

MINUTES OF MEETING
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD
November 16, 2022
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
GVRA Roosevelt Warm Springs Campus
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Conference ID: 777 256 800#

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Wilson (Chair)
 Faye Perdue (Vice Chair)
 Sandy Adams (Secretary)
 Jane McCall
 Louise Hill (Virtually)
 Vincent Martin (Virtually)
 GVRA Executive Director Chris Wells (Non-Member)

Introduction

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The board unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 14th, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved. Mrs. Perdue motioned to approve, and Mrs. Adams seconded.

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

Executive Director began his report by acknowledging the Disability Adjudication Services (DAS) Facilities/Mailroom Support Team for receiving Social Security Administration’s (SSA) 2021 Regional Commissioner’s Honor Award and Susan Lloyd, DAS Quality Assurance Reviewer as the October 2022 Employee of the Month.

Executive Director Chris Wells discussed and gave an overview of the SFY 2023 Program Based Budget and agency expenditures for the first quarter.

| GVRA | Total Expenditures | Current Budget | Percent of Budget |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 300-Personal Services | \$17,553,885 | \$90,800,663 | 19% |
| 301-Operating Expenses | 2,304,935 | 7,130,112 | 32% |
| 303-Vehicle Purchases | 0 | 0 | |
| 304-Equipment | 12,991 | 176,754 | 7% |
| 305-Computer Charges | 701,551 | 5,928,312 | 12% |
| 306-Real Estate Rentals | 1,750,962 | 9,630,661 | 18% |
| 307-Telecommunications | 534,627 | 2,930,896 | 18% |
| 309-Capital Outlay | 16,453 | 0 | |
| 312-Contractual Services | 2,522,173 | 13,411,744 | 19% |
| 314-Transfers | 32,500 | 175,000 | 19% |
| 315-Grants and Benefits | 524,807 | 4,591,091 | 11% |
| 319-Other | 427,594 | 1,476,985 | 29% |
| 320-DAS CE/ME | 4,113,313 | 21,060,000 | 20% |
| 321-VR Case Services | 3,376,384 | 32,351,520 | 10% |
| Total Expenditures | \$33,872,175 | \$189,663,738 | 18% |

Program Highlights -- Executive Director, Chris Wells

Executive Director, Chris Wells, gave an Executive Report on the agency's program highlights:

Disability Adjudication Services (DAS):

- Successfully onboarded 58 hires
- Met and exceeded all disability workload targets by clearing 100,968 Total Cases for Federal Fiscal Year 2022, which significantly contributed to the Atlanta Region's goals

Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

- For FFY22, the average salary for blind vendors was \$39,109.
- Sales in FFY2022 of the vending facility program totaled \$5,947,944.68.

Transition Services

- GROW for Summer 2022 had 679 student participants with 26 different providers.

Supported Employment-

- Georgia was awarded the Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) rant by RSA

Sensory Services

- BLV coordinator, Supported Employment Coordinator and Director of Policy and Compliance participated and presented at the 2022 Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training (GVEST)
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coordinator participated in the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness (SERID) and will be developing a training to share with GVRA Client Services staff

Agency Metrics – Program Evaluation and Performance Manager, Paige Cason

Program Evaluation and Support Performance Manger, Paige Cason presented agency metrics on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and DAS:

VR Agency Metrics for September 2022

- 9,597 VR clients served
- 243 referrals
- 316 applications submitted

DAS Metrics for September 2022

- 11,592 claims adjudicated
- 87.1% of initial disability benefit determinations found to be correct (federal standard:164 days)
- Adjudicator to staff ratio at 50%

Agency Hiring Report- Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Statham

Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Statham discussed an overview of agency recruitment and retention of VR counselors for FY2022.

- 13% counselor turnover rate
- 11% overall increase in Average Counselor Salary
- 10% increase in Entry Counselor Salary

Residential Services – Interim Director, Tamika Wright

Interim Director Tamika Wright gave an overview of the current state and future of Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS) and Cave Springs Center (CSC). During her presentation, Wright discussed six high demand career pathways that RWS will offer beginning in Fall 2023. The pathways are:

- Construction Jumpstart
- Low Voltage Wiring
- CVS/Retail,
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Hospitality
- Forklift and Warehouse

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Report- SRC Chairman, Juliet Hardeman

- Chairman Hardeman announced that the next SRC meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023 with the location TBD.

New/Old Business –

- Next meeting March 8th, 2023, 1:00 PM

Public Comment/Adjournment- None

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the November 16, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board were approved and adopted by the Board at the Board's meeting on January 11, 2023.

Tom Wilson, Chair

Date