

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
200 Piedmont Avenue, SE
West Tower – 14th Floor - Executive Board Room
Atlanta, GA 30334

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Adams
Jimmy DeFoor
Marsha Farrow
Fay Loggins
Don Parks
Johnathan Taylor
Bob Green
Amy O'Dell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Louise Hill

Mr. Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS) September Board meeting. Chairman Defoor called meeting to order at 1:08pm with the board roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DeFoor moved to consider the approval of two sets of meeting minutes. The May 14, 2014 and the July 16, 2014 board meeting minutes be approved and asked if there were any additions or corrections to those minutes.

There being none - Mr. DeFoor asked for motion for approval of two sets of meeting minutes from the last board meetings. Mr. DeFoor asked for motion for approval of May 14, 2014 board meeting minutes. Motion from Fay Loggins, motioned seconded by Sandy Adams for the minutes of the May 14, 2014 to be approved.

Mr. DeFoor then asked for motion for approval of the July 16, 2014 board meeting minutes to be approved. Motion from Fay Loggins for approval, motioned seconded by Don Parks for the minutes of the July 16, 2014 to be approved. Motions passed unanimously by the Board.

Mr. DeFoor introduced board meeting guest, Andrea Taylor, a VR employee from Dalton, GA who presented on her journey through VR and to work.

Mr. DeFoor introduced board meeting guest, Dave Miller, Director of New Ventures to introduce the next guest presenter. Mr. Miller thanked the board for their service and shared the operations and services of New Ventures.

Mr. Miller then introduced VR client Matthew - who is a VR Client who came through the New Ventures program. Matthew is now employed and a nominated vocalist. Matthew performed for board and visitors.

Mr. DeFoor turned the floor over to Executive Director, Greg Schmiege to explain the timing to elect new board member/officers. Per Mr. Schmiege, all nominations have been received - have suggested that all officers remain in their current elected roles.

Mr. DeFoor then asked for nominations from the board and from the floor for the three positions. Mr. Defoor stated there was a motion from Fay Loggins to close the nominations; the motion was seconded by DonParks. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Defoor then stated the next item of business was to vote for the nominations. The motion was made by Sandy Adams for a vote to have current officers continue to serve in their positions, second motion from Fay Loggins for the nominations to carry over. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Defoor then asked for Greg Schmiege to give the Director's Report.

From the floor - Mr. Garrick Scott requested for the board to allow introductions from the floor so that the visually impaired guests would be aware of everyone who was present for the meeting.

Mr. Defoor asked for introductions of all attendees (floor and board). Introductions for all in attendance proceeded prior to Executive Director presentation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Greg Schmiegel began his report with thanks to everyone for attending the board meeting and welcomed new board member, Johnathan Taylor. The Executive Director's Report was as followed:

1. **Executive Director- explained board member travel & business expense reimbursements**
 - Provided new expense forms to curtail confusion of filings
 - Meal Reimbursements – how they are received
 - Lodging Reimbursements – how they are received
 - Personal Care Attendance reimbursement
 - Mileage reimbursements – how to file
 - Buddy Travel – how to file when board members ride together was explained in detail

2. **Agency Goal - To Build an Accountable Results Oriented GVRA w/Capacity to Fulfill Our Mission**
 - Relocation – GVRA has officially relocated from 2 Peachtree to Twin Towers for cost savings purposes - from square footage and eliminating board room cost
 - VR Program has fully relocated to 5th floor of West Tower
 - External Affairs & HR will relocate to the 10th floor of West Tower
 - Executive Offices and Financial Services will relocate to the 14th floor of West Tower
 - Main reception and main line will be received on the 10th floor
 - Vacated space (5th & 6th floors) - now occupied by Department of Community Health

3. **MOU Agreement with Department of Labor**
 - When we became an agency (and for adequate IT support), Commissioner Reese, on behalf of GVRA executed and MOU with DOL
 - Cost of 10.4 million per year
 - GVRA has spent most of last year attempting to negotiated a lower servicing amount – to no avail
 - GVRA submitted a proposed MOU agreement and payment – DOL refused
 - Main reception and main line will be received on the 10th floor
 - Assigning software for standard processes are an issue –DOL will not allow
 - The disagreement with DOL continues - no resolution thus far

4. **Performance Audit for VR**
 - VR programs is chosen program for the performance audit this year
 - Identifying areas for improvement, etc.
 - Next 30-days will have identified the scope of the audit
 - They will probably meet with the staff, providers, SILC, etc.

