

Middle Flint WIOA Area 15
Workforce Development Board (WDB) Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2020
11:45 p.m.

Meeting Location: South Georgia Technical College (Americus Campus) – Pope Center

--MINUTES--

Members Present

Janet Teele
Norman Graves
Becky Fitzgibbons
Nakisial Cromwell
Rhonda Lamb-Heath
Buddy Guth
Gerald Beckum
Willie Patrick
Mathis Wright Jr.
Glenn Morgan
Diane Harrison
Saleemah Sabree
Grady Burrell
Shonda Blair
Amy Varnum
Jayson Griffin

Members Absent

Jennifer Morton
Rhonda Holbrook
Dr. John Watford

Staff Present

Janice West
Tenisha Tookes
Jim Livingston
Sarah Walls

Other Present

Sendricka Bledsoe-Lakes
Karen Pawlowski
Qwentavian Tyson

The Middle Flint Workforce Development Board (WDB) met on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at South Georgia Technical College (Americus Campus).

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. A quorum was declared for the meeting.

Board Action #1 – Minutes Approval

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) stated that the Minutes from the previous meeting were sent out to members prior to the meeting. WDB Chairperson asked if there were any additions, amendments or corrections that needed to be made to Minutes. The Minutes record there were none. WDB Chairperson requested a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Motion was made by Norman Graves and seconded by Saleemah Sabree. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Finance Report

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) requested Janice West to give a summary of the finance report. Janice West stated enclosed in in the meeting packet is a copy of the WIOA finance report covering expenditures from July 1, 2019 thru January 31, 2020. Contractors expenditures levels as of their January 2020 invoices have spent 44% of their funds. Generally, by the January invoices needed to be at expenditure levels of around 58% to ensure allocated funds be spent by the end of the program year. The WIOA enrollments for the July – December period have been a little lower than planned, but we hope they will increase over the next few months. Staff are working with Contractors to ensure they are actively conducting outreach and recruit for individuals that may need WIOA services.

Invited Guest Speakers

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) stated that we have two invited guest speakers for today's meeting. WDB Chairperson express her thanks and appreciation to the invited speakers for attending the meeting and sharing with the group. Janice West stated that we like to have our WIOA participant to come share with the Board members their stories and successes about their WIOA helped them to meet their educational and career goals. The first invited guest is name Qwentavian Tyson. Janice West introduced Karen Pawlowski, Eckerd Connects Program Manager who shared how WIOA services had assisted Qwentavian Tyson. Karen Pawlowski stated that Eckerd Connects provides GED remediation, Career Pathways, Work Experience and OJT services. Qwentavian came to Eckerd's to work on obtaining his General Education Diploma (GED). Qwentavian was a pleasure to work with as he was very committed and dedicated to attaining his GED. He showed up daily for GED classes, stayed late if needed and quickly passed all parts of the GED examination. After obtaining his GED, Qwentavian participated in Work Experience and obtained employment. He also decided to continue his education by enrolling at South Georgia Technical College in the Computer Information Systems program. . He is currently attending college and working part-time. Eckerd's is very proud of Qwentavian accomplishments. Karen introduced Qwentavian Tyson to share his successes with members.

Qwentavian Tyson stated that he was very appreciative to Eckerd Connects and the WIOA program for assisting him obtain his GED. He stated that all the Eckerd staff were very encouraging and motivating him during the training. They were always available to assist him when he needed it. Qwentavian stated that he knew that obtaining his GED for the first step in him moving forward with additional education and employment. Once I obtained my GED, Eckerd's staff enrolled him into Work Experience services, and this led to him obtaining a part-time job. Qwentavian stated that he knows he wanted to continue his education and enrolled at South Georgia Technical College in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) program. His goal is to complete the CIS program and become employed in the Information Technology field. He would like to focus employment in developing gaming systems and cyber security. Qwentavian report that he plans to relocate to the Atlanta area once he graduates where a large IT job market will be available. Qwentavian closed by saying "Thank You" to the WIOA Board for making this program possible.

