

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCY  
200 PIEDMONT AVENUE, SE  
WEST TOWER, 14<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ATLANTA, GA 30334

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sandy Adams  
Jimmy DeFoor  
Marsha Farrow  
Louise Hill  
Fay Loggins  
Jonathan Taylor  
Amy O'Dell  
Bob Green  
Don Parks

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

**Consumer Presentations**

For the first presentation, Mr. DeFoor welcomed Connie Kirk with Nobis Works. Ms. Kirk presented an overview of the program. She discussed their revenue, budget and client services numbers. Ms. Kirk introduced Nobis Works client Leslie Quiller who shared her personal success story.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Jordan Collins, a student at Roosevelt Warm Springs, to give the second presentation. She said that she has seen great improvement in the program since she arrived at RWS in 2011. She told the board that she has learned a lot and has grown in many ways and that attending Roosevelt Warm Springs was the greatest decision of her life.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the November 2014 meeting minutes was made by Don Parks and seconded by Fay Loggins. Bob Green noted that he was not at the deaf coalition meeting, and the minutes should reflect this. With the correction noted, the motion was passed unanimously.

## **Executive Director Report**

GVRA Executive Director Greg Schmieg began his report by discussing agency performance issues, the need to increase board education and the need to adjust the format of future board meetings to be more interactive. He told the board that the WIOA draft was delayed by the Federal Government and that targeted staff pay increases were approved for January 1 of this year.

GVRA CFO/COO Jimmy Wilson discussed agency financial details and informed the board of concerns that GRACI may not be providing current and accurate data.

GVRA External Affairs Director Kevin Harris discussed legislative happenings and introduced two new External Affairs employees.

### **HR**

GVRA HR Director Marya Calhoun told the board that the Human Resources Unit recently conducted employee satisfaction surveys. She said that the surveys found that the biggest problem areas are compensation, training and employee morale. She informed the board that in an attempt to resolve the issue with training, HR is currently working to hire a training manager who will start work Feb. 1.

### **DAS**

DAS Director Awilda Danko reported that DAS cleared 40,549 cases through January 9. She informed the board that DAS is having issues with being understaffed. She also discussed DAS's pending Stone Mountain lease agreement.

### **GIB**

GIB Plant Manager Mike Jackson informed the board about GIB's new e-commerce website—buygib.com. He discussed the call center that they have started for external customers as well as issues they are having in regards to funding.

### **BEP**

BEP Director Raj Gandy informed the board that BEP now has two new facilities. BEP is now incorporating technology such as iPads into their programs, adding vending to the Hartsfield Jackson International Airport and adding self-service lottery vending machines to specific areas. She informed the board of issues they are having with training and getting new business.

### **RWS**

RWS Director Bill Bulloch reported that the Cave Spring Center has been experiencing a decrease in performance overall due to staffing issues and not properly managing client

engagement. He informed them that Roosevelt Warm Springs has increased their instructional space by 121%, but are having issues with GRACI, marketing and increasing their bed capacity.

## **VR**

VR Director Ed James spoke about the Business Relations Unit and reported that it made over 22,191 employer calls, found 656 leads and made 120 placements in just two months. He also spoke about issues VR is having with GRACI, training and the pending WIOA.

## **SRC/SILC Comments**

State Rehabilitation Council Member Jim Radford spoke about the new annual report and encouraged everyone to view it. He noted the importance of bringing the agency into 21<sup>st</sup> century and announced that he will be a part of the WIOA program.

State Independent Living Council Member Shelly Simmons discussed the state plan for independent living as well as assistive technology. She also spoke about the Medicare buy-in program. She informed the board that this program needs to be updated and that they are fighting to get numbers increased for the program.

## **Old Business**

No old business.

## **New Business**

No new business.

## **Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. DeFoor adjourned the board meeting at approximately 4 p.m.

The next GVRB Board meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2015. The location has yet to be determined.