

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE 10 COUNTY
MIDDLE GEORGIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA
DECEMBER 13, 2022**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the 10 County Middle Georgia Workforce Development Area was held at 10:00AM, at the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners office located at 1601 N. Columbia Street, in Milledgeville, Georgia. The following members were present:

Meeting Attendance Record			
Name	County/City	Present	Absent
Commissioner Henry Craig	Baldwin	X	
Commissioner Omar Dickey	Crawford		X
Timothy Andrews	Houston	X	
Commissioner Chris Weidner	Jones	X	
Commissioner Greg Tapley	Monroe		X
Commissioner Martin Moseley	Peach	X	
Commissioner Jenna Mashburn	Pulaski	X	
Commissioner Billy Webster	Putnam	X	
Commissioner Ken Fowler	Twiggs		X
Commissioner John Williams	Wilkinson	X	
Mayor John Reid	Eatonton	X	
Mayor Mary Parham-Copelan	Toombsboro		X

Guest in Attendance

Steve Williams, Chairman of the Workforce Development Board, attended virtually.

Chairman Chris Weidner chaired and called the meeting to order at 10:02AM. A quorum was present.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry Craig and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the December 13, 2022; agenda as written. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

MINUTES

- Approval of the October 25, 2022, Minutes of the Executive Committee of the 10-County Middle Georgia Workforce Development Area*

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry Craig and seconded by Commissioner Martin Moseley to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2022, meeting as written. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Since it was the last meeting for Commissioner John Williams and Commissioner Billy Webster, Chairman Weidner presented both of them with a parting gift to acknowledge the Board's appreciation of their service to the organization and the WorkSource communities that the Board serves. Both the Commissioners thanked everyone for the recognition. Commissioner Webster added that the new County Commission chair will serve on the Board and will be in contact with the staff to make the transition.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Macon-Bibb's Letter of Interest in Exploring Merging with Middle Georgia's WorkSource* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed Macon-Bibb's letter as address to Chairman Chris Weidner expressing interest in merging back with the Middle Georgia WorkSource area. Mr. Stillings recommended the areas merge back to create one WorkSource area again since he and the Macon-Bibb WorkSource Director have worked hard to bring down the wall that separates Macon-Bibb from the other ten counties by contracting regionally, conducting sector partnership and business service efforts regionally.

In response to a question of what Macon-Bibb will bring to the table, Mr. Stillings added that both areas receive funding which in turn creates a duplication of services since both areas are required to provide the same services, therefore, merging the two areas back together will save on personnel and overhead costs for the region.

In response to a question of what the down sides are such as if their staff will come to the Consortium, Mr. Stillings added that currently Macon-Bibb has four staff members and some of their staff will become Middle Georgia Consortium staff but some will be eliminated possibly in 12 months by them retiring. He doesn't see any negative consequences right now. A huge benefit is when new development comes in, they will not have to work with two workforce boards.

In response to a question of if there would be any question of his leadership, Mr. Stillings added that there would not be any.

In response to if Mayor Miller will join the Board, Mr. Stillings added that yes, he will join the Board as a one-county-one-vote member.

In response to what becomes of the fiscal agent, Mr. Stillings added that this Board will have to decide who they want as the fiscal agent by vote. When asked his recommendation he recommended that Board weight the pros and cons of Baldwin County, or whatever county or the Middle Georgia Regional Commission being the fiscal agent.

When asked Tim Andrews gave a brief summary of the history of the organization's structure prior to Macon-Bibb pulling out and the circumstances of the separation. Mr. Andrews added that prior to the separation the Executive Director position was a political appointment by the Mayor of Macon and most of the programs and projects were directed through the City of Macon. At that time the Operations Director was the person who was actually knowledgeable of the program and at the time of the separation the Board members felt that the Executive Director should be familiar with all the operating programs. Therefore, the review and hiring process of the Executive Director involved the knowledge of the program by the Executive Director instead of a political appointee. Prior to the separation the office was also located in Macon because the distribution of the funds was based on population and at the time Macon was the largest populous in the region. Basically, it was the change in philosophy of the members that Bibb County shouldn't be the controlling element. Unfortunately, Bibb County had leadership at the time that wasn't receptive of being a team player.

Commissioner Henry Craig recommended that when moving forward that there be a clear Memorandum of Understanding about leadership and appointments based on observation of the past. Mr. Stillings added that the Bylaws changed when Macon pulled out so the structure is in place now and if decided to go forward an attorney would handle updating all the documents to include Macon-Bibb and the Board would approve all of that process.

When asked Steve Williams, the Chair of the Workforce Development Board, added that he feels like it will do our region a great service to merge the areas back together and with all the funding being able to provide services to the entire region. With all the growth in Middle Georgia it shows that our area is being targeted and the workforce is going to have to continue to increase and the organization is going to provide that.