Guest Speaker – Sector Partnership Grant

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) stated that our next invited guest speaker is Sendricka Bledsoe-Lakes from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. Janet Teele stated that the Region 8 which includes the 2 local WIOA Areas of Middle Flint Area 15 & Lower Chattahoochee Area 14 submitted and application and was awarded a Sector Partnership grant for the region. WDB Chairperson requested Janice West to give an update on the Sector Partnership grant. Janice West reported that the Region submitted an application to the State office of Workforce Development in spring 2019 and was awarded a grant of \$251,300 for two years. Janice stated that at our last WDB September meeting, Jamie Jordan Programs Director from the State TCSG Office of Workforce Development gave a presentation on Sector Partnerships. The Middle Flint area would focus on the Healthcare sector and Lower Chattahoochee area would be focusing on finance and insurance sectors. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce was awarded the contract for the Sector Partnership work in the Region 8 and will be the lead the Sector Partnership work in the region.

Janice West stated that we are delighted to have guest speaker Sendricka Bledsoe-Lakes from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce to share the plans for the Sector Partnership work that will be implemented in our local area. Sendricka Bledsoe-Lakes gave a summary of the roll out of the Sector Partnership work in the region. She stated that work would begin in late March or April in the Lower Chattahoochee area working with several employers such as TYUS, AFLAC and Anthem to identify the employment needs and helping develop career pathways for high school and college students to engage in education and training for jobs in the banking/finance and Insurance sectors. Implementation for Sector Partnerships in the Middle Flint local area is tentatively planned for fall of 2020 (October – December 2020). They plan to work with the College and Career Academy, Technical Colleges and Universities to identify educational and training pathways for Healthcare occupational sectors.

PY 19 Quarter 1 WIOA Performance Report

Janice West stated enclosed in meeting packet is the PY 19 1st Quarter Performance report. Janice gave an overview of the 1st quarter performance report to members. As for the first quarter PY 19, the local area is exceeding the local negotiated performance levels. There will be 3 additional quarters of performance for the program year. As those quarterly reports are available, we will provide the performance reports to members.

PY 2019 WIOA Activity Report

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) requested Tenisha Tookes to report on the WIOA Activity report. Tenisha gave a summary of the WIOA Activity report for period July 1, 2019 – February 26, 2020. Tenisha reported that WIOA a total of 149 individuals enrolled in various WIOA services. Thirty-seven (37) participants have attained a credential, twenty-four (24) have exited WIOA services and twenty-one (21) participants are employed. Adult average hourly wage at employment was \$18.13 for Adult, no Dislocated Workers to report, and \$9.00 average for Youth participants.

MOU Renegotiations One Stop Center

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) stated the next agenda item was for the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) renegotiations. Janice West reported that it is time for One Stop partners to re-negotiate the MOU agreement for the next three-year period. Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) who serves as the designated One Stop Operator will submit a PY 20 infra-structure costs budget to the One Stop Partners to review and negotiate the MOU Agreement for PY 20-23 period. MOU negotiations will occur in May and a new MOU Agreement will be prepared and signed by all partner agencies. Local WIOA areas will report to the State WIOA office of Workforce Development the results of the MOU negotiations by June 2020.

WIOA Local / Regional Plan Update

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) stated that is time for the WIOA Local and Regional WIOA Plans to be updated. Janice West report that WIOA Plans are updated every four (4) years . An update to is completed after the 2nd year of the plan. Regions that have more than include more than one local WIOA area are required to develop two WIOA Plans. One local and then a regional plan which encompasses both local WIOA areas (sixteen county region). Local area WIOA Plans are due in June 2020. Staff from both areas are working on their local and the regional WIOA Plans. WIOA Plans will be reviewed and approved by local Workforce Development Board members. Plans will also be available for a 30-day public comment period.

Local and Regional WIOA Plans will be reviewed by the State TCSG Office of Workforce Development. Staff will be notified by State office staff if additions or corrections are needed to their Plans. Notification letters will be sent to the local WIOA areas once their Plan(s) are approved by the State office.

Janet Teele (WDB Chairperson) asked if there was any other business that needed to come before the Board. No further business was identified. Janet Teele thanked everyone for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Compiled by Tenisha Tookes