

# Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS)

## Board Meeting

*Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021*



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# Chairman's Welcome

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

# Executive Report

## Chris Wells, Executive Director

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# Table of Contents

- Departmental Highlights
- Agency Structure
- Agency Financials
- GVRA Expenditure Projections



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# Highlights

- **Administration**

- Policies and Procedures
  - COVID – 19 Guidance ( August Return to Work )
  - Administration (Leadership Updates)
  - GVRA Business Unit
  - Stakeholders Summit – August 26, 2021
  - RSA Technical Assistance Report
  - Network Infrastructure

- **Business Enterprise Program (BEP)**

- 44 Blind Vendors working 13 Blind Vendors not working and approximately
- 1525 vendor employees
- RSA's Financial Relief Funds – GA BEP is projected to receive \$702K in federal financial relief from RSA; the BEP is finalizing the application for submission to RSA

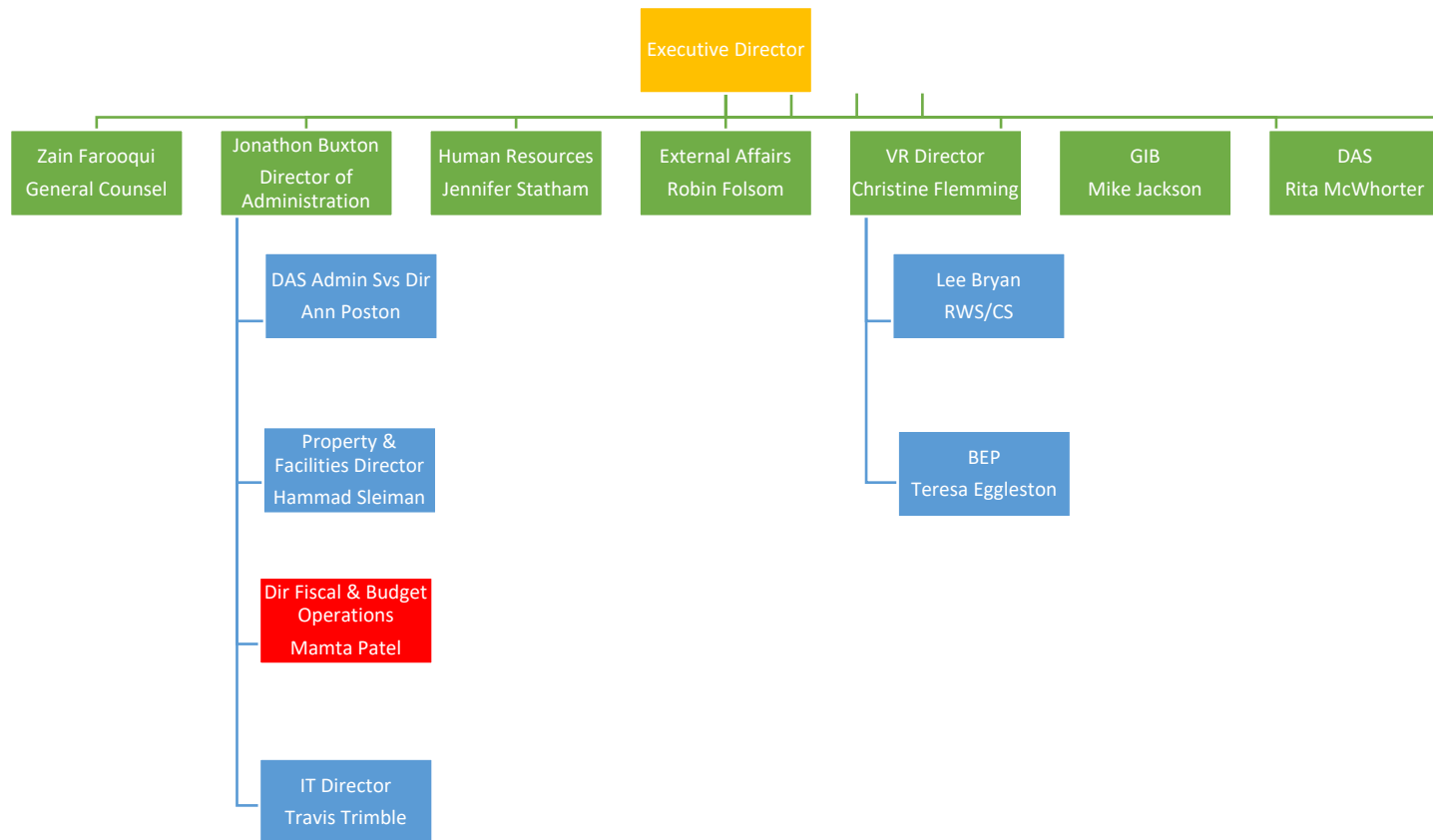


# Highlights

- **Disability Adjudication Services (DAS)**
  - 53,591 closed cases.
  - 40 new employees (38 Adjudicator Trainees).
  - New Disability Case Processing System (DCPS) within the next six (6) months.
  
- **Georgia Industries For the Blind (GIB)**
  - New Products
    - Piston Parts Kit (Defense Logistics Agency)
    - Parachute Deployment Bags (DLA)
    - Windshield Wiper Kits
    - Pleated Disposable Mask Machine (DLA)
  - Opportunities
    - Storage Facility in Griffin



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# Agency Expenditures

GVRA	Total Expenditures	Current Budget	Percent of Budget
300-Personal Services	\$64,467,544	\$85,668,117	75%
301-Regular Operating Expenses	\$5,309,596	\$8,005,438	66%
303-Motor Vehicle Purchases	\$0	\$0	
304-Equipment	\$1,528,954	\$176,754	865%
305-Computer Charges	\$4,019,510	\$6,939,854	58%
306-Real Estate Rentals	\$7,294,657	\$10,148,556	72%
307-Telecommunications	\$2,011,578	\$2,283,756	88%
309-Capital Outlay	\$388,851	\$0	
312-Contractual Services	\$15,277,639	\$15,751,818	97%
