

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

October 9, 2024

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting

Tom Wilson, Board Chairman

GVRS_Board@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting Agenda

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board
October 9, 2024 at 10:30 A.M.

GVRA Day at the Georgia National Fairgrounds
401 Larry Walker Parkway
Perry, Georgia 31069

10:30 am	Opening	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
10:35 am	Welcome and Remarks	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
10:40 am	Roll Call and Agenda	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
10:45 am	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting Minutes Approval • FY2024 & FY2025 Budgets 	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
10:50 pm	GVRA Year-End Review	<i>Chris Wells GVRA Executive Director</i>
11:10 pm	The Eleanor Roosevelt School	<i>Debron Walker School Co-Owner</i>
11:30 pm	New Business/Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Board Meeting Dates 	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
11:35 pm	*Public Comments/Adjournment	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>

** Individuals are allowed up to five (5) minutes for public comment. The board asks that individuals seeking to offer public comments provide written notice in advance or upon meeting completion.*

Please join the Zoom meeting by clicking on this [link](#).



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting Agenda

- ❖ Welcome and Remarks
- ❖ Roll Call and Agenda

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Consent Agenda

- ❖ Previous Board Meeting Minutes Approval
- ❖ Budget Report

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2024

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD

August 14, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:20 PM

Roosevelt Warm Springs, 6135 Roosevelt Highway, Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Wilson, Chair	Suzanne Dooley (virtually)
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair	Vincent Martin (virtually)
Sandy Adams, Secretary	James Defoor (virtually)
Craig Camuso	
Louise Hill (virtually)	
Jane McCall	
Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director	
Ex Officio Member	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Johnathon Taylor

Opening, Welcome, and Invocation

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance, and the meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the agenda be as amended as follows:

- Move the FY2024 and FY2025 Budget Reports to Executive Director Wells's section as an Informational Item

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the amended agenda.

On motion of Vice Chair Perdue, seconded by Mr. Camuso, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Agenda as amended.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approve Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Vice Chair Perdue, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

Budget Reports

Executive Director Wells reviewed the FY2024 and FY2025 Budgets with the Board and stated that the Budget approval was underway with RSA.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2024

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Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells recognized all FY2024 Employees of the Month. These outstanding employees and their supervisors were guests of the GVRs Board meeting and enjoyed lunch with the Board. Executive Director Wells highlighted those chosen as Employees of the Month not recognized at previous Board meetings:
 - Alfred Wheeler, VR Supervisor for the Dublin Office, June 2024 Employee of the Month
 - Kathy Riner, Intake Specialist at the Dublin Office, May 2024 Employee of the Month
 - Azure Odum, Intake Specialist at the Columbus Office, April 2024 Employee of the Month
- Executive Director Wells reminded the Board that the Enterprise Training Office has developed a professional learning rotation and schedule.
- Executive Director Wells introduced the Board to the new Client Services Director, Mrs. Deana Brown.

Georgia CTI

Mrs. Mary Donahue, Executive Director of Georgia Career & Technical Instruction, Inc. (CTI) shared how her agency partners with GVRa and the Georgia Department of Education to strengthen the local school contacts and VR counselor relationships, helping to identify qualified high school students for VR support and increasing the Pre-ETS and client base. She highlighted the following:

- A recap of the GVRa Day with the Braves
- G.R.O.W. with GVRa
- In-school Pre-ETS with GVRa
- Information about Georgia CTI

Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute Update

Mr. Chip Medders an update on RWS 2.0 which includes the following:

- Current Pathway Offerings:
 - Low Voltage Wiring
 - Hospitality
 - Logistics/Warehousing
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (RWS has an excavator and bulldozer on site for students in the pathway to develop work-based learning skills.)
 - Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN)
 - Auto Detailing
 - Retail (CVS)

All program offerings allow students the opportunity to earn nationally accredited industry certifications.



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- New Pathway Options Coming Soon include:
 - Construction Jumpstart (components include framing/carpentry, light HVAC and plumbing, and small engine repair)
 - Pharmacy Technician
 - Groundskeeping
- The RWS Student Calendar for 2024-2025
- The RWS Class Schedule
- Dorm Life at RWS
- The Center for Therapeutic Recreation (CTR) and other Campus Amenities
- Tour offerings such as Transition Tours, School Faculty Tours, and Parent-Student Tours
- A Comparison of Enrollment from August 2023 to January 2024 to August 2024.

