

Minutes of Meeting
Georgia Committee of Blind Vendors
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Sonesta Hotel

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alicia Morris at 1:07.

Committee Members Present:

Alicia Morris, Chair
Carl Lee, Vending
Tim Stephens, Vending
Michael Armstrong, Snack Bar
Miranda Stewart, Snack Bar
Bob Matuszak, Contracts
Wesley Vaughn, Contracts
Dale King, At-Large
Zach Snow, At-Large

GVRA Staff Present:

Teresa Eggleston, BEP Director
Bobby Goodman, BEP Program Manager
Danny Murr, BEP Equipment Manager
Tara Woodford, BEP Contracts
Raj Pagadala, BEP Special Projects
Zain Farooqui, GVRA General Counsel
Amy Casey, GVRA Staff Attorney
Bethany Whetzel, GVRA Deputy Executive Director of Programs

Guests Present:

Jerry Bensman, Georgia Cooperative Services for the Blind
Zach Thomas, Licensed Blind Vendor
Georgio Vickers, Licensed Blind Vendor
Keith Morris, Licensed Blind Vendor
Pam Kenney
Kathy Morris, CBV Secretary

Chair's Welcome

- Alicia Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

GVRA Business Enterprise Program Staff Updates

- **Director's Update, Teresa Eggleston**
 - Introduced guests from GVRA
 - BEP Staffing
 - Quan's last day was Friday so there is only one counselor in Metro and 3 in South Georgia.
 - BEP is moving to North Lake in June
 - Working on inventory policy
 - Third Party Vendors must complete an application to continue. Moving towards following the state procurement process for third party vendor selection.
 - Unassigned vending is around \$7,000
 - Working on relief pay guidelines
 - Liability insurance – moving towards individual policies
 - Transitioning payroll services away from the Coop beginning in July. BEP needs a list of vendors who will be staying with Jerry and who be doing their own accounting
 - Inventory belongs to the facility.
- **Program Manager's Update, Bobby Goodman**
 - Discussed several options for payroll software.
 - Update on replacement of Square will go out next week.
- **Training Update, Will Graham**
 - 5 students passed on February 23rd
 - Currently 14 licensee candidates
 - Next class will start late September
 - Annual conference will be October 20-22 at the Sonesta NW
- **Contracts Update, Tara Woodford**
 - Did not win #122 bid
 - New contract being developed for Ft. Benning
 - Full service provider commission is at end of accounting period not end of month
 - Working on:
 - Pepsi for FLETC

- King's Bay
 - Vending at Ft. Gordon
 - East Georgia State
 - Moody Air Force Base
- **Equipment Update, Danny Murr**
 - Repair spending since October 2022:
 - \$37,209 – Facility
 - \$95,445 – Vending
 - \$132,654 – Total Year to Date
 - Repair tech shortage. Repair costs are high because tech makes multiple trips.
 - Turn in equipment needs by mid-May
 - Cannot purchase equipment under \$1,000, but if it is in the office you may have it.

CBV General Business

- Chair Morris gave instructions for representatives to reach out to vendors to see who will have Jerry complete their accounting

Meeting adjourned.

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Guests Present:

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Georgio Vickers, Licensed Blind Vendor
Valerie Hester, Licensed Blind Vendor
Keith Morris, Licensed Blind Vendor
Pam Kenney
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Georgia Cooperative Services for the Blind Report, Jerry Bensman

- Budget

- Through March, the budget is \$345,700, \$230,949 has been spent on basic items. \$350,970 for 2024 coop budget.
- Set-aside – most of the money in the set-aside account comes from the military accounts. Account will be around \$2 Million next year. \$70,000 a month contribution from set-aside account to retirement account
- Retirement
 - Significant review of the retirement account has been conducted
 - Vendors formerly received a W-2 but will now receive a 1099.
 - Account is more solvent.
 - Years of service are non-negotiable. If you did not work, then you cannot be given credit for time.

CBV General Business

- Mini BLAST is in Des Moines, IA and would like to send 3 vendors

Motion to adjourn was made by Wesley Vaughn. Motion was seconded by Bob Matuszak. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.