314-Transfers	\$0	\$40,916	0%
315-Grants and Benefits	\$27,273,313	\$46,849,802	58%
319-Other	\$975,745	\$1,470,843	66%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$128,547,385</b>	<b>\$177,335,854</b>	<b>72%</b>

Description: Chart of GVRA Agency Expenditures



# Stakeholders Summit

## Ahnieyah Porter, Executive Assistant

[Ahnieyah.porter@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Ahnieyah.porter@gvs.ga.gov)



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# Stakeholders Summit

- Purpose
- Format
- Speakers
- Topics
  - Sensory Services
  - VR Services and the Client Experience
  - Residential Services: An Immersive Training Experience
  - DAS: The Path to Independence
  - The Client Experience Forum
  - Provider Partnerships with GVRA
  - Community Stakeholders and Relationships Forum
  - Building Business Relationships Forum
  - Transitioning Services Forum

# Legislative Updates

## Robin Folsom, Director of External Affairs

[Robin.Folsom@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Robin.Folsom@gvs.ga.gov)



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# Passed Legislation

- **HB 128: Health; prohibit providers from discriminating against potential organ transplant recipients due solely to the physical or mental disability of the potential recipient**
  - *Sponsors: Rick Williams (145<sup>th</sup>), Mack Jackson (128<sup>th</sup>), Danny Mathis (144<sup>th</sup>), Lauren McDonald (26<sup>th</sup>), Alan Powell (32<sup>nd</sup>), Philip Singleton (71<sup>st</sup>)*
  - *Status: House sent to Governor after Senate passage*
  
- **HB 146: Public officers and employees; pain parental leave for eligible state employees and eligible local board of education employees; provide**
  - *Sponsors: Houston Gaines (117<sup>th</sup>), Sharon Cooper (43<sup>rd</sup>), Jan Jones (47<sup>th</sup>), Marcus Wiedower (119<sup>th</sup>), Bonnie Rich (97<sup>th</sup>), Terry England (116<sup>th</sup>)*
  - *Status: House sent to Governor after Senate passage*

**House Bill 146**

By: Representatives Gaines of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Wiedower of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Rich of the 97<sup>th</sup>, and others

