

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS) Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Chairman Tom Wilson



GVRA



Chairman's Welcome

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

Executive Director's Report

Chris Wells, Executive Director

Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov



GVRA



Agency Spotlight

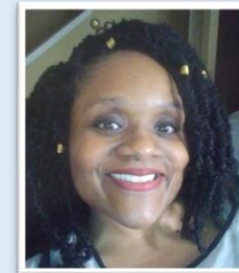
February Employee of the Month

Larry Price, Counselor Assistant
(Columbus VR Office)



March Employee of the Month

Crystal Clark, DAS
(Stone Mountain Office)



Notable Hires (effective June 1, 2023)

- Elizabeth “Niki” Watts - Assistant Director of Vocational Learning (RWS)
- Todd McCray - Assistant Director of Residential Learning (RWS)

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Current Events

- **Strategic Planning**
 - Kicked off our new strategic planning process with the UGA Carl Vinson Institute on May 4-5, 2023. GVRA Leadership Team met at 200 Piedmont Office for a day and a half to establish goals and identify strategies for the agency's Strategic Plan. The plan will guide GVRA's work for the next five years.
- **Employment First Georgia Council (EFC) Meeting**
 - Held a preliminary meeting with agency representatives for the EFC to adopt bylaws and review committees. Participating agencies were GVRA, the University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Education, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the Georgia Council of Developmental Disabilities. EFC members have been nominated and are awaiting appointment by the Governor's Office.
- **Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports (GATES)**
 - Attended the GATES board meeting to discuss upcoming events and adjustments the agency will undertake to increase service delivery.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

FY 2023 Current Budget

GVRA	Total Expenditures	Current Budget	Percent of Budget
300-Personal Services	\$53,496,940	\$87,344,127	61%
301-Operating Expenses	5,427,112	7,878,586	69%
303-Vehicle Purchases	518,975		
304-Equipment	260,984	62,854	415%
305-Computer Charges	2,973,252	6,348,461	47%
306-Real Estate Rentals	5,243,788	9,379,858	56%
307-Telecommunications	1,512,982	2,488,054	61%
309-Capital Outlay	446,685		
312-Contractual Services	13,795,970	13,839,076	100%
314-Transfers	52,500	207,500	25%
315-Grants and Benefits	3,825,552	5,210,251	73%
319-Other	427,594	480,032	89%
320-DAS CE/ME	14,514,838	21,066,212	69%
321-VR Case Services	14,812,627	32,072,386	46%
Total Expenditures	\$117,309,800	\$186,377,397	63%

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

FY 2024 Appropriations Update

Line Item	BEP	Admin	DAS	GIB	VR	Total
Statewide Adjustments	\$12,116	\$296,477	-	-	\$1,013,958	\$1,322,551
Reduce funds for the Georgia Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing.	-	-	-	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Increase funds and recognize base funds of \$361,500 for Georgia Radio Reading Services.	-	-	-	-	128,150	128,150
Increase funds for services.	-	-	-	-	150,000	150,000
Increase funds for independent living services.	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Increase funds for employment services to transplant recipients.	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Total State Funds Changes:	\$12,116	\$296,477	-	-	1,397,108	\$1,705,701

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

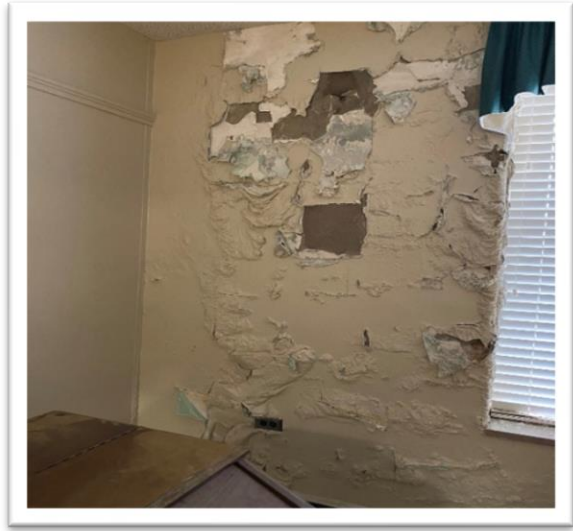
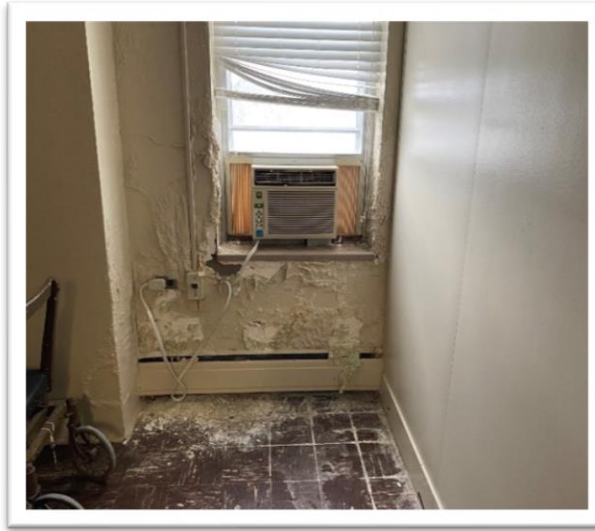
FY 2024 Bond Update

