

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS)

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021



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Georgia Vocational
Rehabilitation Agency

Chairman's Welcome

- Welcome & Remarks
- Roll Call and Agenda
- Previous Board Meeting Minutes Approval

Executive Report

Jonathon Buxton, Director of Administration

(for Executive Director Chris Wells)

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- Departmental Highlights
- Agency Financials
- VR Staffing
- VR Data and Performance Measures
- Agency Legislative Update



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Highlights

- Administration
 - Policies and Procedures
 - COVID – 19 Guidance (Teleworking)
 - \$1,000 One-Time Payment for Eligible Employees
- Lease Portfolio Utilization
 - We have evaluated our portfolio of leased locations and identified opportunities to better utilize certain leased spaces
 - Strategies being explored are:
 - Moving from less desirable office locations to increase utilization and address other leasehold issues
 - Subleasing unused space when the location is desirable and the rents are reasonable
 - Consolidating administrative leased space to one floor
 - Will incur some upfront costs related to moving and office buildouts
 - Anticipate long term savings – savings estimates are in process
 - Utilizing existing furnishings to minimize the cost of the office moves



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Highlights

- Roosevelt Warm Springs/Cave Springs
 - GSFIC Funding:
 - Georgia Hall Portico Repairs - \$315,000

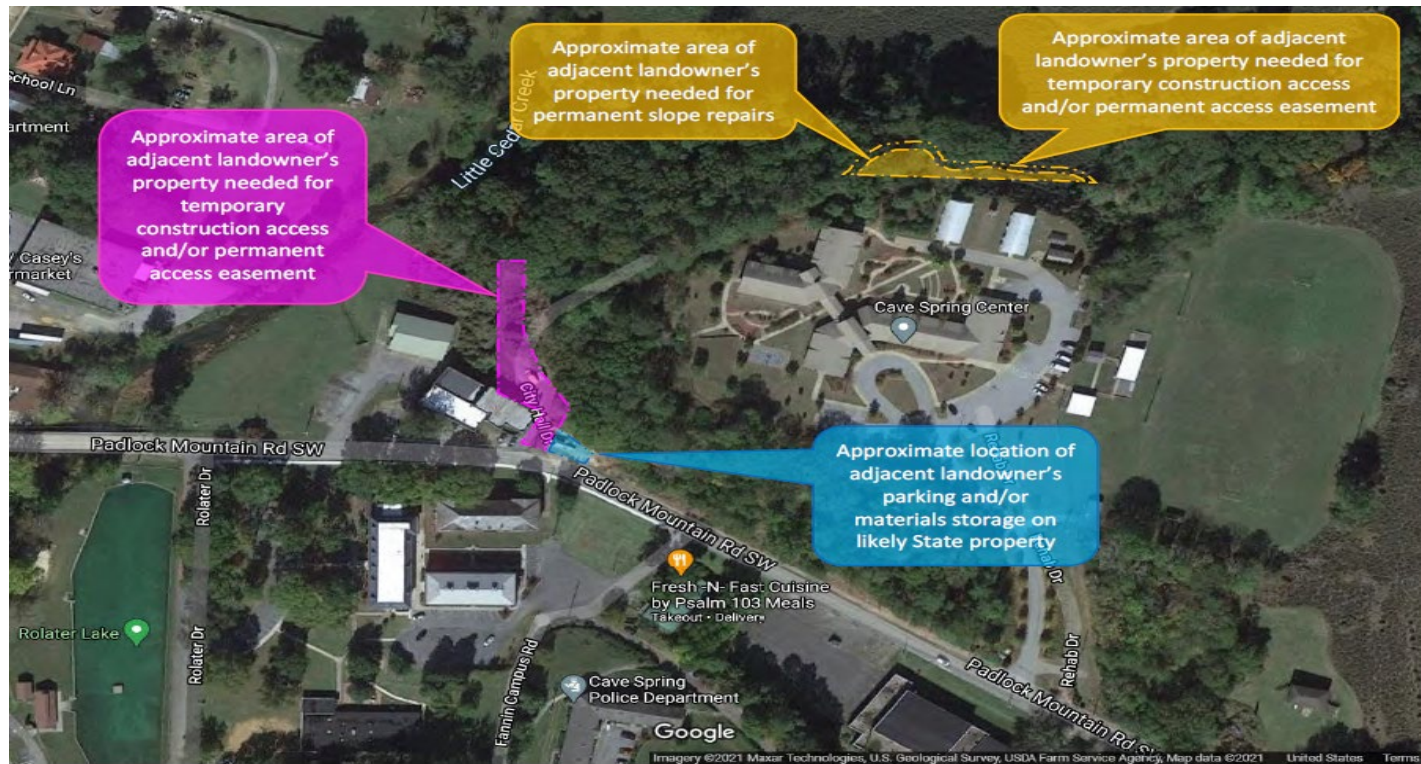




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Highlights

- RWS Students Served:
 - Distance Learning: 202
 - Distance Services: 283
- RWS Return to Campus Phase II: March 15, 2021
 - 28 Students
- Cave Spring Center Slope Re-Grading - \$750,000



Google Maps' Satellite View with overlay of encroachments and/or access needed for project

NOTE: Shaded areas shown are only a rough approximation and are schematic in nature. This document is intended for initial discussions only.



