

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
WEDNESDAY December 11, 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
Suzanne Dooley
Jonathan Taylor
Vincent Martin
Angela Mackey
GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan (Non-Member)

Mr. Wilson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Adams motioned to approve the agenda and Ms. Perdue seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wilson called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 2019. Ms. Perdue moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Martin seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Update

Mr. Wilson recognized GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan. Mr. Ryan gave a brief overview of his tenure at GVRA. Due to budget cuts from the Georgia General Assembly, the decision was made to conduct a reorganization of administrative functions. In mid November, the first reduction in force was announced, and those impacted were given 30 days notice. The second reduction in force will take place on December 13. Efforts are underway to fill newly-created positions, and those efforts will continue as new positions are posted.

Accenture, the organization that was contracted to help with the reorganization, is currently reviewing the Vocational Rehabilitation program. On the whole, he said, these efforts will make GVRA more efficient and better at serving the interests of its clients.

Multiple board members agreed that despite challenges, they are confident the reorganizational efforts will do much to improve services.

Mr. Ryan introduced three new staff members: CFO Monica Bradsaw, Human Resources Director Jennifer Statham and General Counsel Zain Farooqui. Each of them expressed excitement about where the agency is heading, and each briefly describing their background and their plans for the coming weeks and months. They collectively underscored the significance of customer service and improving processes across the board.

New Business

Mr. Wilson noted that the board has been divided up into subcommittees to better focus on specific topics.

Ms. Adams gave an overview of a recent meeting regarding transition and provider relations. She said efforts are being made to expand transition services across the state and gave participant numbers from previous years. She said Accenture is in the process of conducting provider workshops to further bridge the gap between providers and the agency.

Ms. Hill suggested that the Board leverage video conferencing technology when the subcommittees meet.

SILC Presentation

No SILC update.

SRC Presentation

No SRC update.

Old Business

No old business.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

