

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

SLOPPY FLOYD BUILDING
200 PIEDMONT AVENUE SE
WEST TOWER - 20th FLOOR
ATLANTA, GA 30334

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louise Hill
Sandy Adams
Fay Loggins
Bob Green
Tom Wilson
Vincent Martin

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jimmy DeFoor
Amy O'Dell
Jonathan Taylor

Louise Hill, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hill moved to consider the minutes. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Sandy Adams and seconded by Tom Wilson. The motion was passed unanimously.

Consumer Presentations

Ms. Hill welcomed Mary Finney to share her story. Mary described her journey through the VR process. She mentioned that she became employed as a result of her very first job interview after exiting the VR program. Mary expressed that she never would have had this opportunity if it were not for the VR program. She believes that VR changed her life.

Ms. Hill also welcomed Roy Echols to share his story. Roy told the board that the GACHI program helped him significantly throughout his journey to gainful employment. He mentioned that he has since had several different jobs, but has been at his current job at Candlewood Hotel for nine months. Roy expressed special thanks to his counselor, Karen Clark.

Executive Director Report

Greg Schmiege, Executive Director, announced that RSA Commissioner Janet LaBreck made a special trip to Atlanta to tour the GVRA home office on March 8th and 9th. He also introduced DHS Commissioner Robyn Crittenden and thanked her for attending the board meeting.

Mr. Schmiege explained each program's budget in detail. Ms. Hill moved to consider approval of the budget. Motion was made to approve the budget by Fay Loggins and seconded by Bob Green. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Schmiege reviewed the Federal VR Grant with the board. He emphasized that the goal is to eliminate all unmatched funds.

Mr. Schmiege reported important agency updates including: Awilda Danko's retirement from DAS, GIB's move under the new Business Division, the agency's new IT infrastructure, the status of the GRACI system, and new partnerships for GVRA.

Mr. Schmiege welcomed Dale Arnold to discuss the Georgia Career Pathways grant. Dale described what the E3 program has been doing since they received the grant on October 1, 2015. He mentioned that they have hired seven Career Pathways Specialists, a Social Media Technologist, and an Employment Engagement Strategist.

Mr. Schmiege then welcomed Raj Gandy to discuss the Project Horizon agency transformation process through the iServiceX consultant company. Raj explained that the primary goal of Project Horizon is to enable GVRA to support more clients and to ensure that we are effectively serving those clients to support our mission. She stated

that Project Horizon hopes to complete this process and implement changes by July 1, 2016.

Old Business

No old business.

SRC/SILC Comments

No SRC or SILC comments.

New Business

Ms. Hill moved to consider the board calendar returning to one meeting every other month. Motion was made to approve the board calendar by Sandy Adams and seconded by Vincent Martin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Tom Wilson proposed that the board have their September meeting in conjunction with the GRA annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia. Ms. Hill moved to consider the meeting location. Motion was made to approve the meeting location by Tom Wilson and seconded by Sandy Adams. The motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

Ms. Hill adjourned the board meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m.

The next GVRS Board meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2016. The location is to be determined.