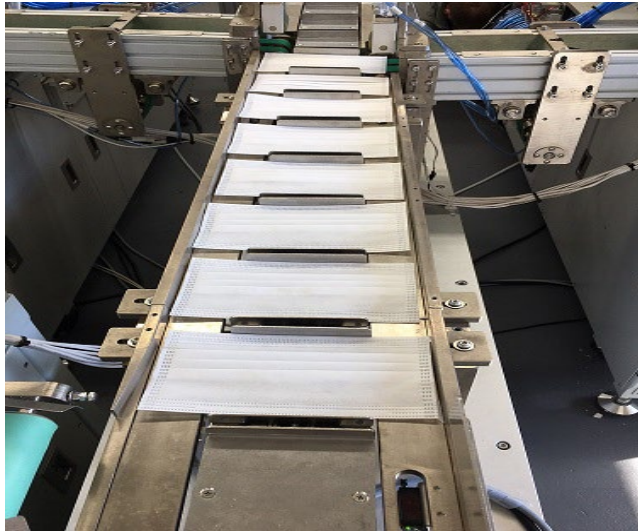
Highlights

- CSC Students Served:
 - Distance Learning: 19
 - Distance Services: 18
- Business Enterprise Program
 - RSA's Financial Relief Funds
 - BEP – The Way Forward
- Disability Adjudication Services
 - Processed 38,643 cases for Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (through February 2021)
 - On-boarded 34 new hires; more expected in mid-March, May, July and September
 - Transition to new Disability Case Processing System – expected completion date of September 30, 2021
- Georgia Industries for the Blind
 - 66 employees
 - 69.7% Direct Labor Blind Ratio
 - New Products
 - Piston Parts Kit (Defense Logistics Agency)
 - Parachute Deployment Bags (DLA)
 - Windshield Wiper Kits (DLA)
 - Pleated Disposable Mask Machine



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GIB Pleated Disposable Mask Machine





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Agency Expenditures

GVRA	Total Expenditures	Current Budget	Percent of Budget
300-Personal Services	\$51,369,832	\$85,114,601	60%
301-Operating Expenses	4,484,155	8,005,438	56%
303-Vehicle Purchases	0	0	0%
304-Equipment	1,528,954	176,754	865%
305-Computer Charges	3,308,648	6,235,629	53%
306-Real Estate Rentals	6,060,136	10,148,556	60%
307-Telecommunications	1,546,232	2,229,910	69%
309-Capital Outlay	388,851	53,846	722%
312-Contractual Services	15,049,268	15,751,818	96%
314-Transfers	0	40,916	0%
315-Grants and Benefits	21,403,004	46,849,802	46%
319-Other	513,608	1,470,843	35%
Total Expenditures	\$105,652,687	\$176,078,113	60%

VR Reorganization Impact and Updates

Christine Fleming, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

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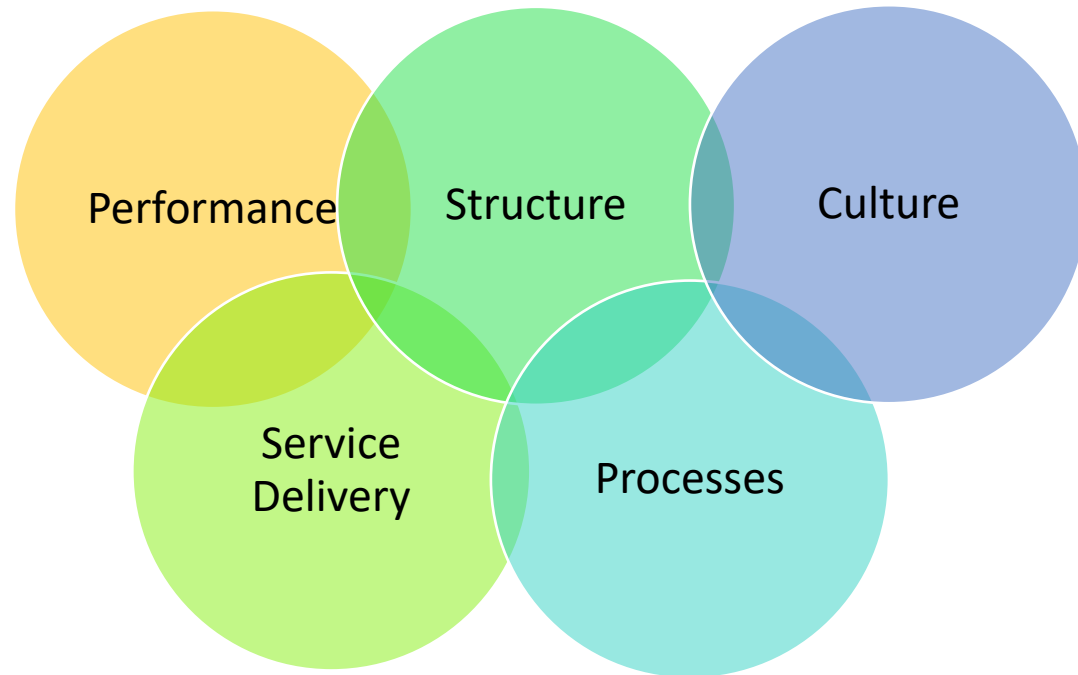
VR Reorganization Updates