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 20 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions regarding personnel administration, so as to provide for paid  
3 parental leave for eligible state employees and eligible local board of education employees;  
4 to provide for definitions; to provide for eligibility; to provide for terms and conditions; to  
5 provide for certain prohibitions; to provide for rules; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

8

**SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 20 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 general provisions regarding personnel administration, is amended by revising Code  
11 Section 45-20-17, which was previously reserved, as follows:

12 45-20-17.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Eligible employee' means:

H. B. 146

- 1 -



15 (A) Any individual identified in subparagraph (A), (E), (F), (G), or (L) of paragraph (2)  
16 of Code Section 45-18-1 who is classified as full-time by the applicable state employing  
17 entity; or

18 (B) Any individual identified in paragraph (4) of Code Section 20-2-880 or  
19 paragraph (3) of Code Section 20-2-910 who is classified as full-time by the applicable  
20 local board of education.

21 (2) 'Employing entity' means:

22 (A) The executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government; or

23 (B) A local board of education.

24 (3) 'Qualifying life event' means:

25 (A) The birth of a child of an eligible employee;

26 (B) The placement of a minor child for adoption with an eligible employee; or

27 (C) The placement of a minor child for foster care with an eligible employee.

28 (b) All eligible employees of an employing entity shall be eligible for paid parental leave  
29 for qualifying life events after six continuous months of employment with the employing  
30 entity regardless of whether the employee is eligible for paid or unpaid leave under federal  
31 law. Such paid parental leave shall be equally available to all eligible employees.

32 (c) The maximum amount of paid parental leave that may be taken by an eligible  
33 employee during any rolling 365 day period is 120 hours, regardless of the number of  
34 qualifying life events that occur within such period. Such leave does not have to be used  
35 in a block and may be used as needed, provided that such leave usage does not unduly  
36 disrupt the operations of the applicable employing entity. No portion of any such leave that  
37 remains 365 days after the qualifying life event shall carry over for future use.

38 (d) Unused paid parental leave shall have no cash value at the time of the eligible  
39 employee's separation from employment with the employing entity.

40 (e) Each employing entity shall promulgate rules for the administration of paid parental  
41 leave under this Code section for eligible employees which are not in conflict with this





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**SECTION 2.**

69 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.



# Roosevelt Warm Springs Updates

## Dr. Lee Brinkley-Bryan, Director of Residential Services

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# Highlights

- **Roosevelt Warm Springs/Cave Springs**
  - RWS Virtual Graduation – June 24, 2021
  - Morgan Cottage (1934) – Lost to a fire on April 30
  - RWS HVAC Mini-Plant Project- Phase 1 – July, 2021 (Bond Project) – Pre-Bid Conference – May 12, 2021
- **RWS Students Served:**
  - Distance Learning: 224
  - Distance Services: 344
  - Total Served: 568
- **RWS Return to Campus Phase II - May 17, 2021**
  - 20 - 22 Additional Students **Will Return to Campus**
- **CSC Students Served:**
  - Distance Learning: 19
  - Distance Services: 21
  - Total Served: 40
- **CSC Manager – Recruitment Due to Promotion**

# VR Reorganization Impact and Updates

## Dr. Christine Fleming, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation

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# VR Personnel

## As of April 2021

- 128 counselors
- 47 counselor 1
- 81 counselor 2
- 39 Pre-Employment Specialists
- 16 Employment Specialists
- 91 Assistants
- 23 Assistive Work Technology
- 17 Supervisors
- 7 District Managers
  
- 365 VR field services staff members

## Recruiting

- OAT
- 11 Counselor 3
- 37 Counselor 2
- 8 Pre-Employment Specialist
- 3 Employment Specialists
- Business Analyst

## Future Recruiting

- District Manager, Supervisors, Interpreters, Assistants

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# Total Individuals Served

Statewide SFY as of May 4, 2021:

MSD = 10,200

SD = 7,246

D = 658

Delayed/Waitlist= 545



# VR Participants

## Statewide SFY year to date (as of May 1, 2021):

- Total Open cases = 21,253
- New Potentially Eligible Students = 2,044
  - New Applicants = 2,421
  - IPE Developed = 1,818
- Receiving Services = 11,283
  - MSG rate = 10%
  - Job Ready = 820
  - Employed = 845
- Closed Rehab = 1,027
- Closed other = 6,321

