

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, March 14, 2018
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Loudermilk Conference Center
40 Courtland Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Adams
Dianne Davis
Jimmy DeFoor
Faye Perdue
Tom Wilson
Vincent Martin
Louise Hill
Angela Mackey
Jonathan Taylor

Mr. DeFoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeFoor called to consider the minutes of the January 2018 board minutes. Mr. Wilson noted that the minutes should include an addition to formally commend GVRA Executive Director Sean Casey on his stewardship. Mr. Wilson motioned to approve the previous minutes with the change, and Ms. Adams seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Special Presentation

Mr. DeFoor recognized Mary Donahue with Career and Technical Instruction (CTI). Ms. Donahue shared a success story from one of CTI's clients and discussed the benefits of the services her organization provides. She thanked VR for its continual support and partnership.

Ms. Adams commended CTI for all they've done in helping students graduate and succeed in the workforce.

GVRA Staff Reports

Mr. DeFoor recognized GVRA Executive Director Sean T. Casey.

Mr. Casey said that the Employment First Act—the sole piece of legislation the agency is sponsoring—has passed through various committees and will be up for a vote in the full Senate in the next day. If it is passed, it would go to the Governor for approval.

Mr. Casey said the agency is processing several state audits, and issues raised by both audits are currently being addressed or have been addressed already.

He said that the State Rehabilitation Council has begun holding public hearings related to proposed policy changes. They will continue through the next several weeks.

Mr. Casey said the agency has continued its digital outreach efforts with the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Georgia Industries for the Blind is now advertising its “Georgia Grown” products on various platforms as well. The agency will continue its statewide radio and TV ads through the next quarter.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed GVRA CFO Minerva Nixon for a financial update. She said the agency is on track with its spending, with expenditures being at 46 percent of the budget through the second quarter of the fiscal year. She broke down the expenditures for each program. A decrease of roughly \$100,000 was removed from the amended SFY 2018 budget due to the removal of funds tied to the now-dissolved partnership with the Warrior Alliance.

She said GVRA has no FY 2017 fiscal single audit findings.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Social Media Technologist Tanya Wise. Ms. Wise noted the recent launch of several E3 apps, which are now available both in Android and IOS. The aim of these apps is to both ensure optimal accessibility and to engage students with disabilities.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Service Satisfaction Manager Cece Hockett who discussed the internal customer service survey surrounding the VR Program. She said the responses will allow agency leadership to make changes to improve and streamline services.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed GVRA HR Director Marya Calhoun for a training update. She said the agency has conducted a training needs analysis and has designed a schedule to address these needs and fill skill gaps among employees.

SILC Presentation

SILC Chairman Shelley Simmons mentioned the recent Independent Living Day at the Capitol, which drew nearly 100 participants. CIL directors also recently met with VR leadership, discussing programs centering on youth with disabilities. She gave a brief rundown of the 2018 legislative agenda.

SRC Presentation

State Rehabilitation Council Chairman Rossany Rios outlined the schedule for the upcoming SRC public hearings on proposed policy changes. They'll run through mid-April. She said the next quarterly meeting will be on April 25 and 26.

Old Business

External Affairs Director Katie Womick discussed reimbursement protocols for board members.

New Business

Mr. DeFoor proposed the next board meeting be May 2. Mr. Wilson motioned to approve it, and Ms. Davis seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Mr. DeFoor noted that he will step down as Chairman and roll off the board on June 30. He said it was a difficult decision, but he said the agency is moving in a tremendous direction and will continue to flourish.

Adjournment

Mr. DeFoor adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.