- VR Reorganization
 - Phase 1 – complete
 - Phase 2 – complete, accept budget and AWARE, restructure July 1st
 - Phase 3 – training, position counts, office locations – analysis
 - Phase 4 – culture, training, data driven - examination



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VR Program Re-Organization

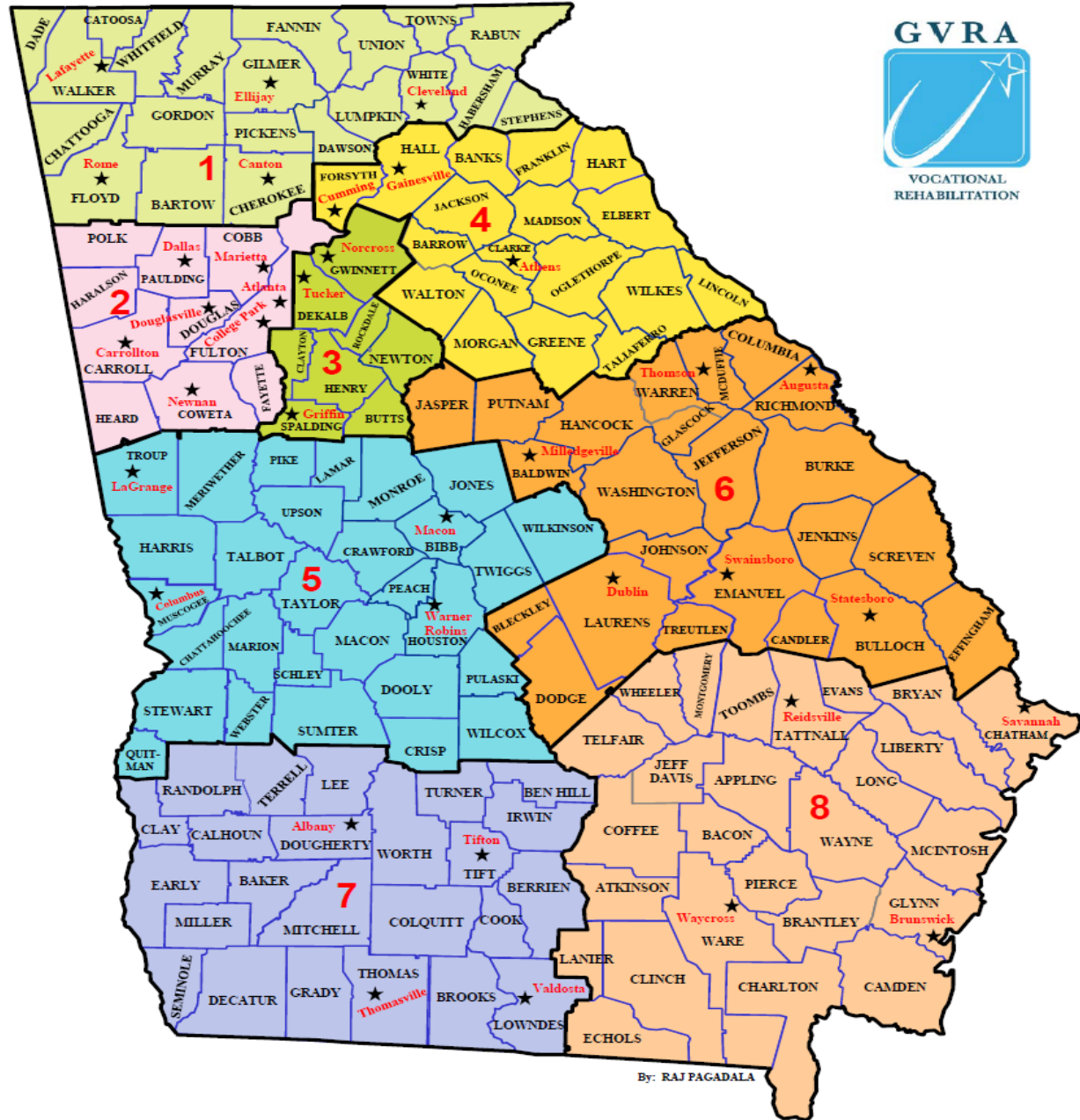


KPI's, RSA Reporting, Internal Controls, Work Flow,
Policy & Procedure, Re-alignment of Positions, New
Positions, Customer Focus, Quality Services,
Outcomes, Accountability, etc.

