

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD  
May 14, 2025  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
Virtual – Zoom Meeting**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (*Virtually*):**

Tom Wilson, Chair  
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair  
Sandy Adams, Secretary  
Craig Camuso  
Suzanne Dooley

Louise Hill  
Jane McCall  
Johnathan Taylor  
Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director  
& Ex Officio Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

James Defoor

Vincent Martin

**Opening and Welcome**

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda**

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the approval of the agenda.

On the motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session
- Approval of Budget Report as of April 30, 2025

On motion of Mrs. Hill, seconded by Mr. Camuso, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

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**GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:**

**Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells**

Budget Reports

Executive Director Wells reviewed the FY2025 Budget as of April 30, 2025.

Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells recognized the following GVRs Board Members who joined GVRA as employees:
  - Johnathan Taylor, who will be joining GVRA on 6/1/2025 as an Outreach Coordinator. Mr. Taylor served on the GVRs Board from 2014 until 2025.
  - Angela Mackey, who joined GVRA on 1/2/2025 as a Rehabilitation Counselor. Ms. Mackey served on the GVRs Board from 2016 until 2022.
- Executive Director Wells highlighted those chosen as Employees of the Month for February 2025 through April 2025:
  - Eduardo Martinez, Senior Business Operations Analyst Manager, February 2025 Employee of the Month
  - Brentsen Wyatt, Communications Specialist, March 2025 Employee of the Month
  - Takeeya Lee, Supervisor of the DAS Customer Service Unit, April 2025 Employee of the Month
- Executive Director Wells shared the following information with the Board:
  - Examples of outreach activities conducted by members of the GVRs Board
  - Photos from the RWS Groundbreaking Ceremony
  - RWS Updates regarding Pathway Completions and Industry Certifications
  - Georgia State Rehabilitation Council Chair, Juliet Hardeman, was honored as a Champion of the Year by Lowcounty Down Syndrome Society
  - Photos and activities from Employee Appreciation Week, including an agency-wide Trivia Challenge to:
    - Name all of the locations Executive Director Wells visited during Employee Appreciation Week
    - Map out the most efficient travel route
    - Calculate the total number of stops, miles traveled, and time on the road

Client Services Update

- Mrs. Deana Brown, Director of Client Services, shared updates with the Board, including:
  - The new districting map and a list of all district managers
  - The Client Services organizational structure and increased staffing numbers
  - Training provided by in-house experts
  - Transition Services – key players, key supports, goals, the cycle of transition services, and Transition Fairs

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- Enhancing the quantity and quality of services through monitoring of services, KPIs, and metrics
- The cycle of continuous improvement
- Get Ready for Opportunities in Work (GROW) Summer Program Dates

There were a number of questions from the Board regarding the Client Services. Chairman Wilson thanked Mrs. Brown and ED Wells for their leadership in moving the agency forward and providing more services to more clients. Chairman Wilson also congratulated ED Wells on his five years of service to the Agency.

**Disability Adjudication Services (DAS)**

- Ms. Rita McWhorter, DAS Program Director, shared current information on the DAS program, provided statistics, and provided data from federal fiscal years 2018 – 2024.

**Old Business/New Business**

Mrs. Hill took over the gavel for the Annual Election of Board Officers.

Mrs. Hill stated that the Board has an uncontested slate of officers and opened the floor for other nominations. Hearing none, Mrs. Hill made a motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Mrs. McCall seconded the motion, and the board unanimously voted to affirm the following officers.

- Chairman – Tom Wilson
- Vice Chairman – Faye Perdue
- Secretary – Sandy Adams

Chairman Wilson reminded the Board of the remaining meetings for the year:

- August 13, 2025 – Roosevelt Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Georgia
- October 8, 2025 – Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia

**Public Comment & Adjournment**

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. Stephanie Cutrufelli, Assistant Director of the Georgia Client Assistance Program read the following statement:

*The Georgia Client Assistance Program, in conjunction with The Georgia Advocacy Office, would like to submit the below public comment for the upcoming May 14, 2025 GVRS Board Meeting.*

*In the FFY 2023 GVRA Monitoring Report, RSA emphasized the importance of documenting Roosevelt Warm Springs' protocols in the agency's policies, procedures, and SOPs. GVRA Leadership advised RSA they expected to complete the necessary revisions by August 2023. Drafted policies for Roosevelt Warm Springs have not been submitted to the State Rehabilitation Council and/or the Georgia Client Assistance Program for stakeholder feedback.*

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*GVRA is also proposing limiting RWS admissions to those aged 18-24 beginning Fall 2025. The proposed admission change is significant and requires public input and hearings be conducted by the State Rehabilitation Council (34 CFR § 361.20 Public participation requirements) per the RSA technical assistance received by The Georgia Client Assistance Program on April 3, 2025. CAP shared RSA's guidance with Executive Director Wells on April 7, 2025 and presented its findings to the State Rehabilitation Council on April 23, 2025.*

- *Is the GVRB Board aware GVRA has had 1.5 years to draft and submit policies pertaining to Georgia's State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center, e.g. Roosevelt Warm Springs?*
- *Was the GVRB Board knowledgeable of the proposed Fall '25 admissions changes to RWS?*
- *Has the GVRB Board been made aware that The Georgia Client Assistance Program and the State Rehabilitation Council have been voicing concerns to Executive Director Chris Wells on these issues since January 2025?*
- *How does the GVRB Board plan to ensure that GVRA is in compliance with RSA's requirements/guidance on this issue?*

Chairman Wilson thanked Ms. Cutrufelli for her comments and stated that a written response would be forthcoming.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Wilson called for a motion to adjourn.

On the motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mr. Camuso, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

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**Official Minutes Statement**

The foregoing Minutes for the January 8, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board were approved and adopted by the Board at the Board's meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Wilson, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Adams, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date