To clarify the motion, it was asked if the motion to explore means it will be brought back before the Board. Darrell Stillings added that yes it will be brought before the board for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin Moseley and seconded by Commissioner Henry Craig to approve exploring merging WorkSource Macon-Bibb area with the WorkSource Middle Georgia area. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried.

2. *PY '21 State Monitoring Report* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the PY' 21 State Monitoring Notice of Findings and Required Action Report. He explained there were no financial monitoring findings, one programmatic finding and three observations – two programmatic and one compliance. He reported that the one program finding was due to follow-up not be conducted in a timely manner, which is the same finding as last year and is happening across the State. He explained that unfortunately participants are reluctant to respond to follow-up efforts when contacted. He further explained that he recently fielded a call regarding follow-up where the participant told him they did not want any further contact from us. He also explained the observations. The first programmatic observation due to incentive payments not being tied to progress and completion of activities identified in the participant's IEP/ISS. OWD recommended a process be developed and staff be trained.

The second program observation was in reference to the ITA policy. He explained that he went to the State regarding their requirement that participants utilize their GI Bill before WIOA funding. He explained that since the military personnel pay for the GI Bill, they are not required to use it before WIOA funding so he took it out of the policy. The State recommended that it be included in the policy to state that VA benefits are not required to be expended before WIOA. He reported the change has been made to the ITA Policy and will be presented for approval at today's meeting.

The third observation was due to compliance and was due to a staff member change at Baldwin which was still listed in the fiscal agent agreement. OWD recommended a more open line of communication be developed between us and Baldwin County.

3. *Approval of Revised ITA Policy* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the revised ITA Policy. The revision included the adding the required GI Bill verbiage recommended by the State during monitoring.

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry Craig and seconded by Commissioner Billy Webster to approve the revised ITA Policy as presented. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

4. *Approval of Revised Supportive Services Policy* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the revised Supportive Services Policy. The policy was revised to allow funding to be spent on individuals receiving career services only such as funding can be spent to help a participant get a job i.e., purchase tools.

A motion was made by Commissioner Henry Craig and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to approve the revised Supportive Services Policy as presented. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice.

5. *Approval of One-Stop Recertifications* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the One-Stop Recertifications for all comprehensive and affiliate sites. He explained that the each site has to be recertified every two years and they were certified using the State's criteria that was previously approved by the board. He explained that the One-Stop Committee members conducted the certification and the Workforce Development Board has approved all of them.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin Moseley and seconded by Timothy Andrews to approve the nomination of Sherry Moody as presented. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

6. *Expenditure Report* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the Expenditure Report dated October 31, 2022. He pointed out that the NEG expires on March 31, 2023 and there should be no problem expending the remaining funds. He also reported that Macon-Bibb has about \$700,000 left in their NEG grant and efforts will be made to help them expend their funds by the grant deadline so the money doesn't have to go back to the State. He further reported that the HDCI grant which expires the end of this month has been fully expended and see no problem expending all other grant funds that expire June 30, 2023.

7. **Activity Reports**

- *PY 2022 Enrollment Report* – Terrell Mitchell provided copies of and discussed the enrollment report dated December 1, 2022. She reported on all funding stream enrollments, which resulted in a total of 307 participants being served and 273 are carryovers. There have been 34 new enrollments since July 1, 2022.
- *PY 22 1st Quarter Performance Report* – Terrell Mitchell provided copies of and discussed the PY 22 1st Quarter Performance Report dated November 25, 2022. She reported that all measures are being met with the exception of the Measurable Skills Gains in all populations, which are measured throughout the time that a participant is enrolled and we have until June 30, 2023 to accomplish those measures.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

Darrell Stillings reported that Wagner Peyser, which is employment services has been removed by the Governor from the Department of Labor and is now under the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development. Therefore, Rapid Response funds will be awarded to local areas and it is anticipated that Middle Georgia will receive around \$75,000 at the beginning of the calendar year. Also, there is a two-year Quest Grant available which is a dislocated worker grant. Local areas have the opportunity to request up to \$700,000 and plans are to submit a request for the funds at the beginning of the year also.

MATTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. *Next Meeting* –The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2023, at 10AM, and it was the consensus of the members present to meet at the Consortium office.
2. *WDB Attendance Report* – Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the WDB Attendance Report. He pointed out that Jason Garcia, of Jason Garcia Concrete, LLC, has missed three consecutive meetings and by law needs to be voted off the Workforce Development Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin Moseley and seconded by Mayor John Reid to remove Jason Garcia, of Jason Garcia Concrete, LLC, from the Workforce Development Board due to nonattendance as required by law. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and a motion was made by Commissioner Martin Moseley and seconded by Commissioner John Williams to adjourn at 10:31AM. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.