

Minutes of Meeting  
Georgia Committee of Blind Vendors  
Wednesday, July 26, 2023  
Augusta, GA

**Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alicia Morris.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Alicia Morris, Chair  
Carl Lee, Vending  
Tim Stephens, Vending  
Michael Armstrong, Snack Bar  
Valerie Hester, Contracts  
Wesley Vaughn, Contracts  
Heather Lopez, At-Large

**GVRA Staff Present:**

Teresa Eggleston, BEP Director  
Bobby Goodman, BEP Program Manager  
Tara Woodford, BEP Contracts  
Will Graham, BEP Training  
Amy Casey, GVRA Staff Attorney

**Guests Present:**

Jerry Bensman, Georgia Cooperative Services for the Blind  
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**
  - In process of buying equipment and having repairs done. Should be able to get card readers installed soon

- Not getting commission from Pepsi and Coke at Gordon, Benning, and Robins.
  - GVRA is preparing for federal arbitration with Michael Benson
  - Continuing to work on the realignment and will send out communication to vendors. Realignment will go into effect by September.
  - BEP is working on prior approval submission. Must have submitted to GVRA fiscal by August. Asking that all vendors send in equipment information by next week.
  - Gave an update on hiring and open positions.
  - Audit to determine unallowable expenses is ongoing.
- **Program Manager's Update, Bobby Goodman**
- Exploring coffee options. Dunkin is a no. Spoke to Tim Horton's. 2 Beans might be an option. Red Diamond is doing well at Cheryl Hodge's location.
  - Inventory on August 1 at GBI.
  - A new vending route has been created with both CDC locations
  - DDS is opening in Lithonia and Covington
  - Putting in Micro Mart at Department of Public Health
  - Carl Sanders is taking over the airport
  - Initial Inventory
    - Provisional Vendors: BEP can pay for anything needed for 6 months without question.
    - Existing Vendors: Can give some inventory, like when there are changes in the product line
- **Contracts Update, Tara Woodford**
- Celeste True with AWT is working to make forms more accessible for vendors
  - Travel and Inventory policies have been passed along to GVRA legal for review
  - Fort Moore had 9 amendments and BEP has submitted a bid in response to the solicitation last month
  - Fort Stewart has 5 buildings for DFA coming out for bid. Teaming partner bid solicitation will go out next week
  - Several roadside locations have been out due to DOT generator outages

- **Training Update, Will Graham**
  - 8 licensee candidates.
  - Will limit the use of online instruction during the next training class and will offer classes on employee management. ServSafe training will be more hands on.
  - Annual Training Conference will be held October 20-22, 2023. The theme is “The Impossible is Possible.”

## **CBV General Discussion and Business**

- **Selection of Teaming Partners**
  - Suggestion was made by Chair Morris to do interviews over Teams. To receive information from teaming partner and review information prior to interview the teaming partner.
- **Warm Springs Snack Bar**
  - Previously, motion was made to stop the interviews for the Warm Springs snack bar and proceed with a temporary vendor to allow the temporary vendor to get accurate income information.
- **Conferences**
  - BLAST is September 27-29, 2023. Chair Morris is attending won't be submitting for travel reimbursement. Chair Morris solicited three names from the CBV to attend to the conference. Nominations were made for Miranda Stewart, Dewayne French, and Al Tyler to attend. Vice Chair Armstrong made motion to accept the three names for 2023 BLAST and the motion was seconded by Valerie Hester. Motion passed
- **Training Candidate Criteria**
  - CBV recommends the following:
    - Tech savvy
    - Know how to speak with customers
    - Have a high school diploma or GED
    - Be business minded/ Entrepreneurial mindset
    - Qualified in Microsoft Excel
    - No mobility problems

**Meeting adjourned for the day.**

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Georgia Committee of Blind Vendors**  
**Continuation of Wednesday, July 26, 2023, Meeting**  
**Friday, July 28, 2023**  
**Augusta, GA**

**Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Alicia Morris.**

**Committee Members Present:**

Alicia Morris, Chair  
Carl Lee, Vending  
Tim Stephens, Vending  
Michael Armstrong, Snack Bar  
Valerie Hester, Contracts  
Wesley Vaughn, Contracts  
Heather Lopez, At-Large

**GVRA Staff Present:**

Teresa Eggleston, BEP Director  
Bobby Goodman, BEP Program Manager  
Tara Woodford, BEP Contracts  
Will Graham, BEP Training  
Amy Casey, GVRA Staff Attorney

**Guests Present:**

Jerry Bensman, Georgia Cooperative Services for the Blind  
Kathy Morris, CBV Secretary

**Chair's Welcome**

- Alicia Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**CBV General Business and Discussion**

- CBV recapped discussion from earlier meeting.
- Will Graham provided information regarding current BEP candidate criteria and that most suggested by the CBV are already there. A candidate must be

Apple knowledgeable, be able to lift 50 pounds, and be able to move around. Director Eggleston stated that Client Services is supposed to test individuals for certain skills prior to referring them to BEP as a candidate.

**Georgia Cooperative Services for the Blind Report, Jerry Bensman**

- Schedule for Coke rebate has been received and will be on the July statement.
- The Coop has spoken with each vendor who is doing their own accounting.
- Warner Robins commissions were in October and May.
- Hotel coupons were last paid in October 2021.

**GVRA Equipment Update, Teresa Eggleston on behalf of Danny Murr**

- Repair Amounts \$ 49,636.85  
Vending Repairs \$194,327.31  
YTD \$243,964.16
- Vendors were reminded that when there is a repair, the consultant is notified, and the repair is coordinated with the vendor. If the repair company arrives and no vendor is present, then the repair company charges for the time they wait.
- Danny will continue to have technology meetings as it is a priority.
- Hope to get a vendor selected for the National Reserve Command building by October.
- Danny has located a vending machine that would allow Mark Shuggart to sell dog food at his welcome center.

**Motion made by Michael Armstrong to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Wesley Vaughn. Motion Passed**