Old Business/New Business

Chairman Wilson reported that Greg and Katherine Rekken visited RWS. Mrs. Rekken is the granddaughter of Henry Pope, Sr. Mr. Pope developed a strong, lightweight, comfortable leg brace built from steel tubing which revolutionized the field of braces used to aid polio victims and eliminate the need for costly custom building. Mr. Pope helped to purchase the property where President Roosevelt built the Roosevelt Warms Springs Institute.

Chairman Wilson reminded the Board of the remaining meeting for the year:

- October 9, 2024, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, also GVRA Day at the Fair

Public Comment & Adjournment

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. As there was no public comment, he called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Mrs. McCall, seconded by Mr. Camuso, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 p.m.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency FY 2025 Agency Budget Comparison

Category	Total Expenditures	Current Budget	Percent to Budget
Personal Services	\$19,419,435	\$91,196,905	21%
Regular Operating Expenses	2,958,791	6,443,496	46%
Motor Vehicle Expenses	-	-	-
Equipment	467,246	176,754	264%
IT Expenditures	1,296,025	5,077,689	26%
Real Estate Rentals	1,357,828	7,662,309	18%
Telecommunications	351,407	2,447,122	14%
Capital Projects/Outlay	4,211	-	-
Contractual Services	577,646	14,105,564	4%
Transfers	-	135,000	-
Grants and Benefits	2,339,003	4,870,049	48%
Other	438,130	721,978	61%
DAS Case Services	5,240,052	21,060,000	25%
VR Case Services	15,472,366	31,787,377	49%
Total Expenditures	\$49,945,780	\$185,684,243	27%



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency FY 2025 Program Based Budget

Program Name	FY 2024 Expenditures	FY 2025 Current Budget			
		State	Federal	Other	Total
Business Enterprise Program	\$2,673,619	\$335,972	\$2,443,269	-	\$2,779,241
Departmental Administration	9,672,203	2,908,950	7,846,048	284,597	11,039,595
Disability Adjudication Services	55,981,717	-	65,972,102	-	65,972,102
Georgia Industries for the Blind	5,434,708	-	-	4,365,888	4,365,888
Vocational Rehabilitation	88,322,632	25,752,292	69,425,042	5,063,038	100,240,372
Total	\$162,084,879	\$28,997,214	\$145,686,461	\$9,713,523	\$184,397,198



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Fiscal Dates

- July 1, 2024: State Fiscal Year 2025 starts
- September 3, 2024: Amended Fiscal Year 2025/Fiscal Year 2026 budget requests due
- September 30, 2024: Federal Fiscal Year 2024 ends
- October 1, 2024: Federal Fiscal Year 2025 starts
- January 13, 2025: State legislative session starts and will run until late March/early April 2025
- June 30, 2025: State Fiscal Year 2025 ends

July 24							August 24							September 24							October 24							November 24							December 24							
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
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Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Bond Request

Priority	Program	Project Title	Location	Request
1	Roosevelt Warm Springs	Roosevelt Hall Improvements	Roosevelt Hall	\$2,447,711
2	Roosevelt Warm Springs	GA Hall Kitchen and Dining Hall Improvements	Georgia Hall	5,040,000
3	Georgia Industries for the Blind	Main Water Line Repair	Bainbridge	375,626
4	Roosevelt Warm Springs	Major Sewage, Stormwater, and Erosion	Campus Wide	5,826,663
5	Georgia Industries for the Blind	Major Electrical Infrastructure Improvements	Bainbridge	1,000,000
6	Georgia Industries for the Blind	Exterior Structure and Walkway Improvements	Bainbridge	350,000
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Total Request:				\$15,040,000



