

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013  
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

GOODWILL NORTH GEORGIA – OAKWOOD CENTER  
3175 MUNDY MILL ROAD  
OAKWOOD, GA 30566

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sandy Adams  
Jimmy DeFoor  
Marsha Farrow  
Louise Hill  
Fay Loggins  
Don Parks  
Greg Kirk  
Bob Green

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Amy O'Dell

Mr. Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS) December Board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Mr. DeFoor asked for motion for October meeting minutes to be approved from the last board meeting. Motion from Don Parks, motioned seconded by Fay Loggins that the minutes of the October 9, 2013 Board Meeting be approved. Call for vote for approval of the October Board Meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously by the Board.

Mr. DeFoor introduced Mary Wareham to report on a pilot program/proposal from the Gainesville, GA VR office.

Mary Wareham introduced the Gainesville High School and VR team for the pilot proposal, presented the program, and answered questions from the board regarding the pilot project.

Marsha Farrow moved to consider the motion for the pilot to move forward, a second from Don Parks – additional questions fielded from Bob Green – *“who would oversee the program, etc.?”* Greg Kirk, suggested a polished and completed proposal be presented at the February board meeting.

Mr. DeFoor asked for an addition to Marsha’s motion -- to continue with the pilot program study with a completed and final presented at the next board meeting. Motion from Marsha Farrow for the group to continue with studies for a final presentation at the February board meeting, motioned seconded by Don Parks for amended motion to move forward with the. 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 December Board Meeting. The Executive Director's Report was as followed:

### 1. **Vision, Mission, and Values – Major Areas for Budget Controls**

- Mission, vision, and values review
- Hope for Georgia to be the best state in the country at providing opportunities for people with disabilities
- GA Regent's University and Health System Agreement partnering agreement to help GVRA
- Inability to maximize VR Grant – we will again send back federal monies that our state will not match – this is a shame for our state – these federal tax dollars paid by the citizens of Georgia are being sent back to the federal government- these are funds that could be used to serve Georgia's citizens with disabilities
- Sustainability of Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB)
- GVRA prepared to commit to possible furloughs to cut cost if necessary – possibly 2 furlough days per month --- but right now we feel we have made significant improvements and will not have furlough
- Furlough Discussion - will need permission from the board to proceed with furloughs –do not feel it is necessary at this time – if it becomes necessary to take this action, the board will need to decide to meet in January for a decision
- GVRA's Finance Office has centralized budget controls
- GVRA is consolidating offices to help with cutting costs
- **Ed James** – presented qualitative information regarding the opening of Category A on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Continuing to develop partnerships with other state agencies
- Think Big, Serve More People, Do Better – focus mantra
- **Kevin Harris** – presented update on PR / external relations / calendar reminders

### 2. **Operations Update**

- **Ed James** – presented qualitative information regarding the opening of Category A on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Continuing to develop partnerships with other state agencies
- Think Big, Serve More People, Do Better – focus mantra
- **Kevin Harris** – presented update on PR / external relations / calendar reminders
- **Jimmy Wilson** – presented Financial Report

Mr. DeFoor asked for motion to approve the FY14/15 budget as presented. Motion from Greg Kirk, motioned seconded by Louise Hill to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously by the Board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Cathy Carlisle** – SRC Chair - presented on State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) mission and vision
- **David Mork** – Georgia Regents University (GRU) Executive Director – presented on GRU and partnership with Roosevelt Warm Spring Hospital (RWSI)

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Judy Presley** – Georgia Council of the Blind- Hall County Chapter– presented how her VR counselor and GA VR saved her life and helped her to function as a blind person. Asked the board and others to support “support groups” for disabilities.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:44pm

**THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 1:00pm – 3:00pm, Two Peachtree Street, NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Flr, Atlanta, GA 30303.

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Marsha Farrow, Secretary

**APPROVED:**

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Jimmy DeFoor, Chair