

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2020
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sloppy Floyd Building
200 Piedmont Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30334

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Wilson (Chairman)
Faye Perdue (Vice-Chair)
Sandy Adams (Secretary)
Louise Hill
Craig Camuso
Suzanne Dooley
Vincent Martin
Angela Mackey
GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan (Non-Member)

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

Approval of Minutes

The board unanimously passed the minutes from the December 2019 GVRS board meeting.

Client Success Story

Mr. Wilson recognized Katie Hearn, a former GVRA client and a member of the Atlanta Braves marketing team. She talked about how GVRA helped her maintain her job with the Braves after she lost her vision. She suggested several ways in which the agency can improve its services including the idea that client surveys be administered to help gauge the success of the VR process and establish areas for improvement.

Executive Director's Update

Mr. Wilson recognized GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan. Mr. Ryan gave a brief update on the agency's reorganization. He noted the second of two rounds of a reduction in force is underway, the whole of which will reduce excessive overhead costs at the administrative level and improve services for clients. The question was asked when

Accenture would finalize its report on Vocational Rehabilitation services. Mr. Ryan said he anticipated it to be done by March.

Mr. Wilson recognized HR Director Jennifer Statham who gave a breakdown of the staffing numbers surrounding the recent reorganization. She gave an introduction of the new members to the HR team and discussed the steps taken to streamline the recruitment and hiring process in addition to improving the turnaround time on background checks. She said HR will be working on its relationship building with the programs to help give those in the field a sense of ownership over the hiring process.

Mr. Wilson recognized Vocational Services Director Christine Fleming. Ms. Fleming went over information for the corrective action plan established by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. She noted that GVRA has improved across monitored categories. She said VR is working to get the prior approval policy finalized and established statewide and to ensure GVRA has sound internal controls. RSA will be visiting GVRA in mid 2020. Ms. Fleming shared field services numbers as of Dec. 30 of last year. She noted that the office of Provider Management recently moved to 200 Piedmont Avenue in Atlanta, and staff are actively working on the Provider Outsourcing Manual, which will be finished in the coming months.

Mr. Wilson recognized GVRA CFO Monica Bradshaw. She noted the financial performance of the agency through November 2019, highlighting the fact that expenditures are currently on budget through this point in the state fiscal year. She gave an introduction of the recent new hires in her department. She said she and her team are looking at internal controls and ways to enact process improvements.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson noted that action was required from the September 2019 meeting to ratify the budget motion passed telephonically at that time. Ms. Adams made the motion and Mr. Camuso seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Ms. Hill motioned to ratify the public comment procedures for GVRs board meetings. Ms. Adams seconded. It was approved unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Wilson noted the recent passing of State Senator and former GVRs Board Member Greg Kirk and noted that a resolution has been drafted to recognize him. He read the resolution. Ms. Adams motioned to adopt the resolution. Ms. Perdue seconded. It was passed unanimously.

SILC Presentation

Mr. Wilson recognized SILC Executive Director Shelley Simmons. She noted that the Statewide Independent Living Council is hosting a board meeting January 9 at 1 p.m. She is collaborating with GCDD for training related to advocacy and how to get involved

in the political process. She noted that the SILC has an event planned to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in February.

SRC Presentation

No SRC update.

Public Comment

Kim Gibson, executive director at disABILITY Link, welcomed the board and those in attendance to come by and see what they do and the services they provide. She said she'd like to further act as a provider with GVRA in the future.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.