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

**June 27, 2013**

# Minutes

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Board (GMWDB) met for a called meeting on June 27, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Union County Community Center in Blairsville GA. Handouts were made available as visual aids. Also, a sign-in sheet was distributed and the following were present:

**Members Present**
Tim Bala
Thomas Bridges
Bill Chafin
Rex Farmer
Pat Freeman
Andrea Gibby
Mitch Griggs
Dale Harrell
Danny Lewis
Sam Norton
Danette Smith
Mark Winters
Deborah Mack
Brian Tam

**Staff**
Diana Eddins-Wiggin
Diane Jackson
Ginger Little
John Phillips
Jessica Williams

**Guest**
William Myers

## Welcome

Chair Andrea Gibby called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members. A quorum was established.

## New Business

### Regional Youth Detention Center Contract

Chair Gibby informed the Board that a copy of the RYDC contract was included in the handouts. The contract is to pay for an instructor from Lanier Technical College to go to the RYDC and provide GED instruction and to administer the GED test. John Phillips stated the RYDC Center covers all of our 13 county area. Sam Norton made a motion to approve this contract. Bill Chafin seconded. Deborah Mack asked if the students would be there long enough to complete the program. John stated that WD had been assured that once they start our program then the RYDC would follow them and assure that they would complete. If they get transferred to another center, WD could still get credit for the GED. Mitch Griggs asked if the Detention Center would be providing any financial support or would WD fund it. John explained Lanier Technical College would provide the instructor and WD would provide the funding. After discussion, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Board Members, Partner Agencies**

Chair Gibby introduced Danette Smith, new Regional Coordinator for Economic Development for the Georgia Mountains Area. Danette gave a brief bio to the Board. John Phillips explained the GOWD had conducted a review of our WD Board and made recommendations, that we add a representative from Vocational Rehab. He informed the Board that Mary Wareham with the Gainesville Office of Voc Rehab had agreed to represent Voc Rehab. Board member, Clark Willingham, Job Corp representative has resigned. He has accepted a new job and is not with Job Corp any longer. John stated he is in the process of getting someone from Job Corp to replace Clark Willingham. Danny Lewis made a motion to approve Danette Smith and Mary Wareham as new Board members. Sam Norton seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously. Chair Gibby stated that we should remember the loss of WD Board member Stanley (Butch) Darnell. He recently passed away. Danny Lewis stated he was honored to go to the funeral service for Mr. Darnell. He will be missed by a lot of people. Mr. Darnell had accomplished a lot for Rabun County. John requested to add to the agenda, that since Danette Smith was approved to be a new Board member, she will be filling Mark Winters position.

**Updated By Laws**

Chair Gibby informed the Board that the GOWD completed the Board certification for GMRC WD Board and review of By-Laws. Upon their review the recommendation was to amend the By-Laws to show 30% of the Board members are required to be present for a quorum and to remove proxy voting. Also to include a statement that requires Board members to complete a Conflict of Interest Affidavit. She informed the Board that the amended By-Laws have been posted for ten days and a copy was included in the handouts. John stated this would put us in compliance with the Governor's new bill that was put in place earlier this year. Bill Chafin made a motion to approve the amended By-Laws. Deborah Mack seconded, motion passed unanimously. Danny Lewis stated that the Governor's Office refers to our Chief Elected Officials (CCEO) to Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs) as opposed to CCEO. He stated we need to be consistent and suggested that we get Mike Berg's opinion since he is Chairman of this group. Chair Gibby said WD would speak with Mike Berg and bring it back to the next Board meeting.

**Rapid Response**

Chair Gibby stated that WD has received $150,000.00 from GOWD to handle Rapid Response. John Phillips explained that Rapid Response is when a business with over 50 employees closes in an area WD goes out and provides Rapid Response Services. In the past, the Department of Labor provided this service. The GOWD has taken over Rapid Response Services. This is a change in services that WD has been providing. The DOL is still doing unemployment. John stated this is outside of WD normal routine and it takes a vote to accept this grant. Deborah Mack asked for a definition of outside of WD normal routine. John stated that there is one company in Hall County now that is closing, Schreiber Foods. WD has gone out with our Mobile Units to help with resumes and to assist DOL with getting the employees signed up for Unemployment Insurance. Staff have gone out three times and conducted Overviews with the employees to show them the services that WD can provide. Blake Ashbee, with the office of GOWD attended one of the meetings at Schreiber. Chair Gibby requested a motion. Mitch Griggs made a motion to accept the grant. Deborah Mack seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Accelerating Opportunities/Lanier Tech**

John Phillips explained there is a new program that Lanier Technical College would be starting. This program is based on a program that is modeled from Washington State and is currently still in the planning stages. John requested that the Board allow the Executive Committee to vote on allowing WD to work with Lanier Tech to assist with the program. It is a joint program for students to work on getting their GED and also get a Certificate or Diploma at the same time. John stated it has been proven that when both are done together the participation was better and the completion rate was greater. WD will check with the GOWD to see if there is a Grant to help pay for this service. WD will help with participants in the program. Sam Norton made a motion to allow the Executive Committee to review and vote. Bill Chafin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Assisting Dislocated Workers with GED**

Chair Gibby informed the Board that the next topic on the agenda is assisting Dislocated Workers (DW) with their GED. It is not currently in the GMRWD Plan. Diana Eddins-Wiggin stated WD would like to have the opportunity to create a GED program very similar to what we are currently doing for the adults. WD would like to assist DW, those who have lost their job throughout our 13 county area, in getting their GED. We don't have a program yet. The schooling and the training is available for GED, but they don't have the supportive services like childcare or transportation. The supportive assistance can make a difference in them being able to complete. Right now, if a company closes and they are Trade eligible, then Trade assists them with GED. If they are not Trade eligible, like Schreiber, then there is nothing to assist DW with getting a GED. WD would like to create a program to assist those people in getting their GED. WD would like for the Executive Committee to be able to review and vote on the program. Pat Freeman asked if that would include paying the GED fee. Diana stated it would include WD paying for the GED fee and could also include some computer training. Chair Gibby asked if this would affect the budget. John Phillips said the money would come from the DW funds. Bill Chafin made a motion to allow the Executive Committee to review and vote on the program once the plan is in place. Pat Freeman seconded and the motion the passed unanimously.

John Phillips informed the Board that WD would be meeting with Disabled Veterans Organization on Monday to try to see if WD can assist them. Chairman Gibby stated that they are trying to get some programs into Highland Rivers in Ellijay.

## Old Business

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Gibby asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 25, 2013. Danny Lewis made a motion to approve minutes. Sam Norton seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

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

Andrea C Gibby

Andrea Gibby, Board Chair

Deborah Mack

Deborah Mack, Secretary