

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
WORKSOURCE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS
1856 THOMPSON BRIDGE RD., SUITE 3 ♦ GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30501
PHONE (770) 538-2727 FAX (770) 538-2729
October 24, 2024

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Workforce Development Board (WDB) met on October 24, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lumpkin County Public Library located at 56 Mechanicsville Rd, Dahlonega, GA 30533. The following were present:

Members Present

Vicki Boling-Jones
David Cagle
Ricky Carter
Shannon Cole
Chris Dockery
Amanda Edmondson
Amber Gaddis
Mitch Griggs
Deborah Mack
Mike McGraw
Timothy McDonald
Rhonda McLean
Christine Osasu
Tammy Rauch
Beth Truelove
Shelby Ward

Staff

Danielle Avelar
Whitney Blair
Heather Feldman
Niki McPherson
Diane Jackson
Sonia Magana
Gina Kessler
Ebony Tucker
Chris Highland

Guests

Hannah Selvaraj, Youth Program Participant
Cole Kaminski, Attended for Mary Overholt
Matt Parker, Kubota
JoAnne Taylor, Lumpkin County Mayor

Members Absent

William Chafin, Jennifer Fleming, Mary Overholt, Tonya Powers, Dana Skelton, and Jon Williams were absent.

Board Training

Whitney Blair, WorkSource Director, informed the Board the meeting would begin with Board Training to allow time for others to arrive. Director Blair shared a PowerPoint presentation and explained the Board's responsibilities, the Bylaws, and funding. Daniele Avelar, Adult/DW Supervisor, explained the available training services, supportive services, and the approved programs and providers for WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM). Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor, explained the Youth Program and Follow-up services as well as the Adult/DW Program performance and the Youth Program performance. Ms. Tucker also shared a Youth Program success story with the Board.

Call to Order/Welcome

Vicki Boling-Jones, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. A quorum was established.

Old Business

Consideration of Minutes

Vice Chair Boling-Jones informed the Board that the minutes were included in their emailed agenda packet and asked the Board for a motion on the minutes from the July 25, 2024, WDB meeting. Mike McGraw motioned to approve the July 25, 2024, meeting minutes. Rhonda McLean seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

New Provider Applications

Danielle Avelar, Adult/DW Supervisor, informed the Board that WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) had received a new provider application from Winder CNA Training for their Certified Nursing Assistant Program. The cost of the program is \$1,834. The CNA program is a four-to-five-week program that includes a 24-hour clinical. Their completion rate is 99%, the training-related employment rate is 77%, and the credential rate is 80%. The average pay is \$17 per hour. WSGM staff reviewed and based on performance, approved the program.

Adult/Dislocated Worker Policy Update

Danielle Avelar, Adult/DW Supervisor, informed the Board that for the following programs: Nurse Practitioner MS, Bachelor of Science Nursing, Associate of Science Nursing Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Physical Therapy Assistant AAS, Dental Hygiene AAS, and Health Care Information Technology AAS, funding for the first year of training assistance may be up to \$7,000 and for training that extends beyond one year of assistance, total training costs may not exceed \$14,000. An increase to these limits requires WSGM case manager approval for each participant. (Effective from July 1, 2017, forward with revisions) Recommendation: WSGM Staff reviewed the increased fees for medical programs and recommended adding the Licensed Practical Nursing program to the ITA Policy in section C.

Vice Chair Boling-Jones asked for a motion to approve. Mitch Griggs made a motion to approve the update to the ITA Policy. Chris Dockery seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Board member Ricky Carter commented that he was aware of the one-page handout created to help the Board market the program. Mr. Carter asked if WorkSource could create an information packet that could be shared by email or in person. Danielle Avelar explained that a one-pager would be appropriate for that purpose.

Director Blair informed the Board that WorkSource brought the one-page information handouts if anyone would like them.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Boling-Jones requested a motion to adjourn. Ricky Carter made the motion, Shelby Ward seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Board Chair, Tonya Powers

Secretary, Deborah Mack