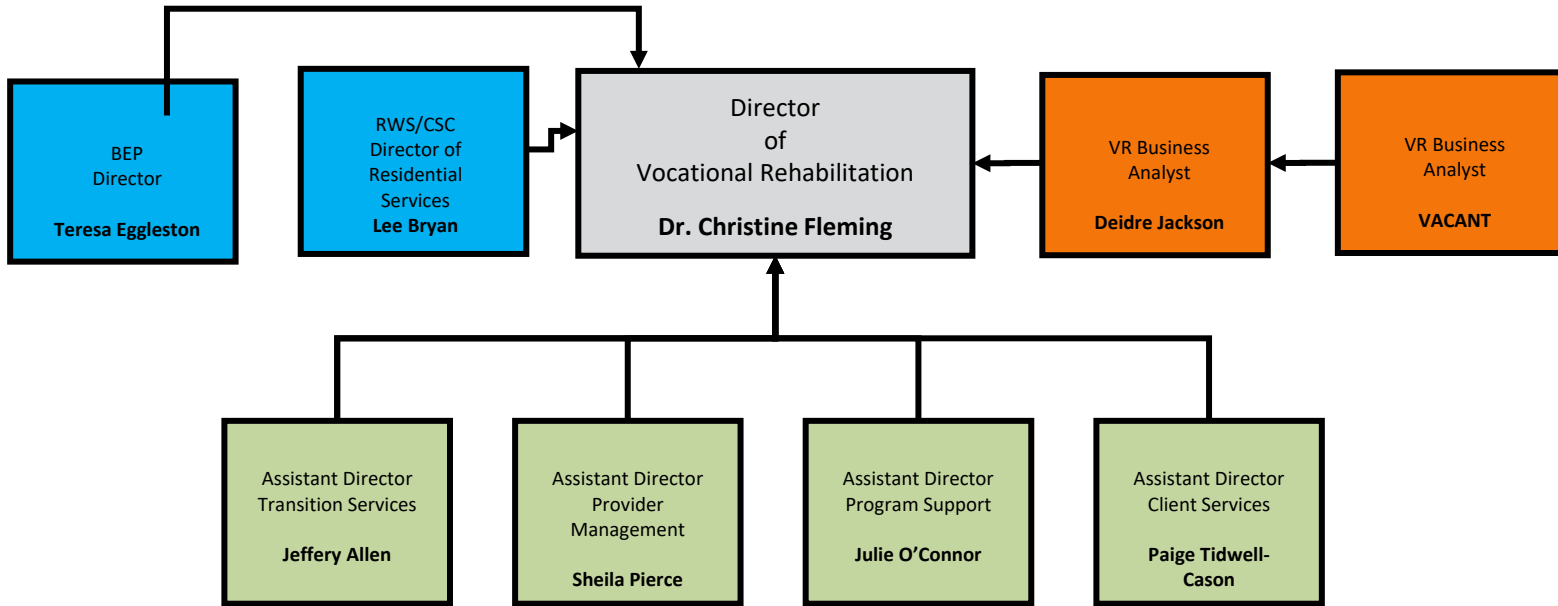
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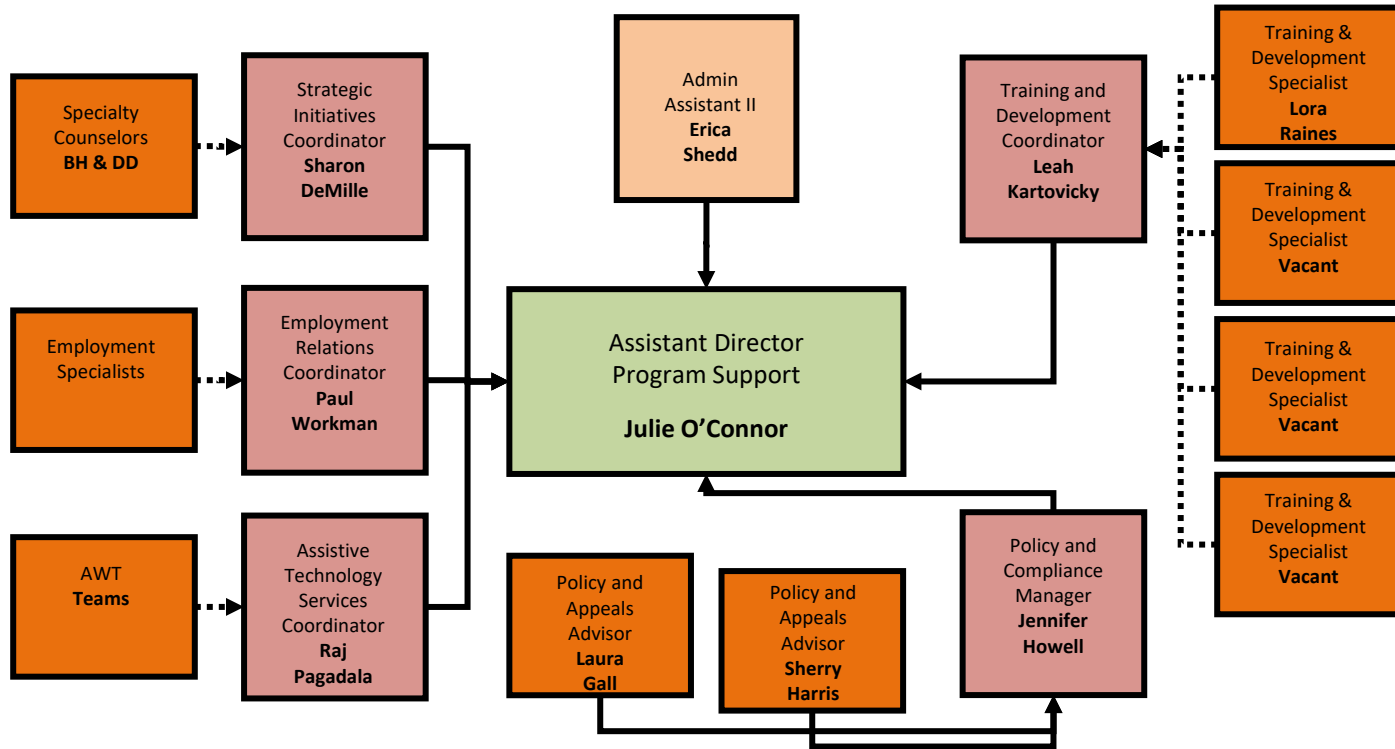


