

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013  
1:00pm - 3:00pm**

GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCY  
5445 FEDERICA ROAD  
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA 31522

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sandy Adams  
Jimmy DeFoor  
Louise Hill  
Don Parks  
Robert Green  
Marsha Farrow  
Greg Kirk  
Amy O'Dell

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Fay Loggins

**GA Voc Rehab Services Board Minutes**

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**August 21, 2013**

Mr. Jimmy DeFoor, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services (GVRS) August Board meeting, welcomed Greg Schmieg back from medical leave, and also introduced a number of the members of the SRC committee to the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. DeFoor moved to consider July meeting minutes from the last board meeting be approved and asked if there were any additions or corrections to those minutes.

Mr. DeFoor asked for motion for July meeting minutes to be approved from the last board meeting. Motion from Don Parks, motioned seconded by Bob Green that the minutes of the July 16, 2013 Board Meeting approved. Call for vote for approval of July Board Meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously by the Board.

Mr. DeFoor introduced Greg Schmieg and welcomed him back from medical leave.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Greg Schmiege began his reports with thanks to everyone for thoughts, prayers, and cards. Greg Schmiege gave thanks to Lynn Vellinga and the Board for running GVRA so well during his absence, to carry on with GVRA business. Greg also congratulated Louise Hill, Fay Loggins, and Amy O'Dell for being re-appointed to the Board by Governor Deal. The Executive Director's Report was as followed:

### 1. GVRA FY13 Highlights

- Developed strategic relationships with other agencies (i.e., DOJ, DBHDD, DOC, DOE, etc.)
- Implemented new website, Newsletter, Audio Messaging – overall communications
- VR Re-structuring Processes / VR Financial Needs Assessment Policy Changes
- CeCe Hockett presented a Financial Policy documents
- Twyla Crump announced re-opening or Priority Categories

### 2. VR Update

- CeCe Hockett presented Financial Policy documents
- Greg introduced Twyla Crump to announce re-opening or Priority Categories
- Twyla Crump presented on Priority Category openings

### 3. Merger of Warm Springs and Cave Springs Updates

- Warm Springs has an academic program that has proven beneficial to the merger
- Cave Spring and Warm Spring both now benefitting from grant from US DOE
- Matching money a benefit for the merger
- Greg introduced Bill Bulloch to give update on Warm Springs Hospital transition to GRU
- GRU has taken over the Warm Springs Hospital – transition has gone well
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### 4. GVRA Financial Update

- Greg Schmiege introduced CFO, Jimmy Wilson to present GVRA financial update
- Jimmy Wilson thanked Lynn Vellinga and Demetrius Taylor for tremendous input and being instrumental in GVRA's ability to give a positive financial report
- Mr. Wilson presented on all programs -all GVRA programs are in budgetary compliance for FY13
- Mr. Wilson advised financial presentation is available to those who request

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Chairman DeFoor - addressed new topics sent to Board Members via e-mail; proposal of changing Bylaws; changing Board Meeting schedule, etc. If any changes made, those would be addressed at the August meeting according to the Bylaws**

- Congratulated A. O'Dell, F. Loggins, and L. Hill for their three year re-appointments to the GVRAS Board
- Thanked GRA for hosting the Board Meeting
- We must continue to work collaboratively to present the strong message to our legislators that they fully understand the implications of our needs for additional resources. We look forward to working with those who have crafted the message –
- Work Investment Act (WIA) – this act re-authorizes the Vocational Rehabilitation program and will make some significant changes. We are working to get details and we need everyone to become acquainted with this legislation. This moves the administration out of the Department of Education where it has been housed since its inception and moves in to the Department of Labor nationally. We need to advocate for what we feel will be in the best interest of those with disabilities.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

If you have public comments or input regarding the WIA Bill; we are asking for Public Comments to be sent to Lynn Hampton via e-mail to [lynn.hampton@gvra.ga.gov](mailto:lynn.hampton@gvra.ga.gov).

No other Public Comments scheduled for today.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Per Mr. DeFoor - we need the board to vote on the frequency of board meetings
- Marsha Farrow - how will public comments would be considered if teleconference meetings are necessary (*on the bi-monthly schedule*). Louise Hill also pointed out the reduction of costs associated with having meetings moved to a bi-monthly schedule
- Lynn Vellinga - suggested the board can call-in and the public could attend by convening at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303 – GVRA Board Room to attend the meetings
- Mr. DeFoor called for motion to move to bi-monthly meetings - with the option to move back to monthly meetings when necessary. Motion by Marsha Farrow, seconded by Sandy Adams - motioned passed unanimously by the board – new bi-monthly scheduled to begin in October. New Board Meeting scheduled and newly approved Bylaws will be available to all at [www.gvra.ga.gov](http://www.gvra.ga.gov)
- New Bylaws (*revised by GVRA Counsel, Terri Rushing*) have been disseminated to all Board Members. Mr. DeFoor, called for consideration of revised bylaws - motion by Greg Kirk, second by Don Parks, amendment of bylaws passed unanimously
- Mr. DeFoor called for motion to approve proposed FY14-FY15 budget request to the Governor's Office for approval. Budget recommendation was approved unanimously.
- Mr. DeFoor, thanked Lynn Vellinga for doing a champion job while filling in for Greg Schmieg

### ADJOURNMENT

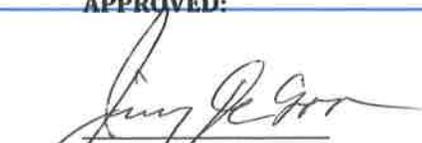
There being no further business for discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:02pm

### THE NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 9, 2013, 1:00pm – 3:00pm, Two Peachtree Street, NW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303

  
Marsha Farrow, Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Jimmy DeFoor, Chair