

**MIDDLE GEORGIA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
OCTOBER 22, 2024**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board was held on October 22, 2024, at noon, at Central Georgia Technical College, Macon Campus, Building I, Quad A/C, located at 3300 Macon Tech Drive, Macon, Georgia. The following members were present:

Dan Brandon-Virtual	Patrick Manuel-Virtual
Halley Duncan	Leslie Mitchell
Tyrone Evans	Jasmine Newton
Tishua Green	Aundrea Simmons
Myrtle Habersham	Lee Tompkins
Dr. Kermelle Hensley	Brian Utley
Richard Hinson	Steve Williams
Keith King	Wade Yoder

The following guests were in attendance:

Dr. Deborah Burkes, CGTC
Douglas Rohme, In-the-Door, One-Stop Operator
Candise McDonald, In-the-Door, One-Stop Operator
Christian Washington, In-the-Door, One-Stop Operator
Monique Moore, In-the-Door, One-Stop Operator
Brenda Brown, CGTC
Ethel Wynn, GDOL - Virtual

WELCOME GUEST/NEW MEMBER

Chairman Steve Williams briefly chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating. There was a quorum present.

MINUTES

1. Approve of the Minutes of the June 18, 2024, meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board.

A motion was made by Sherrie Moody and seconded by Richard Hinson to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024; meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board as written. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ratify Action Taken at the June 18, 2024 Meeting as follows:
 - Approval of Revised Policies
 - 3.2.2 SSN Procedures v. 2
 - 3.3.1 Individual Employment Plans
 - Registered Apprenticeship

- Rapid Response Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Approval of One-Stop Certification Criteria

A motion was made by Ricard Hinson and seconded by Lee Tompkins to ratify the approval of all of the revised policies as approved during the June 18, 2024, Workforce Development Board meeting. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

- Approval of 2024-2027 Regional Plan –

A motion was made by Sherrie Moody and seconded by Myrtle Habersham to ratify the approval of the 2024-2027 Regional Plan as presented and approved during the June 18, 2024, Workforce Development Board meeting. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

- Approval of PY 24 Contracts –
 - In-the-Door, LLC One-Stop Operator
 - Central Georgia Technical College Case Management

A motion was made by Richard Hinson and seconded by Tishua Green to ratify the approval of both the In-the-Door, LLC One-Stop Operator Contract and the Central Georgia Technical College Case Management Contract for PY 2024 as presented and approved during the June 18, 2024, Workforce Development Board meeting. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

- PY 2024 Office Budget, Transfer Authority and HDCI Grant Award-

A motion was made by Lee Tompkins and Tishua Green to ratify the approval of the PY 2024 Office Budget, the Transfer Authority and the HDCI Grant Award as presented at the June 18, 2024, Workforce Development Board meeting. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WDB Committee Reports –

- One-Stop and Disability Committee – Chairwoman, Aundrea Simmons, turned the floor over to Darrell Stillings to give the report.
 - Approval of WorkSource Middle Georgia Apprenticeship Policy and Apprenticeship Grant (\$50,000) – Darrell Stillings announced that the One-Stop and Disability Committee met prior to the full board meeting today and they approved the WorkSource Middle Georgia Apprenticeship Policy and the Apprenticeship Grant of \$50,000.

He explained that in previous years our training model has basically been through ITAs, however, the Governor and the passing of Senate Bill 497 is going to change how we train people going forward. The Bill will not eliminate ITA training but it will bring a lot of people together and make the pipeline more proficient. The Bill has changed the High Demand Initiative to the High Demand Apprenticeship Program (HDAP), which will be administered in line with the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Labor, Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Office of Workforce Development to work together and form an apprenticeship program. It is a great opportunity to help youth with apprenticeship in high school and transition them into technical college, four year college or private sector if the apprenticeship is through a business. It provides a great opportunity to braid funds and extend the

funds to be more useful. He further pointed out that the local policy states that WorkSource Middle Georgia may provide technical assistance to the employers who seek to apply for the TCSG High Demand Apprenticeship Program (HDAP) grant through the assistance of applying for the application, letter of recommendations and/or partner contact with the region, if applicable. Private businesses that want to sponsor apprenticeships can go directly to the State and receive \$5,000 per apprentice who participates in their apprenticeship program. There are three local areas in the State that are participating in a pilot program to develop and implement new apprenticeship programs. Middle Georgia was one of the areas to receive \$50,000 and will be looking to work with its partners to meet to determine how to construct a path where an apprentice can go from high school to a career in the labor market.

Chairman Williams added that at the last State Workforce Board meeting it was discussed and there were companies in attendance that were interested in partnering. He reported that Hyundai was also in attendance and gave a great presentation. The plant is computerized. They have hired 632 people and need a total of 8500. There are also contractors there supporting the plant which will generate around another 6,000 jobs.

