

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
WORKSOURCE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS
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January 25, 2024

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Workforce Development Board (WDB) met on January 25, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Cornelia Community House located at 601 Wyly Street, Cornelia, GA 30531. The following were present:

Members Present

Vicki Boling
David Cagle
Ricky Carter
Shannon Cole
Chris Dockery
Mitch Griggs
Deborah Mack
Timothy McDonald
Mike McGraw
Terry Merck
Christine Osasu
Tonya Powers
Tammy Rauch
Shelby Ward
Jon Williams

Staff

Danielle Avelar
Whitney Blair
Laura Brown
Heather Feldman
Diane Jackson
Gina Kessler
Ebony Tucker
Nona Turk
Alicia Page

Guest

Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Greg Vitek, Workforce Strategies Group LLC
Shelley Logan, Workforce Strategies Group LLC
Amber Gaddis, Director, Forsyth County Chamber

Members Absent

William Chafin, Amanda Edmondson, Juergen Moller, Jennifer Fleming, Mary Overholt, Dana Skelton, Beth Truelove, and Sandra Williams were absent.

Call to Order/Welcome

Tonya Powers, Board Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. Chair Powers welcomed guest, Amber Gaddis, Director of Workforce Development with the Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce. A quorum was established.

Old Business

Consideration of Minutes

Chair Powers asked the Board for comments or a motion on the minutes from the October 26, 2023, WDB meeting. Terry Merck made a motion to approve the October 26, 2023, meeting minutes and Deborah Mack seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

None

Reports / Announcements:

WorkSource Georgia Mountains Report

Danielle Avelar, Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor, informed the Board that WorkSource had a few staffing changes to share. Laura Brown is the new Intake Specialist, and she is doing a great job. WorkSource is hiring a receptionist and another Intake Specialist.

WorkSource Georgia Mountains had a lot of outside events that had took place. The WS Business Services staff attended the first ever Technical College System of Georgia's (TCSG) Business Services Summit which took place at the Forsyth County Lanier Technical College (LTC) Campus. This summit was a three-day training which brought Title I and Title III staff together for the first time since TCSG took over Wagner Physer services.

The Untapped Workforce Summit will be held the first week in February. The WS Business Services staff will be attending the event. This event is open to all businesses and employers. The summit will be talking about how businesses and employers in Georgia can tap into the labor pool of individuals with disabilities, individuals involved in the justice system, Opportunity Youth, refugees, migrates, second chance hiring, and veterans. There is currently a waiting list to attend. WS would be happy to email the link to anyone that is interested in getting on the waiting list.

The Georgia Mountains Works, Workforce Development Forum will be held at the North Georgia Technical College (NGTC) Campus in Clarksville in February as well. The registration is still open, and you can access it through the Georgia Mountains Works website.

Danielle Avelar shared the upcoming Board meeting dates for 2024 and stated the dates would be sent out as calendar meeting invites.

Budget

Nona Turk, Senior Financial Assistant, explained as of December 31, 2023, the available funds for the Adult program were \$582,797 and \$216,991 is obligated. The funds will expire June 30, 2025. WorkSource is waiting on the executed paperwork for our transfer from Dislocated Worker Grant which would give us an additional \$715, 338 available to use in Adult funds. The Dislocated Worker program available balance was \$84,097 with \$6,712 in obligations. The Youth Program had \$562,182 available with \$157,430 of obligations. The new High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) Grant had a balance of \$146,787 available. The Rapid Response Grant had \$32, 543 available and has been extended to March 31, 2024. The Quest Grant had \$254,413 available and these funds will expire September 30, 2024.

One-Stop Update

Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, gave a brief update on the One-Stop office. The regular bi-monthly meeting of the One-Stop Partners was held on November 28, 2023, with twenty-nine people in attendance. Representatives of the company presented the program, *Unite Us*. Unite Us provided information about a software system to track client referrals and service delivery. WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Greater Hall United Way, as well as area churches and educational institutions are beginning to implement this system locally. The system should help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our collective efforts. The purpose of the Partners Meetings is to enhance collaboration by sharing information and resources, and to encourage referrals. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the One-Stop website under “Our Partners” <https://onestopworkgamtns.org>. The next Partners Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop training room. Everyone is always welcome to attend. Customer visits to the One-Stop in the most recent quarter, from October through December 2023 was 310. In the same quarter last year, visits totaled 269. The numbers have increased from last year. Benjie Hopkins and Marsha Hopkins continue to attend meetings to represent One-Stop by sharing information about the many programs and services available related to workforce development. Hopkins Associates are making a special effort to reach out to organizations that serve individuals who can benefit most from the employment training funded through WIOA. Marsha Hopkins stated that they appreciate the board members as well as the WorkSource and Georgia Mountains staff for their support and stated that their input is always welcome.