5. **Hospital Transfer**
 - Effective July 1 – RSW hospitals are no longer under GVRA, but now, Georgia Regents University. The hospital is now known as The Roosevelt Warm Springs Rehabilitation and Specialty Hospital, Inc. - it has its own board
 - Everything is going well with the exception of the GRASP(a nursing staffing software)
 - DOL entered into the agreement with GRASP software in 2004 - current new company cannot have access to software – they are requesting from DOL for transfer of ownership of the software – they are still waiting for an answer from DOL
 - They are attempting to get DOL to release software – still unresolved

6. Zero Base Budget for GIB

- Most all state agencies and programs are moving towards a zero based budget
- GIB receives no federal or state monies – and government contracts are shrinking
- We have engaged an independent accounting firm to do a small business assessment of GIB on GVRA's behalf
- They will present they recommendations on what GIB needs to establish a level of stability for
- GIB is looking at how they plan to expand into commercial sales for operations sustainability

7. Targeted Pay Increases

- Most all agencies are moving to a zero based budget
- State legislature passed an across the board 1% state increase for (Agency, RSW, CS, BEP)
- 1% mandated for increases to assist in retention, recruitment, or performance for staff
- Also target most who have not received raises – CRC's, VR Unit Mgrs.,
- Seeking support from SSA in considering a 3% - 5% pay increase for DAS
- State seeking to roll-out new band approach from lowest pay grades to new band

8. Inter-Agency Agreements

- Senate Budget Office has asked that we partner with other state agencies to use some of their state monies to serve mental illness in a supported employment model
- Entities are DJJ, DOE, GA Student Finance – very open to entertaining MOU
- Technical College System of GA – possible partnership
- Continuing to research the combining of Cave Spring \$ Roosevelt Warm Springs
- Seeking support from SSA in considering a 3% - 5% pay increase for DAS
- State seeking to roll-out new band approach of pay grades (from lowest pay grades to new band)

9. HR

- Possibly seeking new Services Director
- Seeking new General Counsel for GVRA – to handle general compliance needs for agency
- Are using a loaned attorney (Rachel King)
- Joseph Weatherspoon on from and agency level and Rossany Rios from a field level to assist with reaching out to more entities to employ the disabled community

10. Disability Liaison

- Kay McGill provided information to further confirm that a formal plan and creation of a Disability Liaison position is needed
- Position will be re-crafted – will be requesting a person for the position who works for the state and attends all advocacy group meetings within the state and be a voice GVRA and the disability community – not just what their personal concerns are – but helping us plan how GVRA can better serve people with disabilities

11. Special Populations

- Kate Brady – introduced by Greg Schmieg
- Kate Brady - presentation of Special Populations Department

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Ellen Wolater, Outreach Coordinator for the Hamilton Relay Company (telephone service provider for hearing impaired population in the US). Presentation of the "Hamilton Award 2014 Hamilton Relay Award for State of Georgia" GVRS Board Member Bob Green (reading of his bio. followed).

TEN MINUTE BREAK

Pat Puckett – Independent Living Council -presentation to board and attendees
Kathy Carlisle – State Rehabilitation Council – presentation to board and attendees

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Jimmy Defoor made motion for approval of proposed 2014 – 2015 Board Meeting Calendar - motion to approve by Marsha Farrow, 2nd by Bob Green. Motion has carried and approved unanimously by the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Liza Lee – State Workforce Investment Board – introduction of Jamie Jordan
Jamie Jordan, Director of External Relations of Workforce Development – presentation on the Workforce Investment Board

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Rikehart –public comments given
Fontaine Huey, President, Center for Visually Impaired – public comments given
Garrick Scott, President, National Federation for the Blind of Georgia – public comments given
Teresa Brenner – Consumer/former VR Client – public comments given

If you have input regarding the Board Meeting, please send via e-mail to Communications Manager, John Boan - john.boan@gvra.ga.gov.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:12pm

THE NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, November 13, 2014, 1:00pm – 3:00pm, 200 Piedmont Avenue, SE, West Tower, 14th Floor, Suite 1408, Atlanta, GA 30334



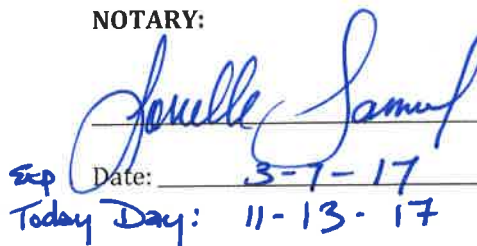
Marsha Farrow, Secretary

APPROVED:



Jimmy DeFoor, Board Chair

NOTARY:



Date: 3-7-17
Today Day: 11-13-17