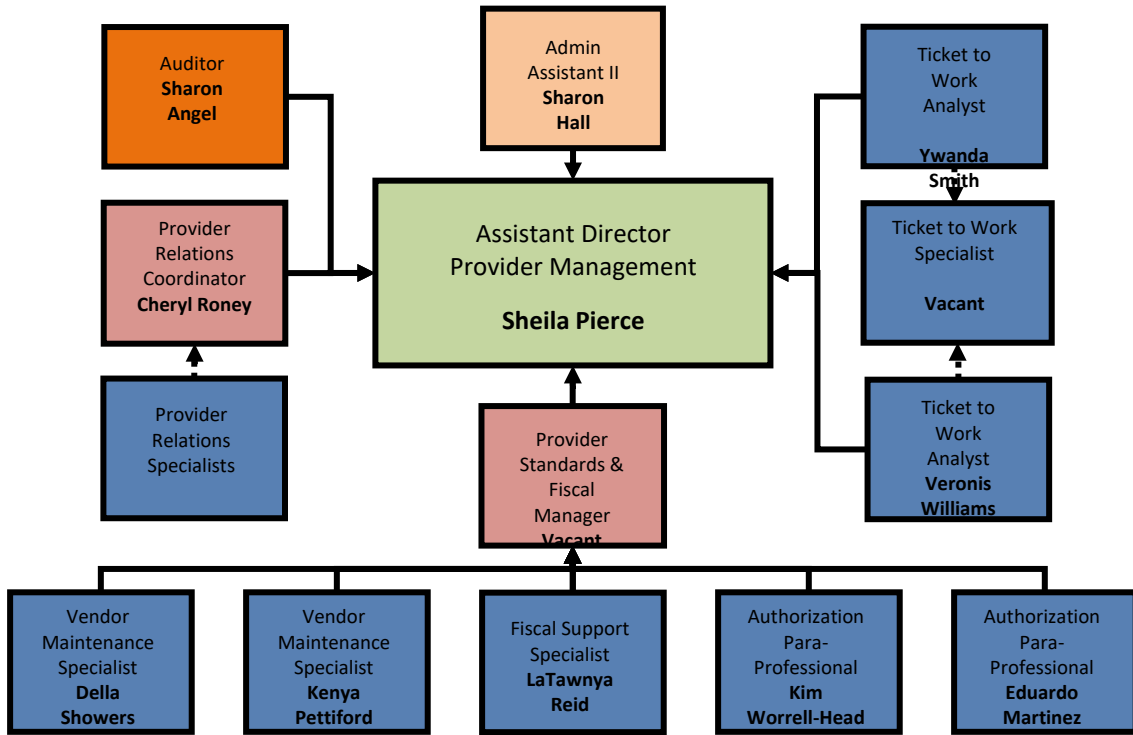
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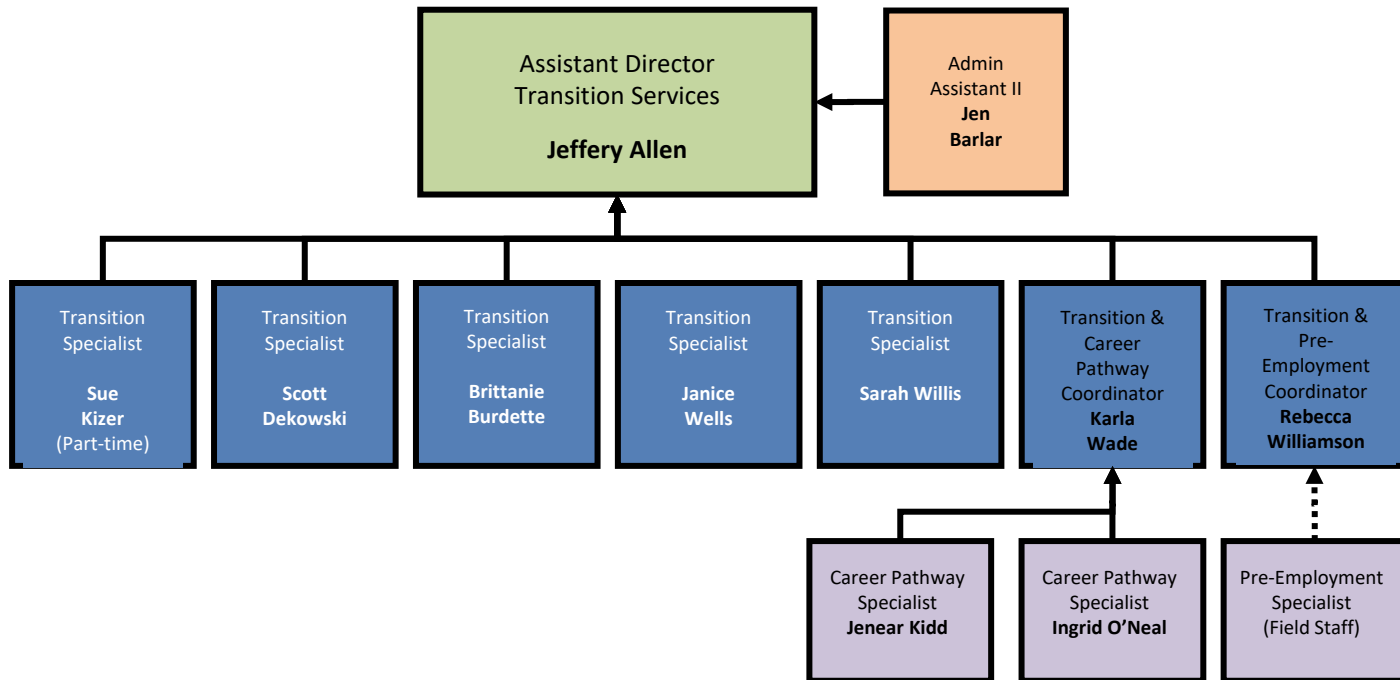


