

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, May 11, 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:

Sandy Adams
Jimmy DeFoor
Bob Green
Fay Loggins
Amy O'Dell
Vincent Martin
Jonathan Taylor
Tom Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Louise Hill

Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeFoor moved to consider the minutes. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Fay Loggins and seconded by Tom Wilson. The motion was passed unanimously.

Consumer Presentation

Executive Director Greg Schmiege welcomed Hernando Delacruz to share his story. Hernando is a new Informational Technology Customer Support Associate for GVRA. Hernando came to Georgia via Columbia and learned English as his second language. Richard Smith was his VR Counselor, and Hernando is a former graduate of Roosevelt Warm Springs. Mr. Smith has assisted him with finding a place of residence within the city, and establishing familiarity with MARTA transportation during his transition to his new job.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Greg Schmiege discussed the GDOL MOU. Mike Riley and the IT Department continues to transition from GDOL to an independent network. We are two-thirds of the way from the expected completion date of **August 3rd, 2016**. After that time, we will ~~no-should no~~ longer require the ~~assistance-IT support~~ of ~~Georgia Department of Labor~~GDOL. When ~~we are~~ fully migrated, our ~~IT~~ cost will ~~come under~~be ~~approximately~~ \$2 million a year, which is a significant reduction ~~from the GDOL IT support~~.

There are still 6 co-locations from GDOL, but due to a number of factors beyond GVRA control, the co-locations may not be able to be moved. Currently, GVRA is working with State Properties Commission in an attempt to resolve the ongoing situation.

Progress continues on the case management system. Jimmy Wilson and his team has successfully worked with GTA to move forward with entering an agreement with Alliance. The agency can now begin move from the GRACI system and move with Alliance to transition toward their AWARE records management system. The transition implementation is expected to take 18 months.

GVRA is one of the four core ~~ageneies programs~~ included in ~~the Governor's submission of~~ Georgia's Unified Plan that was submitted in April. Based on RSA's recommendation, GVRA submitted a revised order of selections that reduces the number of categories from seven to ~~four~~three. Public hearings will be required for ~~any changes to the~~proposed order of selections.

Conversations have taken place with State Properties Commission (SPC) to develop a comprehensive plan for Roosevelt Warm Springs. We are looking at additional partners to fully utilize the campus. There will be an initial planning session with strategic partners in the near future.

CFO/COO Jimmy Wilson provided a SFY 16 budget comparison for each program's budget and the agency as a whole. All programs will be within budget compliance at the end of this year, and there were no current issues to report for our budget.

Dale Arnold provided an update on the Career Pathways Grant. Five school systems have been selected for the project: Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Decatur County, Hall County, Paulding County and Troup County. They are currently partnering with the Poses Family Foundation, Georgia State University's Center for Leadership in Disability, Georgia Department of Education, Burton Blatt Institute/the Southeast ADA and Parent-to-Parent. They are developing a social media plan with web access and applications.

Robin Folsom and John Boan presented information regarding agency branding and marketing. The new logo ~~in-afternoon-sky~~ has been unveiled, and the new domain name (www.ablegeorgia.ga.gov) now redirects to the agency website. Attention turns to agency collateral, internal and external communication tools, business cards, and social media.

Executive Director Greg Schmieg shared statistics that show VR continues to serve more clients and produce better outcomes. As this time, VR could end the year with 2,000 more than ~~we VR have has~~ ever ~~served-placed into jobs~~ since ~~GVRA became an agency~~.

For the remainder of the meeting, the majority of the attention turned toward the agency transformation now known as Project Horizon. The central question is, “What must GVRA do differently to serve 100,000 Georgians with disabilities with 50,000 in competitive employment over the next 3 years?” During the process, there are three phases: situational analysis and doing the work and implementation.

There are currently four teams doing the work: the Executive Leadership Team, Strategy and Innovation, Organization Effectiveness and Value Delivery Process. Rhonnesia Barker and Crystal Perry discussed the Strategy and Innovation team’s efforts to create and develop initial performance measures. Denine Woodson and members of the Value Delivery Process team examined the new process that is being developed to serve 100,000 clients with 50,000 successful closures within 3 years. Client satisfaction played a large part in the design. Audrey Fuller and members of the Organizational Effectiveness team explained their purpose and efforts to design an organizational structure to support the new design.

Old Business

No old business.

SRC/SILC Comments

Kip Slade presented on behalf of the SRC. He discussed the nine federal mandates that state rehabilitation councils are required to do. He has asked for full-time support person and working with GVRA to fulfill their duties.

Shelly Simmons from the SILC provided an overview of the roles and duties of the SILC. They are currently working on their state plan to include input that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

New Business

Executive Director Schmieg requested that the Board approve a Resolution for SFY 2017 for Capital Bonds to repair the sewers at Roosevelt Warm Springs.

Motion was made by Amy O’Dell and seconded by Faye Loggins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Additional new business was postponed and will be addressed during a conference call sometime in June.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. DeFoor adjourned the board meeting at approximately 3:45 p.m.

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