

MINUTES
HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
JUNE 11, 2024

The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Workforce Development Board of Service Delivery Region 9 met Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at The Economic Development Center, Vidalia, Georgia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mac Jordan	Martha McBride
Mel Powell	Clay Reid
Marshall Smith	Dr. Barry Dotson
Lee Radney	Dan Bennett
Carolyn Blackshear	Rochelle Culver
Kim Edge	Sharon Flanagan
Tim Herrington	Dr. Margaret Hightower
Dr. Hank Hobbs	Michelle Johnson
Ted Buford	Bobby Cox
Lisa Livingston	Doug Rooks
Roy Selph	Raymond McCullough
Billy Trapnell	Jason Whitlow
Ryan Waldrep	Alfred Wheeler

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gabriela Munoz	John R. Turner
John Shaw	Hugh Darnley
Guy Singletary	Kristen Garland
Ashley Googe	Randall Holcomb
Keith Miles	Joe Sikes
Matt Donaldson	

GUEST

Gail Veal

Mackenzie Bennett, Georgia Department of Economic Development
Shamada Carr, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Jan Hall, Work Source Georgia Technical College System of Georgia
John Tharpe, Valmont Industrial Utility

STAFF

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett introduced guest Mackenzie Bennett with Georgia Department of Economic Development and Gail Veal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rochelle Culver made a motion seconded by Billy Trapnell to approve the April 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Chair Bennett introduced Guest Speaker John Tharpe, HR Manager for Valmont Industries Utility. Valmont is a pole manufacturing company in Claxton, Ga. John stated that he started with Valmont in June 2023. He learned that the climate at a manufacturing facility can be troubling at times. They were having staffing issues, so they reached out to Job Training Unlimited. They were able to find 25-30 people who qualified for the On-the-Job Training Program. They received almost \$25,000 in training funds. This allowed them to invest back in the company and change the vibe. He stated that Valmont went from 83 employees to 104, with its highest peak being 118 employees. This allows them to produce more in less time, limiting working Saturdays. He stated his goal is to make his teams successful through communication and being for the people.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith stated that each year, the State requires a projected budget for 2024-2025 and a final budget for 2023-2024. Both budgets require approval from the WDB. Additional Grants are received throughout the year, and the budget is revised throughout the year. Keith also reminded the WDB members that the training retreat is in August.

ATTENDANCE/ BOARD ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Hank Hobbs stated that a quorum was present. He thanked the WDB members for their attendance.

BUDGET AND EVALUATION

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to make a motion to approve the amended Comprehensive Plan. Seconded by Billy Trapnell. Motion Carried.

Mac Jordan referred the WDB members to the Heart of Georgia WIOA Expenditure Report. He stated that the year-to-date expenses are 3.6 million, which is about 62% spent.

Mac Jordan stated that the Budget and Evaluation Committee would like to make a motion to approve the projected 2024-2025 budget and the 2023-2024 revised budget. Seconded by Dr. Margaret Hightower. Motion carried.

ONE-STOP COMMITTEE

Billy Trapnell stated that a notice was received from the Georgia Department of Labor for their intent to relinquish their physical space within the Comprehensive One-Stop, effective June 30, 2024. An amendment is needed to modify the Georgia Department of Labor's financial

participation as they transition from a physical presence in the comprehensive one-stop to a virtual presence. He stated that the One-Stop Committee would like to make a motion to approve the amendment to the MOU Infrastructure Agreement. Seconded by Mac Jordan. Motion Carried.

PLAN AND PROGRAM REVIEW

Tim Herrington referred the WDB members to the Customer Count Report. The report has two columns representing Training Services, which represents 95% of the budget, and Business Services, which represents 5%. The Training Services numbers increased by 74 customers, and the Business Services numbers increased by over 5,000 customers, including Wagner-Peyser. He encouraged the WDB members to review their counties and commended the staff for their hard work.

PUBLIC AWARENESS/ EMPLOYER COMMITTEE

Rochelle Culver stated that the Job Training Unlimited staff participated in the following events: April 10th- Staff participated in the Ogeechee Technical College Career Fair held in Statesboro. Staff participated in the Brewton Parker College Job Fair in Mount Vernon.

April 16th- Staff participated in the Southeastern Technical College Job Fair held at the Vidalia Campus.

April 17th- Staff attended the Metter College and Career Academy Groundbreaking Ceremony held at Metter High School.

April 18th- Staff participated in the Southeastern Technical College Job Fair held at the Swainsboro Campus. Staff participated in the Case Management and IEP Webinar by Technical College System of Georgia.

April 19th- Staff participated in the Johnson Family Connections meeting held virtually on Zoom.

April 23rd- Staff visited East Laurens High School to promote WIOA services.

April 24th- Staff visited Jeff Davis High School to promote WIOA services.

April 25th- Staff visited Coastal Pines Technical College in Baxley and Jesup to promote WIOA Services.

April 26th- Staff participated in the Future Works System Webinar.

April 29th- Staff visited Golden Farmer in Wrightsville, GA.

May 6th- Staff visited Bleckley County High School to promote WIOA services.

May 7th- Staff visited Coastal Plains High School in Jeff Davis to promote WIOA services.

May 14th- Staff visited Coastal Pines Technical College in Jesup to promote WIOA services.

May 16th- Staff visited the New Student Orientation at Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin.

May 20th- Staff visited Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia to promote WIOA services.

May 21st- Staff visited Coastal Pines Technical College in Baxley to promote WIOA services.

May 24th- Parkers held a meeting at the Evans County One-Stop.

June 6th- Staff attended the LIFT Roundtable Meeting held at Southern Regional Technical College in Thomasville.

RETREAT/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ted Buford stated that the WDB members must complete the registration form to RSVP for the upcoming training retreat at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island. He also stated that if you need to cancel, you should let the staff know ASAP.

Ted Buford stated that the Retreat/Nominating Committee would like to make a motion to add the new WDB members to the following committees:

Randall Holcomb will serve on the Plan/Program Review Committee and Budget and Evaluation Committee.

Keith Miles will serve on the Attendance/Board Orientation Committee and Public Awareness/Employer Committee.

John Shaw will serve on the Attendance/Board Orientation Committee and Public Awareness/Employer Committee.

Matt Donaldson will serve on the Budget and Evaluation Committee and the Retreat/Nominating committee.

Seconded by Jason Whitlow. Motion Carried.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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

RC REPORT

Brett Manning stated that the City of Lyons received a \$500,000 grant for their expansion of US Hwy -1. He also stated that the housing conference held in May was very successful and that the RC will hold a Zoning class in June at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. Brett stated that the EV charging station project was highly recommended and is being reevaluated. A second round of funding has become available, giving them another opportunity to apply.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allie Williams

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