

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2013
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCY
2 PEACHTREE STREET, NW
5TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM
ATLANTA, GA 30303

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sandy Adams
Jimmy DeFoor
Marsha Farrow
Louise Hill
Fay Loggins
Don Parks
Greg Kirk
Amy O'Dell

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bob Green

Mr. Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS) October Board meeting and acknowledged board member, Greg Kirk's, 50th birthday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DeFoor moved to consider August meeting minutes from the last board meeting be approved and asked if there were any additions or corrections to those minutes.

Mr. DeFoor asked for motion for August meeting minutes to be approved from the last board meeting. Motion from Greg Kirk, motioned seconded by Don Parks that the minutes of the August 21, 2013 Board Meeting approved. Call for vote for approval of August Board Meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously by the Board.

Mr. DeFoor introduced Greg Schmieg for the Executive Director's Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Greg Schmieg began his report with thanks to everyone for attending the October Board Meeting. The Executive Director's Report was as followed:

1. Federal Government Shutdown Briefing

- A daily changing environment / Disability Adjudication Services (DAS) is 100% federally funded
- Awilda Danko participated in a teleconference from the Federal Social Security Administration Commissioner – alerting all states that SSA was sending a letter stating that if the federal government shuts-down on October 1, 2013 - it would be up to the state as to whether or not to continue to operate their state disability services
- Governor's Office was contacted and letter was shared
- After review federal funds status and with the permission of the Governor's office, we have a contingency plan - we determine there are enough funds to continue to operate DAS for one month - we will be keeping the Governor's office updated
- All 110 programs are affected by the government shut down
- During shut down - will operate all 110 funded programs using FY13 federal money
- We cannot use state money to operate federally funded programs

2. Operations Update

- Have been able to fill some vacancies - we have hired the Communications Manager, John Boan
- Jimmy Wilson has been able to hire some fiscal staff
- Several positions will remain vacant until we are in a better fiscal situation - looking at ways to operate leaner – investing in staff vs. rent;
- Ed James is doing a great job. Thank for his willingness to embrace the challenge
- Communications is presently finalizing the new logos- week look forward to rolling out
- We have been able open Category A - thanks largely to our partners (GATES, etc.) and cooperative efforts

3. Warm Springs and Cave Springs Updates

- Cave Spring now under academic program at Warm Springs
- Currently seeing the benefits of the merger – Department of Education (DOE) has given Cave Spring two federally funded Special Education positions – continuing to transform services
- Cave Spring and Warm Spring both now benefitting from grant from US DOE
- Standardizing admissions criteria at Cave Spring and Warm Springs
- GRU has taken over the Warm Springs Hospital – transition has gone well
- Roosevelt Family Reunion being hosted at Warm Springs weekend of November 2, 2013

4. BEP Update

- BEP vendors will be affected by the shut down
- Vendors are out of work as a result of shut down
- Most or all of vendors operate in a federal buildings
- Vendors at military facilities have

5. DAS Update

- Disability Adjudication Services (DAS) is 100% federally funded
- Will give an update regarding the status of the shut-down when necessary

6. GIB Update

- Operating at full capacity
- Awarded ISO certification
- Awarded State Safety Cup

7. VR Update

- Have begun to use the new legislative message in communications
- Seeking to find a way out of field office leases
- Looking at ways to operate leaner – investing in staff vs. rent

8. GVRA Branding

- Presented final versions of agency and each program's logo
- We seek to have each of the programs to have their own unique brand – but also tie into GVRA
- The new logos will be on all the new letterhead, business cards, website, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

- Cecelia Hockett - presented VR program update on Public Hearings, policy, and policy changes
- Mr. DeFoor called for motion for those in favor in re-affirming the policy changes to approve the new policy changes. Policy changes approved unanimously.
- Mr. DeFoor called for motion to move to bi-monthly meetings - with the option to move back to monthly meetings when necessary. Marsha Farrow suggested starting the bi-monthly meeting cycle in December vs. November due to full schedules of board members. Motion Marsha Farrow, seconded by Louise Hill - motion passed unanimously by the board – new bi-monthly scheduled to begin in December. New Board Meeting schedule and newly approved Bylaws will be available to all at www.gvra.ga.gov
- Remaining Board Meetings are scheduled for Dec. 11, Feb. 12, April 9, and June 11.
- Richard Eskridge – presented Bond Sale Resolution. Attorney General contacted GVRA to request re-approval of Bond Resolution to approve 750,000 bond sales to support capital outlay projects – Fay Loggins, seconded Sandy Adams - motioned passed unanimously by the board.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dawn Randolph / Greg Schmieg - presented how GVRA will seek to educate Georgia legislators on the new legislative message seeking to gain the 28MM required to draw down the full federal grant making a significance difference in how we serve Georgia's disabled community. The time is not to send the legislative message ... *"Georgia's Economic Recovery and Growth must include Employment for Citizens with Disabilities... GVRA is Good for Business."*
- Dawn Randolph – presented disability study statistics and how those statistics can strengthen the new legislative message – people with disabilities adding value to the workforce

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments scheduled for today.

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 2:41pm

THE NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 1:00pm – 3:00pm in North Georgia area – location to be determined.

Marsha Farrow, Secretary

APPROVED:

Jimmy DeFoor, Chair