A motion was made by Richard Hinson and seconded by Lee Tompkins to approve the WorkSource Middle Georgia Apprenticeship Policy and the Apprenticeship Grant in the amount of \$50,000. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

- Youth Committee
 - Approval of CGTC Youth Incentive – Darrell Stillings reported that the Youth Committee met prior to today’s full Board meeting where Ms. Brown, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Gordon attending and explained that there are a lot of different ways a student can earn a high school diploma. In the past students have dropped out of high school and attended adult education where they earned a GED, however, now a student can transfer from high school to Central Georgia Tech and earn a high school diploma and an associate degree at the same time. If a student transfers to CGTC to one of the alternate programs other than the GED program they take the TABE test and their score is recorded. If within 40 hours of training they take the TABE test again and test at least a level higher they will receive a one-time \$50 incentive. This incentive payment is to encourage students to stay engaged.

A motion was made by Sherrie Moody and seconded by Myrtle Habersham to approve the CGTC Youth Incentive of one-time incentive payment of \$50 when participants earn a measurable skills gain by increasing one level higher evident by their TABE test scores. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

2. **HDCI Update** – Paul Allen provided an update on HDCI activities. He reported on behalf of Howard Scott, Business Services Specialist that we currently have six active contracts with local businesses in the area who are actively training and employing workers who were previously long-term unemployed. These opportunity span across multiple industries to include allied health care,

logistics, information technology and manufacturing. He also reported that the ACT WorkKeys initiative is going very well where several job profiles have been successfully completed with the most recent being with Perdue Farms for a Wastewater Operator position and for Northrop Grumman an Electronic Technician III position. He further explained that this requires us to go in and work with the business to conduct a job profile which provides them with a report that will help them find the right talent.

He also reported that they have increased the number of National Career Readiness Certificates that have been obtained through our different emerging markets such as our current markets and transitioning markets and the number of businesses that are supporting the initiative continues to increase. He thanked everyone for their support in continuing to get the word out so business can make the ACT WorkKeys part of their hiring practices.

Lastly, he reported that Externship Program being led by Sabrina Phelps has helped 180 educators do tours of local industries spanning across multiple industries with at least 20 employers over the last couple of years allowing the educators to get a glimpse of the industry in the real world and this allows the educators to take the information back and translate it to the class to help students identify career paths and set educational goals based on what is happening in the Middle Georgia area.

3. **Expenditure Report** – Kerry Scarboro, MGCI Accountant, provided an expenditures report through August 31, 2024. She reported pointed out that there was a balance of \$1,895,506.25 and all grants ending June 30, 2024 have been closed and no funds will be returned to the State. She also reported that the new grants for PY 24 Grants for the Adult, DLW, Youth and HDCI have been received and total \$1,098,550.00. Chairman Williams added that no funds are being returned and Kerry added that is correct.

4. **Activity Reports – Terrell Mitchell**

- **PY 2023 Enrollments** - Terrell Mitchell provide an Enrollment Report dated October 15, 2024. The report showed a total of 331 enrollments with 69 being Adults, 4 being Incumbent Worker, 130 being Quest and 128 being Youth enrollees. The report also showed that out of the 331 total enrollments 185 are still active in training. In response to a question of if there is anything that can be done to increase the DLW enrollments, Darrell Stillings added that the Quest Grant is a DLW grant and is being used for DLW enrollments which allows the transfer of the DLW Grant to the Adult Grant to be able to better serve the adult population.
- **PY 2023 Into 4th Quarter Performance** - Terrell Mitchell provided a Performance report dated October 15, 2024, which has not been finalized by the State. The report showed we are doing well on most measures, however, Terrell pointed out that the Measureable Skills Gain for Dislocated Workers is low and that the Credential Attainment measure for Youth is not being met. She also reported that the overall performance was good and that there will not be any sanctions from the State. A year-end report was distributed for information purposes.

5. **One Stop Operator Report** – Doug Rohme, One-Stop Operator Manager, provided a One-Stop Operator Summary Report for the period July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024. He reported that the Macon Operator position has been filled and introduced Christian Washington. Doug Rohme also pointed out that 9,349 customers came through the career centers during the report period. Kroger held two recruitment events at the Houston County Career Center where they interviewed 97 people and 59 job offers were made and 65 job seekers and 19 employers attended

the Goodwill Career Fair. Chairman Williams thanked them for all they do to enhance the Middle Georgia area.

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 December 10, 2024, at noon, at Flint Energies, in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Darrell Stillings also announced that he has received notice from GDOL that GDOL's staff at the Macon Career Center may be moving to the Macon Mall and they are not including space for the One-Stop partners. Chairman Williams added that he and the CLEO Chair, Chris Weidner, are looking into relocating the Middle Georgia Consortium office from Houston County to the Macon Mall to serve as the comprehensive one-stop site. They are in process of getting a price for adequate office space for staff and the required one-stop partners. He asked for volunteers to establish an ad hoc committee to oversee the process. Richard Hinson, Tyrone Evans, Keith King and Sherrie Moody volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Williams thanked everyone for participating. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:57PM.