

**MIDDLE GEORGIA  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board was held on February 20, 2024, at noon, at Central Georgia Technical College, located at 3300 Macon Tech Drive, Macon, Georgia. The following members were present:

Cyndey Busbee	Joseph Howard
Halley Duncan	Keith King
Tyrone Evans	Leslie Mitchell
Tishua Green	Stacey Mixson
Ivan Allen	Carolyn Watson
Willie Billingslea	Steve Williams
Kermelle Hensley	Wade Yoder
Richard Hinson	Jessica Maldonado
Sherrie Moody	Jasmine Newton
Aundrea Simmons	Lee Thompkins

The following guests were in attendance:

Douglas Rohme, In-the-Door, One-Stop Operator  
Angel Horton, In-the-Door, One-Stop Operator  
Joel Sizemore, J&J Heating & Air  
Brenda Brown, Central Georgia Technical College  
Ethel Wynn, Milledgeville DOL  
Deborah Burks, Central Georgia Technical College

**WELCOME GUEST/NEW MEMBER**

Chairman Steve Williams chaired and called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating. He introduced new guest. He thanked Dr. Allen for the use of his facility. There was a quorum present.

**MINUTES**

1. Approve of the Minutes of the December 12, 2023, meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board.

A motion was made by Tyrone Evans and seconded by Willie Billingslea to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023; 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**

### **1. WDB Committee Reports – Steve Williams**

- One-Stop Committee – Aundrea Simmons, Chair One Stop and Disability Committee nominated Leslie Mitchell to join the One-Stop Committee.
- Youth Committee – Clifford Holmes, Chair
  - Approval of Revised Policies
    - Youth Incentive Policy - Darrell Stillings reported in the absence of Youth Committee Chairman, Clifford Holmes, He reported the Youth Committee voted to approve revising the Youth Incentive Policy to allow students with a 3.0 GPA or 75% Grade Average per Semester, to earn up to a \$50 incentive payment depending on availability of funds.

A motion was made by Sherrie Moody and seconded by Willie Billingslea to approve the revised Youth Incentive Policy as presented. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

- Youth Work Experience Policy - Darrell Stillings reported that Youth Committee voted to approve revising the Youth Work Experience Policy to allow in-school youth to work beyond normal work hours but not to exceed six (6) hours a day or up to 30 hours per week. An example of this is when a student is working at a place that host events after 5 P.M., the student would be allowed to work that event as long as they did not go over six hours per day or 30 hours per week. This would require PRIOR approval from the Middle Georgia Consortium and would be depending on the availability of funds.

A motion was made by Cyndey Busbee and seconded by Lee Thompson to approve the revised Youth Work Experience Policy as presented. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

- ### **2. Business Services Quarterly Report – Howard Scott**
- Howard Scott was unable to attend today's meeting, therefore Darrell Stillings gave a brief update on the quarterly Business Services activities. He pointed out that pages 20 and 21 of today's agenda package contained a list of businesses that have been contacted during this quarter. He reported that there is an active on-the-job training contract with Giga and all of the high schools have been contacted for an internship for the youth. He also reported that incumbent worker training with Monroe County EMS, is still actively training individuals to become paramedics.

- ### **3. Open Meeting Act (HB 269) – Chairman Steve Williams**
- Chairman Williams discussed the revised Open Meeting Act which with its passage allows WIOA Boards to meet virtually in the same manner as was allowed during the pandemic. This will allow members that are unable to attend in person to participate virtually. Thanks to our Houston County Representative Shaw Blackman and Senator Larry Walker, they led the charge on this. Last year it was tabled in the Senate. This year, both the House and Senate have passed it unanimously and we are currently waiting on the Governor to sign it for it to go into effect. Once it goes into effect, we can start having virtual meetings. The intent is if a member cannot make it in person, then they can call in to participate in discussions and vote on matters that need action. Chairman Williams asked for a motion to approve virtual meetings in order to incorporate the process into our board meetings.

A motion was made by Richard Hinson and seconded by Keith King to approve the revised Open Meeting Act to allow virtual meetings for the board meetings. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

**4. 2024 – 2027 Local & Regional Plans** – Darrell Stillings provided copies of the guidance received from the State. He reported that the State Plan is out for comments and hopefully will be approved by the Feds in March. He also reported that efforts are currently being made to work with our local partners to update the Local Plan by April.

**5. Expenditure Report** – Kerry Scarboro, MGCI Accountant, reported as of January 31, 2024 we have a balance of \$3,426,843.38. She reported that an additional Quest Grant in the amount of \$350,000 has been received as well as the approval to transfer \$214,000 from the Dislocated Worker Grant to the Adult/Dislocated Worker Grant.

**6. Activity Reports – Terrell Mitchell**

- **PY 2023 Enrollments** - Terrell Mitchell reported that enrollment through February 8, 2024 Adult enrollments has grown to 96, which is an increase of 15 from the last meeting in November. No change in the numbers for formula dislocated workers. We currently have 137 enrolled in the Quest Dislocated Worker training program, which is an increase of 34 from last meeting. We currently have 126 youth enrolled and that is an increase of 41 from the last meeting.

- **PY 2023 Performance** - Terrell Mitchell reported that the performance report only includes one quarter of PY2023. We are not overly concerned yet by some of the low percentages. There were questions from Chairman Williams about Macon-Bibb numbers, he wanted to know if we knew what the numbers were prior to the merger? Darrell Stillings provided the numbers for Macon-Bibb which he reported was 81 participants were enrolled prior to July 1, 2023.

**7. One Stop Operator Report** – Angel Horton, One-Stop Operator, reported that over the last two month there have been 32 outreach activities within a two-month period of time. We have created some opportunities with the provision of employment services in supporting our partners and employment services with workshops.

Darrell Stillings added that opportunities are being missed due to the fact that there is not a One-Stop Operator in Milledgeville right now. He asked that if anyone knows of a qualified candidate that could benefit our organization to please let him know.

He also reported that Region 6 had its first regional area Business Service meeting. Ms. Simmons, of Technical College System of Georgia, WorkSource Title III and WIOA Title I Partners participated; and, it was a very productive meeting. In a collaborative effort with TCSG, WorkSource Middle Georgia is using the WorkSource Ga Portal to identify and target certain businesses to help serve the youth population.

**MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were none.

## **MATTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. **PY 2023 Meeting Schedule** – Darrell Stillings reminded members that the next WDB meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2024, at noon, at Flint Energies, on Carl Vinson, in Warner Robins.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Steve Williams thanked everyone for participating. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM.