

MINUTES OF MEETING
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Microsoft Live Event

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Wilson (Chairman)
Faye Perdue (Vice-Chair)
Sandy Adams (Secretary)
Craig Camuso
Louise Hill
Johnathan Taylor
Suzanne Dooley
Angela Mackey
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 January 2022 meeting were unanimously approved. Ms. Perdue motioned to approve, and Ms. Adams seconded.

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director – Chris Wells

GVRA Executive Director Chris Wells updated the board on the Employee of the Month Award for Monalisa White, who's currently a Program Associate with the Counseling and Case Management Department at Roosevelt Warm Springs.

Director Wells began to cover program highlights that fell under Disability Adjudication Services stating that this program has closed 38,441 total cases through February 18, 2022, on target to meet budgeted workload goal for FY22. While hiring 23 new employees since October 2021 and the next Adjudicator Trainee Class is scheduled for May/June 2022. He also stated that DAS is operating under a new Continuing Resolution (CR), which funds DAS through March 11, 2022.

The next program highlighted was Residential Services (Admissions), Director Wells stated Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS) projected 17 admissions for the March registration deadline, 30 projected admissions for the April deadline. With Cave Springs (CS) anticipating 10 admissions following Spring Break with a Goal of 133 students enrolled students by June 1, 2022. Director Wells then transitioned to the program highlight about our Transition Services stating that GVRA will be doing a Virtual Job Shadowing (VJS)- Working with the Georgia Department of Education on a targeted rollout to 9th graders. Director Wells also emphasized developing Entrepreneurial Training for youth and young adults working with RWS and BEP on the development and implementation twice monthly Transition forum, with the next forum to be hosted from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 22.

Director Wells also highlighted Business Enterprise Services acknowledging that the Business Enterprise Program FRRP submission from program is 99% complete, totaling \$570,198.33 Set Aside (recent RSA approval) decreased to 8% from 12% on Vendor net proceeds. While also highlighting Georgia Industries for the Blind received the second mask machine, while looking to bring commercial business to GIB Griffin and hire more blind employees as well as other VR clients. With the GIB also being in the process of pursuing Level II certification.

Director Wells also pointed out our client services Counselor Career Ladder has been developed and rolled out. Internship opportunities with graduate programs being reinstated. Overflow team continues to contact clients, list has been worked down from 1200 to 300 with clients that are still interested in services, being transferred to active counselors so they can continue with service delivery. Coordination with Transition team and weekly meetings have been established with field supervisors to address topics related to transition service delivery. Weekly meetings with pre-ETS providers to allow open discussion between providers and field supervisors to improve direct service delivery.

Administration Update -- Jonathan Buxton, Director of Administration

Mr. Buxton reviewed agency expenditures through roughly half of the state fiscal year. GVRA expenditures are trending appropriately for this period of the state fiscal year.

Mr. Buxton gave an overview of facilities projects, including the RWS portico project, the RWS HVAC system project and the CSC project.

Mr. Buxton gave a legislative update and overview of SB 108, HB 910, HB 911.

He also gave an update on hiring and employment services, acknowledging that the VR Statewide Coordinator who works with Employment Service Consultants as the subject matter expert. Will develop local job opportunities for clients through job search and placement assistance. Services provided by Employment Services staff may include assisting in job preparation, resume development, conducting mock interviews and assisting with completing applications. Works with employers directly to ease transition into competitive integrated employment for clients.

Agency Highlighted Topic: Business Development -- Teresa Eggleston, Assistant Director of Business Enterprise Program

Mrs. Eggleston gave an overview of the Business Enterprise Program, acknowledging BEP was authorized by the federal Randolph-Sheppard Act of 1936 and was established in Georgia in 1944. GVRA is recognized as the State Licensing Agency (SLA) and has priority for operating businesses on federal property and may also operate sites on other properties. Mrs. Eggleston recognized The State Licensing Agency selects the location of the facility and the type of facility. The State Licensing Agency provides vending facility equipment and initial stock for each Blind Vendor and provides to each Blind Vendor access to all relevant financial data which helps Ensures active participation by the Committee of Blind Vendors in major administrative decisions, policy and program development.

TSCG Presentation - Technical College System of Georgia, Karen Kirchler, Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Development

Mrs. Kirchler gave an overview of Title One services and the WorkSource Georgia Local Workforce Development Area Map which consist of 18 districts. Mrs. Kirchler then went into the individualized Workforce Development services that are provided. Such as Individualized Career Services, Individual and/or group counseling & mentoring, Career planning (case management), development of Individual Employment Plan, Workforce preparation activities, financial literacy, Internships & work experience, and Short-term pre-vocational services.

Goodwill of North Georgia Presentation - Goodwill of North Georgia, Jenny Taylor, Vice President of Career Services

Mrs. Taylor gave an overview of the Goodwill of North Georgia career services, acknowledging how they're #1 for Persons Employed Nationwide among the 150+ Goodwill Agencies, #1 for People of Color Employed Largest non-profit workforce development agency in the Southeast and 1,483 People with Disabilities Served in 2020. With over 30,000 people served in North Georgia job training last fiscal year for jobs in industries from construction to customer service to logistics to I.T. She also explained the Goodwill Career Services Registered Apprenticeship Program and the Sponsorship of Pre-Apprenticeship Program Provider which prepares a skilled and certified workforce, has the largest non-profit employer in Metro Atlanta, the largest non-profit workforce development agency in the Southeast, talent pipeline expertise to help employers easily onboard new staff and explains how all the red tape taken care of by Goodwill as the RAP sponsor.

New/Old Business – Tom Wilson, Board Chair

None

Public Comment/Adjournment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.