Workforce Strategies Group LLC Report

Shelley Logan with Workforce Strategies Group shared a PowerPoint and gave an overview of their activities. Georgia Mountains Works is the Manufacturing (MFG) Sector of Workforce Development Strategy. Last month, the Workforce Strategies Group was privileged to give the WDB a full programming and purpose overview. There have been only a few updates since October. WorkSource Strategies has three new employer partners, Dewtex, Power Services Group, and Performance Food Services. WorkSource Strategies have had Imani Davis and Beth Tyner join their team to manage all the targeted Workforce Development activity. Our region’s Manufacturing Day had 440 high school students touring MFG employers. To keep up with workforce pipeline demand, they will need a lot more next year. The second Supervisor and Leadership Cohort, supported by Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) funds, graduated and the new groups is beginning next month at LTC and NGTC. Patterson Pumps of Stephens County, and Satellite Industries of Lumpkin County are giving our industries an opportunity to get outside their own four walls and learn from each other. Mrs. Logan encouraged the Board to invite WorkSource Strategies to speak to their groups about the MFG industry and workforce development.

Occupational Skills Training

Danielle Avelar, Adult/DW Supervisor presented a PowerPoint presentation on Occupational Skills training to give the Board information that would help them understand how the grant operates. How long it has been in existence, what does it look like, and who are the required partners. The Act first started in 1962-1973 when it was named Manpower Development Training Act (MDTA), 1973-1982 The Act was Comprehensive Employment and Training (CETA), 1982 -1998 Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), 1998-2014 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and 2014 to present Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The purpose of the Grants is to get people trained and employed. Mrs. Avelar explained the different legislative titles under WIOA.

1. Title I – Workforce Development Activities (Adult, Dislocated Worker & Youth): **TCSG/Federal: USDOL, ETA**

2. Title II – Adult Education and Literacy – **State: TCSG/Federal: USDoEd, OCTAE**

3. Title III – Amends the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 to integrate the U.S. Employment Services (ES) into the One-Stop system authorized by WIOA – **State: TCSG/Federal: USDOL, ETA**

4. Title IV – Amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to authorize employment-related vocational rehabilitation services – **State: GVRA/Federal: USDoEd, OSERS, RSATCSG/ Federal: USDOL, ETA**

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The required partners that are under the Technical College System of Georgia are: WIOA: Adult, Youth, Dislocated Worker, Carl D. Perkins and Technical College Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Wagner-Peyser Employment Services, Trade Adjustment Assistance and Jobs for Veterans State Grants.

The required partners under the Department of Human Services are: Senior Community Services (SCSEP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Act (GVRA) Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).

Other required partners are Job Corps, Youth Build, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP).

The targeted audience under WIOA are: adults – 18 and over who are unemployed or underemployed, dislocated workers who are individuals that are receiving or have exhausted unemployment income (UI) and Youth 16 to 24 with barriers to employment. Once an individual is deemed eligible, then they can attend skills training courses that have been deemed a high growth occupation for the WSGM area and the training provider must be an approved training provider on the TSCG eligible training provider list. Some of the training could be what WSGM refers to as Bootcamps, which are fast-tracked training that is complete in three to five weeks. Private schools that the training would lead to a National recognized credential. The other training could be in programs offered by Colleges and Technical Colleges such as credit-based certificates, diplomas and degree programs or continuing education programs that lead to a national or industry recognized credential.

The targeted results that WSGM is required to capture are how many people completed their program, measurable skills gains, how many obtained employment using their new skills, and how many maintained employment.

Performance

Ebony Tucker, Youth Worker Program Supervisor explained the most recent performance numbers for PY23. WorkSource Georgia Mountains had met or exceeded all performance measures except for the Adult and the Youth measurable skills gains.

Adjournment

Chair Powers asked if there were any additional comments before the adjournment.

Board member Ricky Carter shared that he had recently toured North Georgia Technical College and was able to see and gain insight on the Welding, HVAC, and Machine Technologies programs, and feels that it would be beneficial for all WD Board members to see what the colleges offer. Mr. Carter thanked the WorkSource staff for creating the one-page flyer that outlines WorkSource's services and stated that he has, and will continue, to share it with many community partners. Mr. Cater encouraged other WD Board members to do the same.

Chair Powers requested a motion to adjourn. Mitch Griggs made the motion to adjourn. Christine Osasu seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM

Board Chair, Tonya Powers

Secretary, Deborah Mack