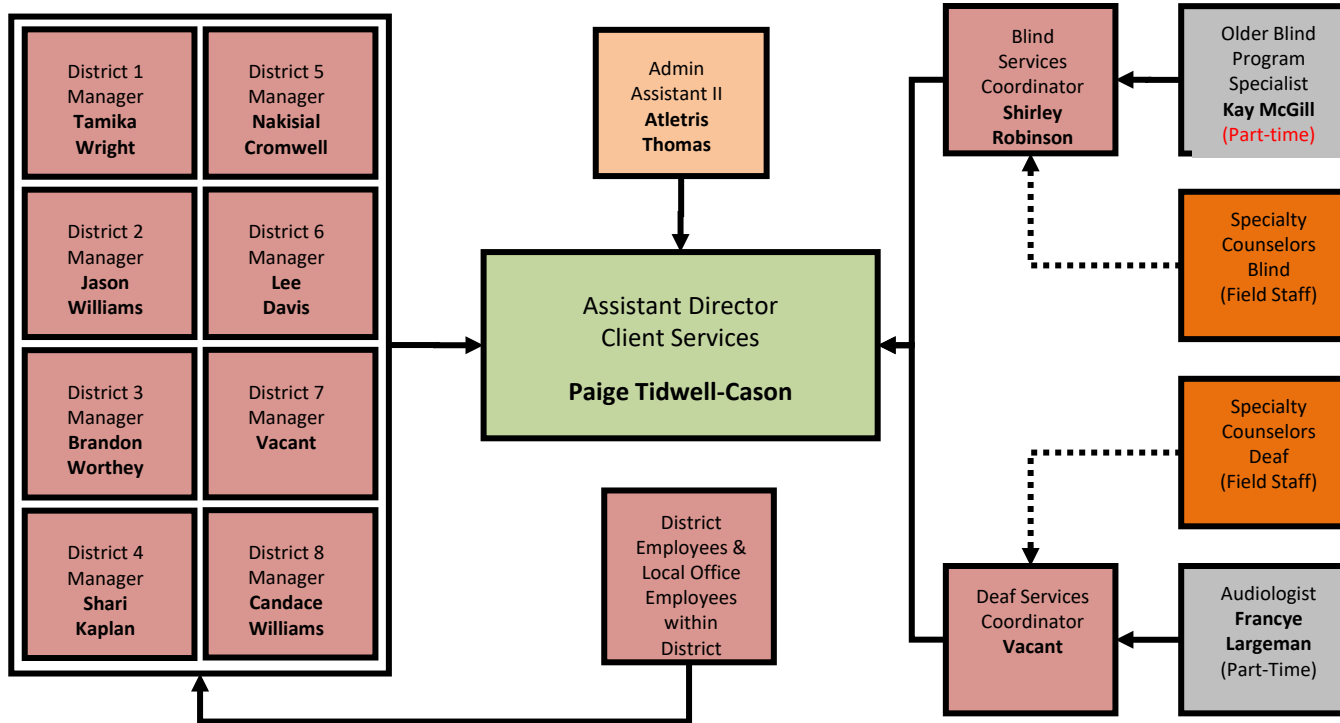
By: RAJ PAGADALA

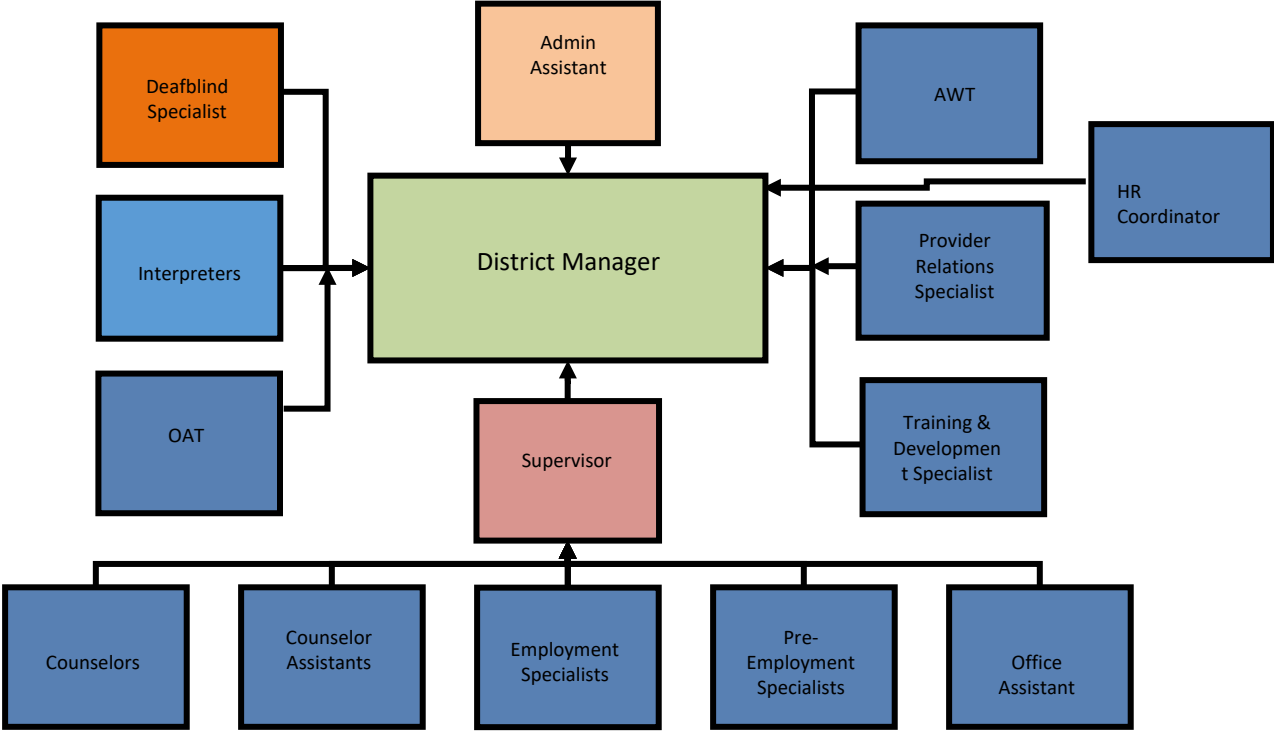














Vocational Rehabilitation

February 2021

- 136 counselors (counselor 1 = 49 and counselor 2= 87)
- 40 Pre-Employment Specialists
- 17 Employment Specialists
- 82 Office and Counselor Assistants
- 17 Supervisors

As of February 10, 2021

- 22,140 individuals being served
 - 7,566 potentially eligible students
 - 1,305 new potentially eligible students
 - 743 individuals successfully secured employment and maintained for 90 days
 - 3,354 individuals exited without employment
- January 1st- Closed Priority Categories 2 &3
 - As of February 12, 2021 341 VR clients in Delayed Status
 - Does not impact potentially eligible students

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VR Performance Goals

	SFY 21 Goal	As of 2.10.2021
Applicants	9,600	1,768
Eligibility	6,400	1,592
IPE	4,267	1,538
Services		12,168
Job Ready		769
Employed		798
Closed successfully employed over 90 days	2,500	743



VR Highlights

Provider Management

- Conducting Virtual Provider Reviews
- Hosted 2nd Quarter Provider Communication Forum
- Reconvened Provider Management Task Force

