22nd- Staff participated in an Open House at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia.

Staff attended the Quarterly Sector Partnership Virtual Meeting.

July 11th- Staff attended Ask Away with the U.S. Department of Labor virtual meeting.

July 17th- Staff spoke to the Radiology Department at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia.

July 19th- The Georgia Department of Corrections hosted a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop. Staff also attended a Follow-up and Supportive Services Virtual meeting.

July 20th- Staff participated in a Career Fair held at Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin. Claxton Head Start hosted a hiring event at Evans County One-Stop.

July 24th and 25th- Staff visited Dodge County High School for their Freshman Orientation.

July 27th- Claxton Head Start hosted a hiring event at Evans County One-Stop.

Staff met with high schools in the region to promote WIOA services.

Staff met with potential employers for the OJT program within the region.

#### Upcoming Events

August 9th and 16th- Rogers and Smith State Prison will host a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop.

August 10th- Claxton Head Start will host a hiring event at the Evans County One-Stop.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

Keith stated that the Heart of Georgia area unemployment rate is 4.2 %, the third highest in the State.

#### RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that the TSPLOST revenues for this year ran approximately 22.5 million running 28%-30% ahead. They are concluding the Comprehensive Plans worked on this year for counties in the region, and the plans are ready for submission. They are also completing the master plan for downtown Vidalia. UGA is offering information on E-Mobility Success in Richmond Hill at the end of the month for local governments focusing on creating charging infrastructure and successful partnerships within the State. They also assisted Candler County in receiving a One-Georgia Grant totaling \$500,000 for their industrial park.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Allie Williams