

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jimmy DeFoor
Sandy Adams
Amy O'Dell
Louise Hill
Fay Loggins

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jonathan Taylor
Bob Green
Don Parks

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 Sandy Adams and seconded by Fay Loggins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Consumer Presentations

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Mike Galifianakis, ADA Coordinator for the Georgia State Financing & Investment Commission, to present to the board. Mike discussed issues with the lack of accessibility of the bathrooms in the buildings on Capitol Hill. He stated that they have been trying to create larger standard stalls for individuals using the restrooms and have been pushing for single-user restrooms. He informed the board that they have put it in the budget to do these things, but in the last couple of years, they haven't received any money. The board agreed to draft a letter on their behalf to attempt to expedite the process.

Provider Showcase/Success Story

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Karen Royston, Georgia High School High Tech Statewide Program Coordinator, to introduce Kayla Wilson, Georgia High School High Tech Alumna, to present to the board. Kayla shared her story of growing up with a learning disability and the struggles she encountered throughout her schooling. She told the board that until she found the High School High Tech program, she felt embarrassed about her condition. Kayla had a very successful educational career at Georgia Southern University, and she said that she doesn't think she could have done it without the help of programs like High School High Tech.

Award Presentations

Greg Schmieg, GVRA Executive Director, presented six awards to GVRA employees. Takeeya Lee, DAS, received the Internal Customer Service Award. Lynn Tallant, BEP, received the External Customer Service Award. Dale Arnold, VR, received the GVRA Leadership Award. Gigi Taylor, VR, received the Employee of the Year Award. Lee Brinkley Bryan, RWS, and Raj Gandy, BEP, received the Creative Innovation Award. Darla Guiden, VR, and Cindy White, DAS, received the Overcoming Obstacles Award.

Mr. DeFoor then presented the Chairman's Award to Luis Narimatsu. Mr. DeFoor spoke about all that Luis has overcome and all of the hard work that he has done for Georgia Industries for the Blind.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Schmieg began by discussing the agency infrastructure. He informed the board of the 17 positions that still need to be filled within the agency.

Mr. Schmieg discussed staff and leadership development. He told the board about the Leadership Summit that was held in Macon on June 22-24 and reported the results from a survey taken by those who attended the Summit.

Mr. Schmieg then described new partnerships for GVRA and how these partnerships will benefit the agency.

Mr. Schmieg reported highlights and updates for the agency including: the Georgia Driver's Education Commission grant, the zero-based budget for SFY 16, the new customer care hotline and SFY 16 pay increases.

Mr. Schmieg presented two action items to be voted on by the board. Mr. DeFoor moved to consider an increase in acreage of the golf course lease at RWS. Motion was made to approve the acreage increase by Louise Hill and seconded by Fay Loggins. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. DeFoor moved to consider the Executive Director's authority. Motion was made to approve the authority by Fay Loggins and seconded by Sandy Adams. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business

No old business.

SRC/SILC Comments

Kip Slade gave an update on the State Rehabilitation Council. He informed the board that they have submitted ideas for the new WIOA laws and are now waiting for the law to be finalized. He stated that they are planning to have a meeting in the fall in Augusta in late August or early September.

Patricia Puckett presented an update on SILC activities. She suggested that the SILC provide an article to be published in the GVRA newsletter in order to keep people informed of SILC events.

New Business

No new business.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Mr. DeFoor announced that they are attempting to set up a date to hold a board meeting as well as orientation for new board members.

Adjournment

Mr. DeFoor adjourned the board meeting at approximately 3:25 p.m.

The next GVRB Board meeting is being rescheduled. The date and location will be published once a decision is made.