

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

AMAC Accessibility Solutions at Georgia Tech
512 Means Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Adams
Dianne Davis
Jimmy DeFoor
Jonathan Taylor
Vincent Martin

Mr. DeFoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Special Presentation

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Carolyn Phillips with AMAC and Tools for Life. Ms. Phillips gave a presentation on the different accessibility tools and outreach programs AMAC and Tools for Life offer, also discussing the various ways an ongoing collaboration with GVRA could work to fulfill the shared mission.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. DeFoor welcomed GVRA Executive Director Sean T. Casey. Mr. Casey noted that the agency has already served more Georgians this year than last year. He noted that the agency has worked to decentralize staff from the administrative office in Atlanta, at the same time expanding supports to the various programs.

Mr. Casey noted that the Rehabilitation Services Administration will soon be performing an audit on GVRA. In addition, GVRA will be soon distributing merit-based pay increases.

GVRA is reassessing its hiring processes, he said, to ensure that the agency can continue to employ the best candidates.

Georgia Industries for the Blind recently finalized a deal with Walmart for the major manufacturer to make available pillows made by GIB.

The GVRA Office and Marketing and Communications produced a 30-second ad that is currently running across 13 television markets statewide. It is running in conjunction with a 30-second radio ad.

Roosevelt Warm Springs recently held a graduation ceremony. Of the students who graduated, half of the students were already employed.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeFoor noted that there was an error on the minutes for April 2017. The date was incorrect. *[NOTE: The date will be changed and the minutes will be redistributed.]* Mr. DeFoor called for approval of the June 2017 minutes. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Adams and seconded by Ms. Davis. It was unanimously approved.

GVRA Staff Presentations

Mr. DeFoor welcomed GVRA Deputy Executive Director Kevin Harris. Mr. Harris noted that Roosevelt Warm Springs is celebrating its 90-year anniversary, and the Office of Communications and Marketing is marking the anniversary with a special social media campaign.

Mr. Harris broke down the demographics of GVRA staff. He went on to highlight recent activities of the various GVRA programs and the administrative departments. He noted that client closures is at its highest level in years, and this is a testament to the hard work of GVRA staff.

Mr. Harris went over the new agency organization charts, noting that they establish a strong structure to support agency clients.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed GVRA CFO Minerva Nixon who discussed the steps fiscal services is currently taking to close out SFY17 and to transition into SFY18. She broke down the various components of the upcoming RSA site visit. Ms. Nixon said the state is currently performing its annual financial audit.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed GVRA Chief Client Management Officer Dale Arnold. Mr. Arnold said staff have recently completed process mapping, and they'll soon rollout a pilot program for business processes. He further broke down all the services that are provided under the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Mr. Arnold welcomed Director of WIOA Compliance and Policy Crystal Perry who talked about the newly updated policy manual, which reflects public feedback and established mandates outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. She noted that GVRA is currently providing career counseling for individuals earning sub-minimum wage.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Assistant Director of Transition Shelley Kraft. She talked about recent collaborations between the GVRA transition team and the Georgia Department of Education, noting the ways in which this collaboration will expand moving forward. Ms. Kraft also noted that several GVRA staff were recognized with awards at the recent

IDEAS conference. She also gave updates on the pilot sites that are operating under the E3 program.

Mr. DeFoor welcomed Director of Business Application Deborah McCloud who gave the board an update on the AWARE project. She noted that the completion date for the new case management system is still scheduled for 2018.

SRC Report

Mr. DeFoor welcomed State Rehabilitation Council Liaison Dana Skelton-Sanders who noted that the Council has several new appointees. She said that the SRC is in the process of developing new policies reflecting WIOA regulations.

SILC Report

Mr. DeFoor welcomed SILC Director Shelley Simmons who noted the date and location of upcoming meetings. She discussed the work SILC has done to help individuals with home modifications. SILC also has several outreach and public awareness workshops coming up.

New Business

No new business.

Final Comments

Mr. DeFoor noted that the next GVRS board meeting will be on Sept. 6 at Calloway Gardens in conjunction with the Georgia Rehabilitation Association's annual conference, and he asked whether board members would have an interest in touring Roosevelt Warm Springs on Sept. 5.

Adjournment

Mr. DeFoor adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.