Transition Services

- Connecting with Special Education Directors – 150 responded
- Transition Talks - VR & LEA Virtual Job Shadowing (VJS) overview
- Launch of VJS
- On-Boarding Pre-Employment Specialists to ensure knowledge to deliver & coordinate PreETS

Client Services

- Supervisors started January 1st
- Increasing number of counselors
- Revising performance expectations
- Meeting frequently to address performance expectations
- Recruiting 11 Counselor 3's
- Deaf Services Coordinator

Program Support

- Training unit rolling out courses
- Meeting with VR leadership to review nine month training plan
- Coordinators providing TA and guidance
- Finalizing MOU with DBHDD
- Developing SOPs
- Policy committee formed and meeting

Legislative Updates

Robin Folsom, Director of External Affairs

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Appropriations and Key Dates

- AFY 2021 and SFY 2022 Subcommittees
- Crossover Day – March 8, 2021
- Sine Die – March 31, 2021



Bills “Crossing Over” to other Chamber

- **HB 34 - Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact Act; enact**
 - *Sponsors: Dave Belton, 112th; Lee Hawkins, 27th; John Corbett, 174th; Bill Hitchens, 161st; Shaw Blackmon, 146th; Karen Bennett, 94th*
 - *Senate Health and Human Services*
- **HB 43 – Motor Vehicles; require registration application forms to include optional information regarding certain conditions which may interfere with a registrant’s ability to communication**
 - *Sponsors: Wes Cantrell, 22nd; Jan Jones, 47th; Randy Nix, 69th; Martin Momtahan, 17th; Bill Werkheiser, 157th*
 - *Senate Public Safety*
- **HB 117 – Low THC Oil Patient Registry; ulcerative colitis as a condition for which low THC oil may be used for treatment; add**
 - *Sponsors: Rick Williams, 145th; Mack Jackson, 128th; Danny Mathis, 144th; Lauren McDonald, 26th; Alan Powell, 32nd*
 - *Senate Health and Human Services*



Bills “Crossing Over” to other Chamber

- **HB 146 – Public Officers and Employees; paid parental leave for eligible state employees and eligible local board of education employees; provide**
 - *Sponsors: Houston Gaines, 117th; Sharon Cooper, 43rd; Jan Jones, 47th; Marcus Wiedower, 119th; Bonnie Rich, 97th; Terry England, 116th*
 - *Senate Insurance and Labor*
- **HB 268 – The Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Act; enact**
 - *Sponsors: Bill Werkheiser, 157th; Jodi Lott, 122nd; Dave Belton, 112th; Karen Bennett, 94th; Lee Hawkins, 27th; Mesha Mainor, 56th*
 - *Senate Health and Human Services*



Blind Commission Legislation

- **HB 648 – Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; enact**
 - *Sponsors: Kim Schofield, 60th; James Beverly, 143rd; Mary Robichaux, 48th; Shelly Hutchinson, 107th; Sandra Scott, 76th; Billy Mitchell, 88th*
 - *House Health and Human Services*
- **HB 692 – Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; create**
 - *Sponsors: Demetrius Douglas, 78th; Jasmine Clark, 108th; Regina Lewis-Ward, 109th; Sheila Nelson, 125th; Brian Prince, 127th*
 - *House Health and Human Services*
- **SB 108 – Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired; create**
 - *Sponsors: Gail Davenport, 44th; Gloria Butler, 55th; Tonya Anderson, 43rd; Freddie Sims; 12th; Emanuel Jones, 10th; Valencia Seay, 34th*
 - *Senate Government Oversight*



Blind Commission Legislation

- Create a Blind Commission with the mission of overseeing cradle-to-grave services for individuals who are blind or have low vision
- Provide for the appointment of five (5) members, a paid Executive Director position, the authority of the Executive Director to hire personnel, and the signatory authority to rent/lease property
- Would transfer supervision of Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB) to the Commission, with the Department of Human Services (DHS) providing for equipment, maintenance, facilities management, and supplies
- Would establish Commission as State Licensing Agency for Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Would require development of a state plan for delivery of vocational rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind

Statewide Independent Living Council

Shelley Simmons, Executive Director

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Legislative Agenda

- Funding to the CILs & SILC be restored
- Modernize the Georgia Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities (GMWD) (Buy-In)
- Funding restored & increased to Home Access Program (HAP)



Current SILC Activities

- Independent Living Day at the Capitol (February 22, 2021. Virtual)
- Nearly 90 participants
- Recorded & can be reviewed www.silcga.org
- Storytelling platform being developed

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SILC & GILN Quarterly Board Meeting

- April 22, 2021
- Zoom Meeting

Please visit www.silcga.org for agenda and Zoom information



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Board Announcements

New Business

- At the May meeting, the board will elect new officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary) to serve for a one year term July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

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Board Recognition

Ms. Louise Hill

UGA Honor Hall Recipient, highest
award given from the College of Family
and Consumer Services.



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Board Announcements

Old Business

- None

Public Comments and Adjournment

Tom Wilson, Board Chair

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