

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, August 10, 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
Vincent Martin
Jonathan Taylor
Tom Wilson

Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Chairman DeFoor welcomed Debbie Gay, recently named as a new Deputy Superintendent of the GADOE.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeFoor moved to consider the minutes of July 13th. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Tom Wilson and seconded by Bob Green. The motion was passed unanimously.

Consumer Presentation

Mrs. Lauren Knox, Assistant Capabilities Director for the West Quadrant, introduced Melissa Williams, a CRC in the Carrollton office. During the past fiscal year, Ms. Williams successfully closed 36 cases. She has been a CRC for four (4) years and works with a number of populations and programs: developmentally disabled, transition, Agribility, and additional special populations. She truly enjoys her job and wants to serve more people.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Greg Schmiege and four (4) ELT members attended the RSA One Day Final Regulations Conference and returned late last night. During the conference, it was learned that the Federal Regulations would be made publicly available any day, and the VR component would go into effect 30 days after publication. Primary focus was given

to transition/PETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services), supported employment and organizations with 14-Cs. Jennifer Page and Dana Skelton-Sanders attended on behalf of the SRC.

GVRA sent 50 people to the Georgia WIOA Convening held on August 1-3 at the Cobb Galleria. The training focused on new roles for the four (4) partnering agencies and developing the networks and relationships that will be necessary for implementing the WIOA law.

The five (5) public hearings, hosted in conjunction with the State Rehabilitation Council, will begin tomorrow across the state and continue through the ~~next couple of weeks~~ month of August. The proposed Order of Selection/Policy is the primary purpose of the hearings. The new Order of Selections will combine the current order into three (3) categories.

GVRA will hold their initial planning meeting with the Governor's Office and State Properties Commission the Roosevelt Warm Springs long range Campus master plan on August 11 and a presentation will be given to the RWS Development Fund Board on August 19.

The GDOL MOU continues to progress. DAS and VR check writing services are ~~no longer needed and are~~ now done in-house. The transition to an independent IT network should ~~terminate- be complete~~ on or about September 30. The six (6) co-locations from GDOL that cannot be terminated due to the bond rating have been questioned by RSA due to the high costs of the sub-leases, and GVRA continues to work with State Properties Commission on these.-

BEP is moving forward with a commercial franchise kiosk (Jimmy's Seaside Fries) in one of the malls in the Atlanta area. We are also developing relationships with Marco's Pizza that could lead to management opportunities for VR/BEP clients.

Progress continues on the consumer satisfaction ~~pieee-survey~~ through the partnership with UGA, which will provide a baseline satisfaction score.-

GVRA is working to building a new transition ~~unit-services~~ with the goal of offering VR services in every middle school and high school in Georgia. Initially, GVRA is attempting to partner with the 50 Intensive Districts as identified by Georgia Department of Education (GADOE), in addition to the E3 model being piloted in six school districts.-

The agency transformation, known as Project Horizon, is scheduled to kick off January 1, 2017. Jimmy Wilson is working to develop organizational budgets. During the last 45 days there have been several provider focus groups and a presentation was made to GATES. Executive Director Schmiege discussed a statistical analysis of more than 46,000 cases in Georgia that will allow GVRA to better plan and serve clients in the near future.

Progress continues on the case management system from Libera to ~~an-the~~ Aware system.

More than 30 states currently use the Aware system. To date, four (4) months have been spent preparing for the switch, and a kickoff meeting was held with Alliance earlier this month. The project is scheduled to be a 24-month ~~transition~~implementation, with a targeted go live date of May 2018.

The agency will be hiring a full-time Board Liaison. The goal is to ~~hire~~have this position in place by the September meeting.

Old Business

No old business.

SRC/SILC Comments

Shelly Simmons from the SILC discussed an effort by individuals throughout the state targeting representatives to get them to visit the centers and learn about their programs. Currently, there are 59 counties not being served. They are asking for \$750,000 to begin services. She also discussed the SOHOST initiative, which focuses on housing opportunities.

Chris Moder presented on behalf of the SRC. The public hearings will also include a written means via the website to ensure people can provide input without actually attending the hearings. Chris expressed his positive impression of the WIOA Convening Conference and the three (3) breakout session for GVRA: Employment through the Eyes of a Client, Employment through the Eyes of a Client and Employment through the eyes of an Employer. He mentioned a study that shows a 48 percent lower turnover rate and 34 percent fewer accidents for people with disabilities.

New Business

Sandy Adams proposed to hold the October Board meeting at the Elbert County campus of Athens Technical College in Elberton, Georgia. Motion was made by Bob Green and seconded by Tom Wilson. The motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

The next GVRS Board meeting is scheduled for September 7 at 9:00 a.m., prior to the GRA Conference at the Hyatt in Savannah, Georgia.

Mr. DeFoor adjourned the board meeting at approximately 2:48 p.m.

