

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sloppy Floyd Building
200 Piedmont Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30334

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Wilson (Chairman)
Faye Perdue (Vice-Chair)
Sandy Adams (Secretary)
Louise Hill
Jonathan Taylor
Craig Camuso
Vincent Martin
Angela Mackey
GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan (Non-Member)

Mr. Wilson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Wilson called roll.

Mr. Wilson noted that Suzanne Dooley was recently appointed to the GVRS Board, though she wasn't able to attend October's board meeting. He read Ms. Dooley's biography. Ms. Hill, Mr. Taylor and Ms. Mackey were recently reappointed to the board, and Ms. Davis' term recently ended, and she rolled off the board.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson called for a motion to approve the minutes from August 2019 and September 2019. Ms. Hill motioned to approve, and Mr. Camuso seconded. Both sets of minutes were passed unanimously.

Client Testimonial

Mr. Wilson recognized Susan Jolly. Ms. Jolly told of how she initially dealt with her disability and how vocational rehabilitation contributed to her career with T-Mobile. She said that her success was contingent both on the hard work of her counselors and her own personal resiliency. When asked about opportunities for GVRA clients, Ms. Jolly spoke of the great benefit of networking and mentioned potential careers with T-Mobile. She said that she is living proof that anything is possible.

GVRA Staff Reports

Mr. Wilson recognized GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan. Mr. Ryan thanked Ms. Jolly for sharing her story. He noted that counselors in the field could learn from her story, specifically as it relates to the limitless career options that are available for people with disabilities.

Mr. Ryan noted that there will be no Human Resources or Fiscal presentations at this board meeting, as both of those departments are still without key positions. Those positions have been posted and should be filled in the coming weeks. The agency has hired Zain Farooqui from the Department of Public Health to fill the previously-open position of General Counsel.

Mr. Ryan noted that Accenture has returned to continue to help GVRA with its reorganization. They are tasked with doing an audit of Vocational Rehabilitation similar to that which they have already conducted with GVRA administration. Through the remainder of the year, they will be visiting all local offices. The goal is not a reduction of force but rather a clarifying of structure.

Following the hire of a new Human Resources Director, Mr. Ryan said the reorganization efforts at the GVRA administration will follow shortly thereafter.

The Georgia Department of Audits is currently doing its three-year audit of both VR and DAS. The goal is to complete the audit by the end of January.

Mr. Wilson recognized Vocational Services Director Christine Fleming and Provider Management Director Sheila Pierce. Ms. Pierce gave an overview of early efforts to further bridge the gap between the agency and the provider community. At the end of the day, she said, successful outcomes for clients depends on strong partnerships with providers. Priorities include better communication and finalization of the provider manual.

Mr. Ryan said the agency may need to explore additional technological avenues to optimize the provider relations improvement process.

SILC Presentation

Parker Glick presented in the stay of SILC Director Shelly Simmons. Home Access Funds for SILC have been suspended due to anticipated cuts in the state budget. In addition, he said, the SILC's annual fundraiser was a great success. The SILC annual report has been completed and is available to the public.

SRC Presentation

No SRC update.

Old Business

Mr. Wilson said that upon legal review, the revised GVRs bylaws contained several omissions. Those have been corrected, and updated bylaws were distributed to the board. Mr. Camuso moved to approve the revised bylaws. Ms. Perdue seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Board Schedule

Mr. Wilson noted that the December Board meeting will be telephonic due to the holiday season. The next in-person GVRs meeting will be January 8.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.