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Bond Request



Kitchen and Dining Area



Auditorium – Roosevelt Hall



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Performance Measures

Program	Measure	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
BEP	% increase in the number of blind vendors	0%	0%	0%	0%
BEP	Amount collected in total sales	\$4,978,002	\$5,947,945	\$6,700,263	\$7,656,258
BEP	Number of blind vendors	57	52	51	49
Admin	Agency turnover rate	12.50%	17.00%	22.00%	22.00%
Admin	Number of audit findings	0	0	0	0
Admin	Number of customers complaints	167	289	229	196
Admin	% of federal grants utilized	87%	76%	71%	76%
Admin	% of agency funding dedicated to administration	6%	5%	7%	6%
DAS	% of disability benefit determinations found to be correct	93.70%	93.60%	97.00%	94.90%
DAS	Average number of days to determine claims	161.6	192.7	224.2	349.3
DAS	Number of claims adjudicated	84,442	93,710	90,490	91,705
GB	Number of blind persons employed	34	34	27	30
GB	Total revenue generated from products and services	\$5,194,566	\$3,763,939	\$3,547,348	\$4,232,227
GB	% of total direct labor hours performed by blind individuals	73.10%	74.50%	75.90%	79.89%
GB	% of total revenue from services	8.55%	11.94%	12.24%	10.53%
GB	% of total revenue from commercial sales	1.40%	2.00%	2.01%	10.71%
GB	% of total revenue from federal sales	88.51%	80.54%	85.50%	73.63%
VR	Number of clients served	29,173	28,760	28,190	32,919
VR	% of cases determined eligible within 60 days	62%	68%	66%	94%
VR	% of cases successfully closed	24%	22%	28%	78%
VR	Number of clients on the waiting list for services	447	922	0	0%
VR	Number of clients served by residential services	665	720	171	143
VR	Average daily cost per student (in state general funds)	\$79	\$113	\$225	\$441
VR	Number of residential VR admissions	597	590	78	147
VR	Average daily residential VR census	107	97	47	28
VR	Average length of residential VR program participation (in days)	65	163	316	69
VR	Number of students served by pre-employment transition services	7,923	9,315	11,957	18,208
VR	Industry recognized credential obtainment	26%	30%	40%	40%
VR	% of cases with IPE developed within 90 days	75%	66%	78%	94%



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

GVR Board Meeting

Chris Wells, Executive Director

Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Agency Spotlight – Employee of the Month for July 2024



John Malone
Asset Management
Specialist



Due to his versatility and dedication, John has earned the title of our team's "Swiss Army Knife." His extensive knowledge spans not just Facilities, but all aspects of GVRA, making him an invaluable asset to the team and agency. John is the ultimate clutch player, consistently stepping up to tackle challenges and support his colleagues, often going above and beyond his regular duties. His positive energy and proactive approach to problem-solving create a productive and supportive workplace environment, making him an outstanding candidate for Employee of the Month.

In July alone, John demonstrated exceptional initiative by building a relationship with a nonprofit organization to donate some of the agency's surplus items, resulting in savings of over \$16,000 that would have otherwise been spent on disposal fees. This is just the latest example of John's ongoing efforts to reduce costs for our agency. Over the past few years, he has saved the agency tens of thousands of dollars by redistributing surplus items both within the agency and to external partners. Through fostering strong relationships with nonprofits and other state agencies in need, John has significantly contributed to the Agency's financial efficiency and community impact.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Agency Spotlight – Employee of the Month for August 2024



Phillip Parker
IPSE Counselor
Valdosta Office



Phillip Parker regularly performs acts that particularly enhance the public's perception of the Agency. GVRA has received comments from IPSE programs in Atlanta, emails from the Emory Autism Center, and feedback from several IPSE programs throughout the state that show Phillip has built strong relationships with the Inclusive Postsecondary programs in Georgia and built a previously unseen level of trust and confidence in the Agency amongst IPSE program staff, students, and families.

Phillip is known for being responsive, diligent, and approachable. He is careful to seek guidance whenever he is unsure of an appropriate response or action. In August 2024 he responded extraordinarily to an unanticipated issue on behalf of the agency by jumping in and willingly absorbing the cases connected to a new VR service and partnership with Emory University's Autism Center. The previous counselor had resigned, leaving Emory staff distraught at the sudden loss of their VRC/POC just as the new school year began. A lot of casework needed to occur to prepare students needing GVRA's services before the new school year began. Phillip Parker stepped up in an encouraging and optimistic manner, exceeding all expectations. He has been repeatedly praised by the Emory Autism Center staff.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

