

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013  
1:00pm – 3:00pm**

DISABILITY ADJUDICATION SERVICES (DAS) LOCATION  
1551 JULIETTE ROAD  
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30083

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sandy Adams  
Jimmy DeFoor  
Marsha Farrow  
Louise Hill  
Fay Loggins  
Amy O'Dell  
Don Parks

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Greg Kirk  
Robert Green

Mr. Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS) March Board meeting. He expressed his appreciation to Disability Adjudication Services and the public for being in attendance at the GVRS Board meeting today.

Mr. DeFoor called the GVRS Board meeting to order at approximately 1:03 pm with the roll call.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. DeFoor moved to consider meeting minutes from the last board meeting be approved and asked if there were any additions or corrections to those minutes.

A motion was made on January closed board meeting by Marsha Farrow for correction of February meeting minutes to correct the motion was made by Marsha Farrow and not Louise Hill.

A motion was made by Marsha Farrow to make the correction of the minutes. The motioned second by Don Parks. Motioned approved and passed unanimously.

Mr. DeFoor asked for a motion for meeting minutes to be approved from the last board meeting. Motion from Mr. Parks, motioned seconded by Ms. Farrow. There being no questions or discussion, the motion passed unanimously by the Board.

A motion was made by Don Parks and seconded by Ms Farrow that the minutes of the February 13, 2013 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously by the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, advised the order of agenda would be changed as to allow SSA Regional Commissioner, Mr. Michael Grochowski to present an overview of SSA.

Mr. DeFoor thanked Mr. Williams for the DAS presentation and overview. He then welcomed DAS Director, Sharon Baker and her staff who did an overview of DAS.

Mr. DeFoor asked if any questions from Board members. None asked. Mr. DeFoor then introduced GVRA, Executive Director, Greg Schmiege for the Executive Director report.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Greg Schmieg, presented the Director's report with the following:

1. RSA conducted a three day technical site visit, March 6-8, 2013.
  - Correction Action Plan - result of the monitoring that was done in FY2011 Roosevelt Warm Springs cost allocations;
  - Discussion on current VR Program Grant Status;
  - Recent Recommended VR Policy Changes – that the Board has approved;
  - Order of Selection – definitions of priority categories;
  - Shared alternate options for priority categories that the VR is looking at;
  - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Department of Labor;
  - Update of Electronics Case Management System

Mr. Schmieg advised we should be in full compliance with RSA with submission of reports forthcoming.

2. RSA shared financial reports FY2006 through FY2010 RSA advised that Georgia has ranked either #1 or #2 in the country for sending federal funds back to the federal government. These monies do not go back to reducing the federal deficit, but to other states for their VR Programs where the monies have been matched.

3. VR's assessment processes and policy's.

- Ava Scarce presented brief explanation of VR processes and assessments.
- The potential federal grant for this year is roughly 105 million which equals a ratio of 78.7% of the total pot of money that could be spent on VR clients. So the match required to draw down the full 105 million is roughly 28 million. We would have a 133 million program to serve VR clients for the State of Georgia.

Pulling everything together that we can possibly pull as matched, which means will only match about 63 million of that grant, leaves 42 million on the table. Jimmy DeFoor echoed about what has been said about RSA. They feel very strongly that we have a great deal of potential in Georgia, but it's just not going to be realized until we can find the match money that enables us to draw that 105 million.

A vendor asked how does this impact the vendors for the GVRA program for the continued fiscal year?

4. Mr. Schmieg replied that there are two types of vendors. We have contracted vendors, in which we actually have a negotiated contract and 100% of that contract is encumbered and we have and about 180 service vendors; which do not have contracts and there is no financial agreement. For both these vendors, they only receive payments if the VR program makes referrals to utilize their contract or service agreement. As the pot has shrunk, both those groups are impacted.

Mr. Schmieg asked the board to establish to review policy changes in VA.

Mr. Garrick Scott asked who would make the determinations on the categories now and in the future? It seems everyone would always be assigned to Category A if we continue in this manner.

Mr. Schmieg replied, I understand your concern, and the answer to your question is better training and educating the counselors.

5. Carl McRae and Gene Washington have been working on TEAM Project 26, which held their most recent TEAM 26/ Job Fair in Augusta, GA. 14 veterans got jobs on that day. Mr. Schmieg Then introduced Kevin Harris to provide legislative and communications update.

Kevin Harris introduced the new GVRA website. It is now 80% complete and will go live by the end of the month, and explained the structure of the new website.

Mr. DeFoor - this does conclude our entire agenda. I would also like to publicly express appreciation for both of our interpreters, Christie and Dot. At this time, I would like to ask for the motion to move to Executive Session for us to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss real estate matters. Fay Loggins made the motion, Sandy Adams, second the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business presented.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business presented.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No requests for public comment were received.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board reconvened after the Executive Session. Mr. DeFoor thanked the audience for being a part of the Board meeting. There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:46 pm.

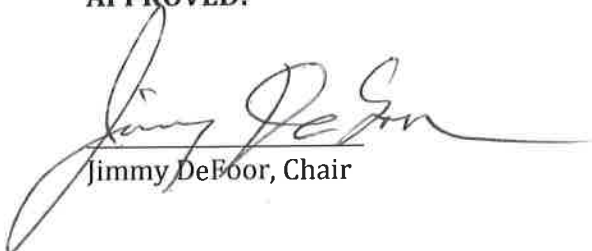
#### **THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 in at Two Peachtree Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, NW, Atlanta, GA.



Marsha Farrow, Secretary

#### **APPROVED:**



Jimmy DeFoor, Chair