

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
GEORGIA MOUNTAINS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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January 26, 2012

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Investment Board (GMWIB) met January 26, 2012 at the Gainesville Civic Center in Gainesville, GA at 4:00 pm. Handouts were made available as visual aids. Also a sign in sheet was distributed and the following were present:

Members Present

Andrea Gibby
Audrey Turner
Charlie Auvermann
Clark Wilingham
Connie Smith
Dale Harrell
Angela Whidby for Gerald Voyles
Deborah K. Mack
Dr. John Raber
Janice Riley
Pat Freeman
Peter J. Hill Sr.
Rex Farmer
Sam Norton
Stanley Darnell
Tim Bala
W. Danny Lewis
William (Bill) Chafin
William S. Wade

Staff/Guest Present

Diana Eddins -Wiggin
Diane Jackson
Jessica Williams
John Phillips
Nona Turk

Call to Order/Welcome

Andrea Gibby, Board Chair, called the meeting to order. She welcomed the attendees. A roll call was done and a quorum was established. Andrea introduced Connie Smith, new Board Member. Connie gave a bio stating she worked for 14 years with the Technical Colleges of Georgia; she also worked with Economic Development. She served as the 2010 Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce. She now works for the Department of Labor as the Economic Development Coordinator for Region 2.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gibby advised the members that the minutes from the October 24, 2011 and the December 2, 2011 minutes need to be approved. Upon review, a motion was made to accept the minutes as written.

Motion to accept was made by Sam Norton.

Motion seconded by William (Bill) Chafin.

All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

New Business

New Board Members - Connie Smith with the Department of Labor gave a brief Bio to the board members. Angelia Whidby replaced Gerald Voyles, who requested to be off the Board.

Adult/Youth GED - Workforce Development Director, John Phillips, discussed the new pilot GED program working with the Hall County and Dawson County Court System to assist offenders in obtaining their GED.

John explained he met with the Judges last week and we are scheduled to meet with the court system next week. John stated offenders that do not have their GED are required to obtain their GED as part of their sentencing. John told the board we would like to work with the court system and meet with the offenders to assist them in getting their GED by paying for the GED exam; as well as possibly assisting with childcare, transportation and meals while they are trying to get their GED. The benefit to the court system is, if they do not follow through to get their GED we would call the court system and they would be exited from the program. We want to set it up in three month cycles. If we don't see progress then they would be exited from our system. We will allow six months for them to obtain their GED. If they obtain their GED we would continue to work with them and assist with continued training at a Technical College to help them get a job. We will use the advice of the Adult Learning Centers to help us. This will be a pilot program for Hall and Dawson.

John Raber asked if this is just going to be for Hall County. John Phillips explained in the beginning it is for Hall and Dawson. He said we have to grow our way into it. If the program works, then we will open it up to the other counties. John Raber said, they are a big circuit and they would also like to become a part of this program as soon as they could. John Phillips asked that the Board allow him one quarter to get the program in place.

Danny Lewis stated one of the important things to remember is no one in Georgia is doing anything like this. Danny said he applauds it and to remember this is a pilot program and we have to start somewhere.

John Raber asked if there would be a conflict with the Mountain Education Center. John Phillips stated it is not a conflict.

Chair Gibby asked for a nomination to approve the GED pilot program.

Motion was made by Dr. John Raber to approve WD to develop a plan for a pilot GED program.

Dale Harrell seconded the motion with the condition to table and bring a plan back to the Board in one quarter.

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Goodwill/New Provider – John Phillips told the Board that Goodwill has submitted an application to provide training for Forklift Operator and Floor Tech. He stated no vote was needed at this time.

New Staff - Ginger Little, Program Associate / Marissa Smith, Receptionist Admin Secretary / Andrea Disharoon, HR

Lee Arrendale Transition Center – Diana Eddins-Wiggin, Adult/DW Supervisor told the Board members about the Transition Center and how Georgia Mountains Workforce Development may be able to assist with training for eligible candidates from the Transition Center. Diana and Jessica Williams visited the Transition Center on January 24th and gave an overview of the services available from GMWD office. The Transition Center has facilities for 117 women. We had over 60 women present at the overview. They have had good statics and we are seeing if WIA can play a role there also.

John Raber stated he didn't understand why we went to meet with these women.

Diana explained we went to tell them about our program and what we may provide, if they want to go to Tech School or college when they get out. John Phillips explained that these women can come and go. They have to work and pay to stay there.

Diana also states she left information on site on how to apply for our services as well as information on the other WIA areas for the State of Georgia.

Summer Jobs – Jessica Williams, Youth Case Manager Supervisor, gave a brief discussion on the summer jobs for the youth and an update of accomplishments thus far. Jessica stated that we have already started preparing for our summer work experience program. It is for youth ages 14 to 21 that are interested in getting a six week work experience for the summer. They have to be eligible and suitable to complete the program. They have to set goals to see where they want to be in the future. We look at their goals and try to find a worksite for them based on what they want to do in the future. We pay the wages and provide workers comp while they are in the program. We have contacted all of the 13 counties.

Jessica also explained the eligibility for the program. John Raber asked what counties. Jessica explained we have contacted all thirteen counties.

John Phillips explained that this is where we need the Boards help in letting their area know.

John Raber requested that Jessica send the Board the eligibility criteria information. Will Wade request that Jessica send him a list of what schools they have contacted within our 13 county area.

Old Business

Approval of By-Laws - Chair Gibby advised members that the By-Laws needed to be approved. She informed members, a copy of the By-Laws had been e-mailed to them and a copy is also in their packets.

Motion was made by Danny Lewis to approve By-Laws with the exception of the typo on page three.
William Wade seconded motion.
All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Comprehensive Plan – Chair Gibby informed the Board that the Plan will be on the web site for 30 days and there will be a called meeting in March for approval.

Youth Council – A list of the new Youth Council was included in the handouts. John Phillips stated to the Board if there is any other nomination for the Youth Council they can make them now.

Peter Hill nominated Bindy Auvermann to become a member of the Youth Council. Danny Lewis seconded motion. John Raber nominated Litton Dejarnette.

A motion was made to approve the Youth Council with two additional members by John Raber.
Sam Norton seconded motion. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Financial update

Nona Turk, Billing Specialist, gave a brief financial update. Will Wade requested to see a budget and where it was spent. Nona said she will get it together and send it out in an e-mail.

Performance update

Diana Eddins-Wiggin gave an update on the number of WIA customers that successfully completed their training Fall Semester. Diana stated we had 43 customers that graduated Fall Semester. Twenty percent of them have obtained a job. She broke the 43 graduates down by the county in which they reside.

13- Forsyth	5 - Lumpkin
1 - Franklin	1 - Rabun
2- Habersham	1 - Stephens
15- Hall	3 - Union
1- Hart	1 - White

Meeting Calendar

The next scheduled meeting is March 29, 2012.

Adjournment

Will Wade made a motion to adjourn.
Angela Whidby seconded, all agreed. Meeting Adjourned



Andrea Gibby, Chair