The Eleanor Roosevelt School

Debron Walker, School Co-Owner

Debron.Walker@erso1936.com



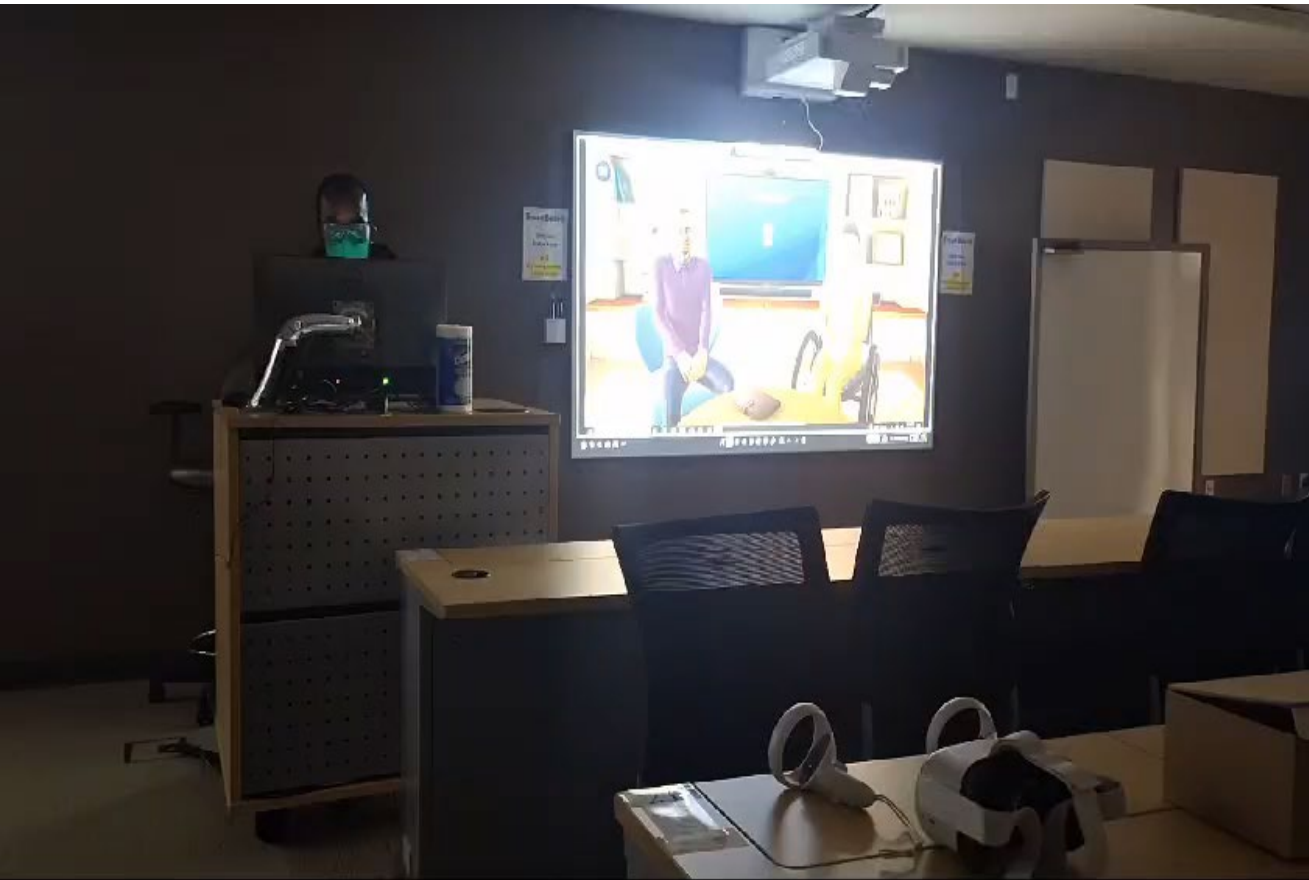
The Eleanor Roosevelt School



"The Eleanor Roosevelt School is emblematic of the legacy of my grandmother, Eleanor Roosevelt, who fought for humanitarian values. This site stands as an important representative of our Civil Rights history, and it is critical that this history be honored as integral to the history of the United States. I strongly support the efforts to save this significant site and the vision of the future it represents."

— Nina Roosevelt Gibson, PhD

The Eleanor Roosevelt School



bodyswaps

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The Eleanor Roosevelt School Victory Garden and Agriculture Initiative



The Eleanor Roosevelt School



Duke University talks
E.R.S.O and Soft
Skills



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

GVR Board New Business & Old Business

Tom Wilson, Chairman

GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Proposed Board Meeting Dates

- ❖ January 8, 2025 – Georgia Student Finance Commission, Tucker, Georgia
- ❖ May 14, 2025 – Athens Technical College, Athens, Georgia
- ❖ August 13, 2025 – Roosevelt Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Georgia
- ❖ October 8, 2025 – Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

GVRB Board Public Comments & Adjournment

Tom Wilson, Chairman

GVRB_Board@gvs.ga.gov