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# Transition

- PreETS Capacity
- Virtual Job Shadowing
- GROW – Getting Ready for Opportunities in Work



# Transition

	Number of Staff Submissions	Number of High Schools	# PTS cases	#VR cases	# of Pre-ETS Provided (in-House)	# of Pre-ETS Coordinated (vendors)	# VJS licenses in use	# IEP meetings attended
District 1	13	41	395	532	83	125	142	51
District 2	14	70	1,405	146	213	87	3	3
District 3	8	104	609	161	99	4	0	15
District 4	13	65	1,266	330	304	96	32	39
District 5	5	33	843	14	115	43	6	7
District 6	11	62	834	337	136	100	116	79
District 7	6	40	656	89	159	92	232	33
District 8	4	29	612	7	180	111	119	10
State Totals	74	444	6,620	1,616	1,289	658	650	237

Description: Chart of VR Districts Transition data



# Bond Sales Overview

Paul Bryant, Bond Projects Manager

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# General Obligation Bonds

- Updates on Existing Bond Projects
- SFY 2022 Bond Resolution



# General Obligation Bonds

## Updates on Existing Bond Projects

- **Facility Assessment Capital Plan**
  - Performed in 2004 - recommended \$37M to repair the observed deficiencies
- **Recently Completed**
  - GIB Mask Machine, \$300k
- **Active Bond Projects ~ \$6.9 M**
  - RWS HVAC Mini Plants Phase 2
  - RWS Waterproofing Upgrades
  - RWS Portico Replacement (GSFIC MMR)
  - CSC Slope Re-grading (GSFIC MMR)



# General Obligation Bonds

## SFY 2022 Bond Resolution

- What are general obligation bonds?
- What's the process?
- Current Resolution for consideration  
**\$4.305 M**



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<u>H.B.</u>	<u>Bond</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>General Obligation Debt Authorized</u>	<u>General Obligation Debt Previously Issued</u>	<u>General Obligation Debt Available</u>	<u>General Obligation Debt Requested</u>
81	353.331	<p><b>[FEDERALLY TAXABLE]</b>            From State General Funds, \$390,894 is specifically appropriated for the purpose of financing projects and facilities for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency by means of the acquisition, construction, development, extension, enlargement, or improvement of land, waters, property, highways, buildings, structures, equipment or facilities, both real and personal, necessary or useful in connection therewith, through the issuance of not more than \$4,305,000 in principal amount of General Obligation Debt, the instruments of which shall have maturities not in excess of two hundred and forty months.</p>	\$4,305,000	\$0	\$4,305,000	\$4,305,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$4,305,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,305,000</b>	<b>\$4,305,000</b>

# State Rehabilitation Council

**Kate Brady, Chairperson**

[kate.brady@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:kate.brady@gvs.ga.gov)



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# Statewide Independent Living Council

Shelly Simmons, Executive Director

[SSimmons@silcga.org](mailto:SSimmons@silcga.org)



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# SILC Storytelling Platform

Personal narratives are a powerful tool for creating feelings of empathy, understanding and motivation for action.



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# Tell Your Story...

Through this platform, SILCGA will be able to make the connection between the storyteller (YOU) and the listener (policy changers).



# Be Creative...

- Share your stories on employment, housing and/or transportation. What challenges and/or successes have you encountered in regards to your independence?
- Share your story through whatever creative outlet you prefer. Whether it is an essay, a short video (less than 3 minutes), an audio clip, a painting.

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# Visit our website:

[www.silcga.org](http://www.silcga.org)

*OR*

Follow the link(s) to tell your story:

[Story Submission \(google.com\)](http://StorySubmission.google.com) or

[tinyurl.com/tellmystorywithsilc](http://tinyurl.com/tellmystorywithsilc)



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# Board Announcements

- **Old Business**

- None

- **New Business**

- Election of new officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary) to serve for a one year term July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
- Approval of Bond Resolution

# Public Comments and Adjournment

**Tom Wilson, Board Chair**

[tom.wilson@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:tom.wilson@gvs.ga.gov)



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