FY 2024 Bond Recommendation	Governor's Rec.
Major maintenance, renovations, and repairs, Roosevelt Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Meriwether County.	\$7,810,000

- GVRA commissioned a facility assessment in FY 2022 to evaluate major maintenance, renovation, and repair needs of 13 primary buildings on the historical Roosevelt Warm Springs campus. Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) provided an external review and summary of the extensive assessment findings.
- Governor's FY 2024 Recommendation of \$7,810,000 in General Obligation Bonds provides funding to address the most critical assessment findings based on GSFIC's review and summary.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

FY 2024 Bond Update



Major maintenance, renovations, and repairs at Roosevelt Warm Springs to include:

- Digital Control System
- Panelboard Replacement
- Exterior Metal Balconies
- Metal Doors
- Electrical Systems
- Domestic Water Distribution Piping
- Hot Water Functionality
- Exterior Masonry Restoration Project
- Fire Sprinkler System
- Wall and Ceiling Replacement
- Condenser Water Distribution Piping/Valve
- Perimeter Drainage System
- Floor Finishes and Replace Carpeting

Program and Legislative Highlights

Bethany Whetzel, Deputy Executive Director of Programs

Bethany.Whetzel@gvs.ga.gov



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Program Highlights

Client Services

- Application to Determination of Eligibility has increased from 77.4% in March to 96.2% in April
- Determination of Eligibility to Individual Plan for Employment has increased from 67.3% in March to 83.2% in April
- Since July 1, 2022, 929 clients have been closed successfully
- Currently serving 7,978 VR clients and 12,929 PTS cases
- Continued partnership with Shepherd Center to improve the vocational, health, and financial outcomes of persons with the most severe TBIs. Five referrals have been received and counselors are working to provide rapid engagement and coordinate service delivery with Shepherd Center

Program Highlights

Residential Services

- Staff is preparing to serve students participating in GROW. Around 50 students are anticipated to attend GROW at RWS this summer

Program Highlights

Policy & Compliance

- Today, the SWITCIE project held a kick-off meeting at Creative Enterprises

Program Highlights

Georgia Industries for the Blind/Business Enterprise Program

- GIB received a grant from the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) for \$40,000. The grant will allow us to buy supplies for the paper sheeter machine
- BEP participated in the quarterly meeting of the Committee for Blind Vendors (CBV)
 - Leadership is continuing to work closely with the CBV on improving business opportunities
- BEP is on track to relocate by July 1st
- Organization and clean up at Griffin GIB is complete

Program Highlights

Disability Adjudication Services

- The Interim Commissioner of the Social Security Administration and her team visited and met with DAS leadership at the Stone Mountain office
- Quality continues to improve – Rolling Quarter Accuracy Rate through March 2023 is 92.8%
- FFYTD case clearances through April 21, 2023 is 48,966. The majority are initial claims totaling 30,843
- Hiring continues with an additional 42 employees to be onboarded by September 30th

Legislative Highlights

- Legislative Update
- RSA Monitoring Update
- Committee Updates

Policy Initiatives

Jeff Allen, Director of Policy and Compliance

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Program Highlights

Policy Initiatives

- Reviewed manual for prohibitive policies
 - Simplified Supported Employment Policy
 - Removal of the 35-mile rule for Post-Secondary Support
 - Removal of Financial Need Policy
 - Updated comparable benefit language
 - Developing a standardized rate for Post-Secondary Support
 - Added policy for agricultural job retention
 - Removed all references to entry-level

Program Highlights

Policy Initiatives

- Continued work to remove procedures from policy; procedures will be housed in SOP Manual
- Developing new policies:
 - Measurable Skill Gains
 - Credential Attainment

New Business/Old Business

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board



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Bond Resolution

Zain Farooqui, General Counsel

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New Business/Old Business

- Approval of Bond Issuance
 - Motion: The Board hereby requests the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission to undertake to issue \$7,810,000 in aggregate principal amount of State of Georgia General Obligation Bonds

- Board Elections
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Secretary
 - Chairman Emeritus

Public Comments/Adjournment

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board



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Upcoming Events

- Wednesday July 26th, 2023
 - Annual in-person provider forum meeting is scheduled at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center
- Monday, August 7, 2023
 - Residential classes begin