

**MIDDLE GEORGIA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
OCTOBER 18, 2022**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board was held on October 18, 2022, at noon, at Jonesco Clubhouse, located at 834 GA-22, Gray, Georgia. The following members were present:

Willie Billingslea	Richard Hinson
Dan Brandon	Clifford Holmes
Kendrick Butts	Stacey Mixson
Joy Carr	Lee Thompkins
Halley Duncan	Brian Utley
Tyrone Evans	Steve Williams
Tishua Green	

The following guests were in attendance:

Paul Allen, In-the-Door, LLC, One-Stop Operator
Kenyonna McClain, In-the-Door, LLC, One-Stop Operator
Brenda Brown, Central Georgia Technical College
Cesar Ruiz, Learning Alliance
Tiffany Andrews, Macon-Bibb WorkSource
Chris Weidner, CLEO Chair

WELCOME GUEST/NEW MEMBER

Chairman Steve Williams chaired and called the meeting to order at 12:17PM. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating. Chairman Williams introduced the guest that were present. Commissioner Chris Weidner, of the Jones County Commission and the CLEO Chair, welcomed everyone to Jones County. There was not a quorum present and Chairman Williams entertained a motion to amend the agenda.

A motion was made by Tishua Green and seconded by Willie Billingslea to amend the agenda. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

Motion to Enter WDB Executive Committee Session:

In accordance with the WDB Bylaws, a motion was made by Willie Billingslea and seconded by Clifford Holmes to enter into WDB Executive Committee session to act on items needing attention before the next regularly scheduled meeting. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

Excerpts from WDB Bylaws:

... However, if no quorum is present at any meeting, the standing executive committee as appointed by the WDB is authorized to vote on any matter which is listed as a purpose of the meeting set out in the notice of meeting, if action or decision is required before the date of the next scheduled regular meeting. A motion shall be passed by majority vote of such members of the standing executive

committee provided the action or decision be presented at the next regular scheduled meeting. All motions passed by majority vote of the standing executive committee are final.

MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 23, 2022 meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board.

A motion was made by Clifford Holmes and seconded by Willie Billingslea to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2022, meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board as written. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS UNDER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION - The new business section of the agenda was amended to discuss the items needing action prior to the next meeting first.

1. WDB Committee Reports

- **One-Stop and Disability Committee**

- **Reappoint Members** – Chairman Williams reminded the members that the One-Stop Committee and the Individuals with Disabilities Committee were recently combined and the members from each of those committee now makeup the new combined One-Stop and Disability Committee. The combined membership consists of the following members:

Aundrea Simmons, Chair

Tyrone Evans, Vice-Chair

Ethel Wynn

Brenda Brown

Jeff Scruggs

Tishua Green

Carolyn Watson

Wade Yoder

Barbara Moseley

Steve Williams

Barcado Styles

Chairman Williams asked if any other members would like to volunteer to serve on the combined committee and no other members volunteered to serve. The matter was tabled for the next meeting to allow time to meet with the members [to assess their ability/desire to continue to serve on the committee].

- **Youth Committee**

- **Approval of Pay Increase for Youth Internships & WEX** – Darrell Stillings explained that currently the work experience (WEX) wage is set at \$8 an hour and the internship is set at \$10 per hour. He reported that the Youth Committee approved the recommendation to increase the WEX wage to \$10 per hour and the internship wage to \$12 per hour in an effort to make the programs more competitive and attractive to youth participants. An estimated budget was provided that showed a yearly increase of \$1,203.53 per participant in both the work experience and internship program with the wage increase. The increase will be for current and future participants.

A motion was made by Clifford Holmes and seconded by Willie Billingslea to approve increasing the wages from \$8 to \$10 per hour for work experience and increasing

wages from \$10 to \$12 per hour for the internship program as requested. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

Motion to Exit WDB Executive Committee Session and Reenter the Regular WDB Session:

A motion was made by Willie Billingslea and seconded by Clifford Holmes to exit the WDB Executive Committee session and reenter the regular WDB session to discuss the remainder of the agenda items. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

