GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
GEORGIA MOUNTAINS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
2481 HILTON DRIVE, SUITE 8 ♦ GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30501
PHONE (770) 538-2727 FAX (770) 538-2730

April 25, 2013

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Investment Board (GMWIB) met on April 25, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lavonia Railroad Depot Welcome Center. Handouts were made available as visual aids. Also, a sign-in sheet was distributed and the following were present:

Members Present
Charlie Auvermann
Thomas Bridges
David Cagle
Bill Chafin
Rex Farmer
Andrea Gibby
Mitch Griggs
Dale Harrell
Mark Ivester
Danny Lewis
Sam Norton
Dean Scarborough
William Wade
Mark Winters

Staff
Diana Eddins-Wiggin
Diane Jackson
Ginger Little
Samantha O'Day
John Phillips
Nona Turk
Jessica Williams

Guest
Danette Smith

Call to Order/Welcome

Chair Andrea Gibby called the meeting to order and a quorum was established. John Phillips, WD Director welcomed attendees.

New Business

Board Appointments

Chair Andrea Gibby informed the Board that Chris Dockery would be replacing Dr. John Raber representing Lumpkin County on the Board. Chair Gibby welcomed guest Danette Smith, Regional Coordinator for Area 2. Chair Gibby made a presentation to Board member Mark Ivester, Vice President of Economic Development with NGTC and expressed thanks to Mark for allowing WD to utilize their facility to help train the new WD Mobile Training Unit drivers. Mark stated it was good to be at the meeting and that it is a joy to work with WD.

GOWD Changes

John Phillips referred to a letter included in the handouts from Trisha Pridemore that stated that Ms. Pridemore's last day with GOWD was on April 15, 2013. Blake Ashbee was named the Interim Executive Director. John informed the Board that the House Bill 393 was included in their packets. He suggested that they take time to read the Bill. This is the first time that WIA has officially been recognized by the State of Georgia. John gave a brief presentation of some of the major changes included in the Bill.

Danny Lewis stated he was not able to attend the Board Retreat because he was invited by the GOWD to give input on the Bill. Danny explained that the Bill is putting what WD did under the Georgia Department of Labor under the Governor's Office of Workforce Development. He informed the Board that Blake Ashbee will be speaking at the Economic Development Conference at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris.

GED Program at Regional Youth Detention Center

Jessica Williams, Youth Case Manager Supervisor, explained that several months ago John had a wonderful idea to try to get a GED program into the RegionalYouth Detention Center in Hall County which covers most of the 13 county area that WD servers. WD was recently able to meet with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. The DJJ was very excited about the meeting and wants to make this a pilot program. WD also met with the Director and Assistant Director, as well as staff at the Youth Detention Center in Hall County. The meeting was very productive. WD will be partnering with Lanier Technical College Adult Learning Center to provide an Instructor at the Detention Center to teach and administer the GED exam on site. WD wants to begin the pilot program on June 1, 2013. WD would like to start the pilot program with six male and six female students. Then if it is successful, the program could be opened up to the entire State.

Update on Summer Programs

Jessica informed the Board included in their handouts are updated information for the WD Summer Program. She gave a brief summary of the information stating that the 2012 WD Summer Program assisted 66 youth, and will be serving 92 in 2013.

Mobile Training Units (MTU) Staff Assignments

John Phillips referred to the MTU handout and explained this information was compiled from suggestions that were made by the Board at the Planning Retreat in February. This list contains the staff and assignments for places to take the MTUs. Will Wade made a suggestion to add Middle and Elementary Schools to Patrick Shuler's list of contact sites and to also have him meet with the After School Program Site Coordinators.

Growth over Last Year

In the Board handouts, John referred to the list of total number of applications received by WD. This shows that the number of applications has more than doubled since last year. In March 2012 WD received 31 new applications and ninety five new applications were received in March 2013. John stated he feels the numbers have increased due to WD staff conducting Overview sessions in all 13 counties and because Whitney Williams offers the sessions at the Technical Colleges. WD now goes to every county at least twice per year, if not more. John stated that we are also looking at other programs for customers that cannot afford to attend a technical college, such as training for welding. David explained that the Plumbers, Pipefitters and Service Technicians Union has an 18 week welding training program. Out of

350,000 welders 45% will be retiring soon. If participants pass the welding exam they will be hired and could make $23.00 to $29.00 per hour.

Supportive Services
John Phillips stated that WD is trying to bring support services expenditures inline so it can assist more people. WD staff member, Matthew Oberholtzer did a survey from all of the WD areas in the State of Georgia. WD proposes to assist with participants with childcare in the amount of $100 per week per child for Hall, Dawson, Forsyth and Lumpkin Counties with a maximum being $200.00 per week, all others counties is $80.00 a week per child, maximum $200.00; transportation is $12.00 per day; and WD would no longer assist with meals. Chair Gibby stated that a vote is needed on the proposed dollar amount changes to supportive services. Bill Chafin made a motion to change the amount for supportive services. Rex Farmer seconded. All were in favor. Danny Lewis inquired as to what date the change would go into effect. John Phillips stated May 1, 2013. Chair Gibby asked for an amendment to include the effective date. Bill Chafin amended the motion for the change to supportive services to add the effective date of May 1, 2013. Rex Farmer seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

Sam Norton made a motion to approve the minutes from January 31, 2013 as written. Dean Scarborough seconded and motion passed unanimously. Dean Scarborough made a motion to approve the minutes for February 19, 2013. Bill Chafin seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update

Nona Turk reviewed with the Board the spreadsheet included in the handouts and explained that if all of the ITA's come in by June 30, 2013 WD will have used all of PY12 money and also would be using PY13 which is where we need to be. Nona also explained sequestration and how it will affect WD. She stated WD should be fine because WD has roll over money that we will be using.

Announcements

Chair Gibby announced the next Board meeting would be on July 25, 2013 in White County.

Will Wade stated that looking at the number of participants per county based on the UI rate in some of the counties, the numbers are considerably low. After discussion, suggestions were made to take the MTU's to Housing Authorities, Family Connection, Food Banks and Churches within the 13 county area that WD serves. The Board was encouraged to inform WD of any events in our area to utilize the MTU's.

Adjournment

Will Wade made the motion to adjourn meeting. Bill Chafin seconded and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Andrea Gibby, Board Chair

Deborah Mack, Secretary