

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
April 12, 2022

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bennett	Roger Branch
Rochelle Culver	Cason DeVane
Sharon Flanagan	Brian Hamilton
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Michelle Johnson
Mac Jordan	Mel Powell
Clay Reid	Marshall Smith
Nolan Thigpen	Guy Singletary
Ryan Waldrep	Ted Buford
Bobby Cox	Gabriela Munoz
Meddy Settles	Billy Trapnell
John Turner	Dr. Barry Dotson
Lee Radney	Dr. Paul Scott

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carolyn Blackshear	Kim Edge
Ashley Googe	Martha McBride
Tamra Wells	Debbie Dyal
George Milligan	Alfred Wheeler
Lisa Livingston	Doug Rooks
Roy Selph	Jason Whitlow

GUEST

Ana Delgado, Telamon

STAFF

Keith Dixon	Brett Manning
Sandy Bunton	Alex Clements
Allie Williams	
Alexis Eason	

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order. The WDB had a quorum of 26 members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meddy Settles made a motion seconded by Rochelle Culver to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Workforce Development Board Meeting. Motion carried

GUEST SPEAKER

Keith Dixon introduced Ryan Waldrep, President of the Dublin Laurens County Development Authority. Ryan welcomed the WDB members and stated that the City of Dublin is working on several projects. One of the successful projects in workforce development is working with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia to develop a Workforce Development Strategy. They wanted to be competitive in workforce development and created this strategy to help K12 to adults. He stated that Dublin City Schools took this project to heart and hired a Workforce Development Manager. The Dublin Charter School System created “Flex Friday” which is one Friday a month for students to learn social skills, which are essential skills that employers need. Starting in the 9th grade, students receive a checklist of social skills to reach by graduation, including setting up bank accounts, getting a driver’s license, computer skills, etc. Dublin Schools administer the YouScience platform, an aptitude test to tell students what they are good at and what they like to do. Dublin Schools are also creating new pathways to show students different careers and opportunities. He referred the WDB members to the Dublin Laurens County Development Authority website for more information on the program.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Keith stated that the workforce is constantly changing. He stated that legislation passed moving Wagner-Peyser funding to the Technical College System of Georgia, and he is unsure how this will change and what the future will look like with the Wagner-Peyser funding. The change may not make it to reauthorization this year due to it passing back and forth in the house and senate. He also stated that when the change is made, a new budget will be created based on the unemployment rates, and the WIOA budget has been cut every year due to the low unemployment rate. Keith referred the WDB members to the unemployment chart in the packets. The state of Georgia's unemployment rate is at 3.3%. Unemployment rates are calculated by enrolled participants in the system drawing unemployment checks. If a person has exhausted their funds or not drawing funds, they are not calculated in the unemployment rate. Keith stated that employers are in search of employees and cannot find employees, and Job Fair attendance is down. He also stated that WIOA would be changing in many ways.

ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION

Dr. Hank Hobbs stated that 26 members were present for a quorum to conduct business. He stated that there would be a committee chair meeting and a new member meeting before the next WDB meeting. He reminded the WDB that if a member is absent for three consecutive meetings without an excused absence, the member will be submitted to the CLEO to be replaced. If a WDB member is going to be absent, they need to contact a staff member before the WDB meeting. A proxy cannot take the attendance spot of a WDB member.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Paul Scott referred the WDB members to the Expenditure Report and he stated that the budget and finances are all current and on track.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell stated that a One-Stop is in each of the 17 counties in our region, and he explained that they are access points to help customers with resumes, schoolwork, or help look for employment. He referred the WDB members to the One-Stop Report and stated that everything looked good.

Billy Trapnell stated that at the February 2022 meeting, the WDB members approved the form to be used for the One-Stop Certifications. The approved forms were completed and signed by the LWDB Chair and the CLEO Chair. He stated that the One-Stop committee recommended approving the completed One-Stop Certifications forms. Seconded by Clay Reid. Motion Carries.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Counts Report. He stated that each county has two sections: training services (total 825) and business services (total 10,839), and referred the WDB members to their county. He stated that the total number of customers served through business services was 10,839. Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Two Month Comparison in Customer Counts 2022 report and stated that the numbers increased. He commended the staff for spreading the individual service components out proportionally so customers can be served all 12 months of the fiscal year. The largest number of customer counts goes to WIOA Business Services, and the smallest part of the budget goes to WIOA Training Services. He stated that yearly customer counts would fluctuate based on funds or grants received.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER

Meddy Settles stated that the Job Training Unlimited staff participated in 13 different events. They have four upcoming events to tell customers about WIOA services and jobs within the community.

RETREAT/NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Ted Buford stated that the WDB Retreat would not take place in August due to changes in WIOA. The Retreat Committee decided to hold off on the Retreat until another time.

Ted stated that the Retreat and Nominating Committee would like to make a motion to nominate Dan Bennett to serve as Chair of the WDB and Joe Sikes to serve as Co-Chair of the WDB beginning with the August meeting. Seconded by Clay Reid. Motion Carries. Ted commended Chair Mac Jordan for his years of service.

RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that they have been working on Comprehensive Plans for Candler County, Emanuel County, and Appling County. They meet with each county and attend several other meetings before the final draft is ready to submit to local governments for approval. The plan will go to DCA for approval then it will come back to the local government to pass the resolution to adopt the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that they are meeting with Mt. Vernon to complete zoning updates. Brett also stated that TSPLOST would be on the ballots in May.

There be no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Williams
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