2. *NEG Update* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the NEG update dated October 12, 2022. He reminded the members that the grant expires in March 2023 and reported that 155 participants have been served to date – 15 in temporary work experience and 140 in educational skills training. He also pointed out there is a current balance of \$55,345.85 and projections show the grant will be expended by the end of November. However, the Macon-Bibb WorkSource program still has approximately \$400,000 - \$500,000 left to expend in their grant and we will help them expend the funds.
3. *Learning Alliance & CollabFirst Presentation* – Cesar Ruiz, owner of Learning Alliance Corporation and CollabFirst, which collaborates with local and national employers on training initiatives, recruitment and job placement for the wireless industry conducted a presentation. Both Learning Alliance and CollabFirst are ran independently with each having their own Executive Director who runs day-to-day operations. Mr. Ruiz reported that Learning Alliance is the largest telecommunication training in the country. Nationwide there is a shortage of approximately 20,000 jobs and currently there is 67 job openings for 5G telecommunication technicians in the Middle Georgia area. Learning Alliance Corporation is an academic institution that offers telecommunication pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and diploma programs. All 5G telecommunication jobs pay over \$20 per hour and the telecommunications industry is very broad – tower installer, wireless installer and fiber installer. The pre-apprenticeship program is two weeks and apprenticeship is one year with the employer. Currently, Macon-Bibb WorkSource is completing the ETPL application. MGCI staff will email link to the program information.
4. *Subrecipient Financial Monitoring* – Darrell Stilling provided copies of and discussed the financial monitoring report for Central Georgia Technical College. He reported that Bill Kennemore, of William L. Kennemore, CPA, LLC, conducted the monitoring and there were no findings.
5. *Expenditure Report* – Darrell Stillings announced that Kerry Scarboro had surgery and is doing well. He provided copies of the Expenditure Report dated August 31, 2022. He pointed out that the report shows there was a little more than \$55,000 left in the NEG grant, however, since the report only reflects through August 31, there is less than that left in the grant, which expires March 2023.

He also reported that for remainder of the HDCI grant that expires in December 2022, we are currently working with Third Wave Digital on the video project and should expense their invoice shortly. Once Third Wave Digital's invoice is expensed to the grant it will leave approximately \$7,000 and there shouldn't be any problem expensing the remaining funds.

When combining FY '22 and PY '22 funding it gives a total of a little over \$1,022,800 to be spent by June 2023 and projects indicate there should not be any difficulty in spending those funds. There have been no expenditures made towards the new program funds and should give us a good start for the next program year.

6. Activity Reports

- *PY 2022I Enrollment* – Terrell Mitch provided copies of and discussed the enrollment report dated October 6, 2022. She pointed out that as of the date of the report there were 50 Adults, 36 Dislocated Workers, 9 Incumbent Worker Training, 113 NEG and 80 Youth for a total

enrollment of 288. However, since the report there have been five additional enrollments for a new total of 293.

- *PY 2021 Final Performance Reports* – Terrell Mitchell provided copies of and discussed the PY 2021 Final Performance Report dated October 7, 2022. She reported that all measures were met for PY 2021 in all funding streams.

7. **One-Stop Operator Report** – Paul Allen, of In-the-Door, LLC, the Middle Georgia One-Stop Operator, provided reports for September 2022 activities for both Baldwin and Houston County Career Centers as well as the Warner Robins Housing Authority Jobs Plus Grant. He introduced Keyonna McClain, the new one-stop operator for the Milledgeville Career Center. Ms. McClain added that she recently graduated from Georgia College in May and she wanted to stay in Milledgeville and was offered the One-Stop Operator position which allowed her to stay in Milledgeville and to also work with the general public.

Paul Allen highlighted past job fairs and announced future planned activities. He also provided an additional handout that highlighted the region six regional job fair that was recently held in collaboration with the Macon-Bibb WorkSource office. He reported there were 50 employers and almost 300 participants. He also reported that they are working on the resource guide that should be available soon once it is approved for distribution. He provided another handout containing information on the digital literacy training program that is being launched in collaboration with Legacy Link and other partners. It is designed to help individuals 50+ years of age update their digital skills. The classes are hosted at CGTC Adult Education Center, on Elberta Road, in Warner Robins, Georgia.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

1. **Be Pro Be Proud** – Darrell Stillings announced that through a grant that Macon-Bibb WorkSource received the Be Pro Be Proud is in the area again.
2. **Learning Alliance Price Catalog** – Darrell Stillings will send to members.
3. **SETA Conference** – Tyrone Evans thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the SETA Conference and he encouraged the members who haven't attended to attend.

MATTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

4. **PY 2022 Meeting Schedule** –Chairman Williams pointed out that the next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2022, at Flint Energies, in Warner Robins, Georgia.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and with no objections the meeting was adjourned at 1:03PM.