

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, May 2, 2018
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Roosevelt Warm Springs
6135 Roosevelt Highway
Warm Springs, GA 31830

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Adams
Dianne Davis
Jimmy DeFoor
Faye Perdue
Tom Wilson
Louise Hill
Angela Mackey
Vincent Martin

Mr. DeFoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeFoor called to consider the minutes of the March 2018 meeting. Ms. Adams motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Perdue seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

GVRA Staff Reports

Mr. DeFoor recognized GVRA Executive Director Sean T. Casey.

Mr. Casey updated the board on the 2018 legislative session, noting that the Employment First legislation passed both chambers (and would soon be signed by the Governor) with significant support from many disability groups.

Mr. Casey said that GVRA will soon rollout the AWARE case management system.

In regards to marketing, GVRA has started a new quarterly ad that will run on television statewide. In addition, the agency has started running editorials in the Atlanta Business Chronicle, with the aim being greater engagement with the business community.

The agency has narrowed down the options for the relocation of the Waycross office, Mr. Casey said, and the office should be moving in the coming months.

He said the agency is in the process of hiring an ADA coordinator, a marketing manager and a liaison to the State Rehabilitation Council.

The standing policy committee—which is comprised of administration and program staff—is currently looking at all policies to make sure that every program is properly represented.

Mr. Casey highlighted the recent joint press conference with Governor Nathan Deal which focused on Georgia Industries for the Blind's Georgia Grown initiative.

The CSAVR Conference in Washington, D.C. was a great success, Mr. Casey said, with GVRA representatives getting facetime with federal leaders.

GVRA continues to address the various issues raised by the RSA and state audits, he said.

The Business Leadership Network (BLN) that was formed through the efforts of GVRA business liaisons continues to grow and expand, with Turner Broadcasting recently joining the group. The aim of the group, he said, is to increase the efforts of all those involved to hire individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Casey said he will soon host a series of town hall meetings to allow coworkers to voice concerns and hear from GVRA administration.

Mr. Casey noted that today will be Chairman Jimmy Defoor's final board meeting. He said that Chairman Defoor has done more in this state for the disability community than anyone else, and he thanked him for his service. Mr. Defoor said he cannot express all the support he's been given by the GVRS board, and he looks forward to the future of the relationship between GVRA and the board.

Chairman Defoor recognized Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS) Director Dr. Lee Brinkley Bryan, Strategy Manager Robin Blount, Grant Manager Joyce In Fowler and Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer Raj Gandy. Ms. Blount discussed the process that goes into all agency strategic planning. Ms. Folwer noted the possibility for grant funding to help move along several projects at RWS. Ms. Bryan gave an overview of the campus strategic plan.

Mr. Defoor welcomed GVRA CFO Minerva Nixon. Ms. Nixon broke down the agency's finances in the year to date. She said every program budget is where it should be for this point in the fiscal year.

Mr. Defoor welcomed Business Enterprise Program Director Charlie Garrett. Mr. Garrett discussed the recent expansions of BEP locations across the state, noting that more and more, the program has been implementing micro markets to help vendors reduce their payroll expenses.

Mr. Defoor welcomed several transition staff members at Elbert County Comprehensive High School who gave a brief overview of the transition efforts that are happening at that location. They noted the success of the High School High Tech program and the Great Promise Partnership.

Mr. Defoor welcomed Director of Transition Lauri Tuten to talk about how the agency is helping transition-aged youth. Ms. Tuten noted the success of the Career Specialist Pilot program at the five pilot sites. She spoke on the upcoming Leadership Academy, which will bring together partners and staff alike to make sure everyone is on the same page.

Mr. Defoor welcomed Paul Bryant to discuss a state bond resolution. These bonds can be specifically used on capital projects on owned properties. This particular bond would total a little over \$1 million and be used for waterproofing projects at RWS, though there is flexibility for the use of these funds. Mr. Wilson moved to pass the resolution, and Ms. Davis seconded. It passed unanimously.

SILC Presentation

External Affairs Director Katie Womick made the SILC presentation. She discussed the recent peer review session, which noted the only outstanding needed action was an update on the organization's bylaws.

SRC Presentation

State Rehabilitation Council Chairman Rossany Rios said the SRC had a very successful recent meeting. She said the SRC aims in the future to do a better job explaining how the council represents the voice of the consumer and to ensure that GVRA is able to maximize the federal grant allotment.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

Mr. Defoor opened the floor for nominations for GVRS board officers. Ms. Davis motioned to close nominations, and Ms. Hill seconded. It passed unanimously. Ms. Womick presented the nominees, which included Mr. Wilson for the position of chairman, Ms. Perdue for the position of vice chairman and Ms. Adams for the position of secretary. Ms. Hill motioned to accept the slate of positions as nominations. Ms. Adams seconded. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Casey noted that VR Director Dale Arnold will be retiring on July 1 of this year. He thanked Mr. Arnold for his service.

Adjournment

Mr. Defoor adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.