

**Council of Chief Elected Officials  
of Northwest Georgia**

Thursday, July 8, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
via GoTo Meeting

Minutes

**Attendance**

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**CCEOs Present or Represented, County:**

Al Pallone, Bartow  
Nick Millwood, Catoosa  
Harry Harvey, Chattooga  
Jason Winters, Chattooga  
Alex Case, Dade  
Ted Rumley, Dade  
Stan Helton, Fannin  
Donna Whitener, Fannin (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Bill Collins, Floyd (proxy Wendy Davis)  
Charlie Paris, Gilmer (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Becky Hood, Gordon  
Greg Hogan, Murray (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
David Carmichael, Paulding  
Robert Jones, Pickens (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Steve Lawrence, Pickens  
Teddy Harris, Walker  
Shannon Whitfield, Walker  
Ken Gowin, Whitfield  
Lynn Laughter, Whitfield

**CCEOs Not Present or Represented, County**

Steve Taylor, Bartow  
Steven Henry, Catoosa  
Scotty Hancock, Floyd  
Al Hoyle, Gilmer  
Jimmy Palmer, Gordon  
Pete Bridges, Haralson  
Ronnie Ridley, Haralson  
Tyson Haynes, Murray  
James Kelly, Paulding  
Hal Floyd, Polk  
Matt Foster, Polk

**Staff and Guests:**

Karla Conetta  
Susan Gentry  
Tammy Helbing  
Lesia Lambert  
Terri Morgan  
Anthony Rucker

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**I. Welcome..... Ted Rumley**

Ted Rumley, Chairman, called the meeting of the Council of Chief Elected Officials to order. It was established that a quorum was present.

**II. Consent Agenda..... Ted Rumley**

Mr. Rumley informed those present that a Consent Agenda (containing Minutes from the May 21, 2020 Meeting and a dislocated worker report, attached) had been e-mailed and were also attached for review. Lynn Laughter made the motion to accept the Minutes. Stan Helton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Workforce Development Board Bylaws ..... Lesia Lambert**

Lesia Lambert informed the Council that, based upon guidance from the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development, the following changes to the Bylaws were recommended (copy attached with changes in color):

- Page 4 (bottom of the page); add the following, "The CLEO shall be notified within ten (10) days of a vacancy.
- Page 6 (paragraphs 5 and 6); Remove the reference to the One-Stop Committee and the Service Committee for Individuals with Disabilities and remove duplicative verbiage regarding non-WDB appointees to the WDB.

Wendy Davis asked if this would mean that the committee to assist individuals with disabilities would no longer exist. Ms. Lambert informed her that it would exist as an advisory council. Alex Case made the motion to approve these changes. Al Pallone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Workforce Development Board Membership ..... Lesia Lambert**

Tamika Wright, Assistant Director of Field Services, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, nominated Celeste Harris, Service Area Manager, to serve on the Workforce Development Board. Alex Case made the motion to approve this nomination. Shannon Whitfield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Fiscal Report ..... Anthony Rucker**

Anthony Rucker presented a "Northwest Georgia Regional Commission WIOA Grant Financial Report, Grant Inception to 5/31/2020" (attached). This report encompasses the Adult, Dislocated Worker, HDCI, and Youth programs and also reflects the additional COVID-19 funds. Jason Winters asked if the COVID-19 funds could be used for the youth program in Chattooga County. Ms. Lambert replied that this grant is specifically for those impacted by COVID-19 and dislocated workers. Nick Millwood made the motion to accept this report. Harry Harvey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Policies**

**A. ITA Policy ..... Lesia Lambert**

Susan Gentry presented the recommended changes to the Individual Training Account Policy (copy attached with changes in color). Those changes are as follows:

- Page 1; References the change that all applicants must apply for the Pell Grant and/or Hope Grant/Scholarship Program and that those grant funds must be applied towards tuition and fees prior to the use of WIOA funds.

- Page 2; Removes the following "Customers shall not be required to apply for or access student loans, or incur personal debt as a condition of participation" and adds the following, "Funding for any reimbursement is contingent upon the availability of funds from the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development.

Lynn Laughter made the motion to accept these changes. Alex Case seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Adult/Dislocated Worker Support Policy ..... Susan Gentry**

Ms. Gentry informed those present that changes to the Adult/Dislocated Worker Support Policy (attached, changes in color) were recommended due to the level of funding available.

Staff suggested that the transportation policy be revised to reflect a lower reimbursement rate as follows:

- Page 4; Revise the assistance with transportation to the amounts below:  
 0.5 - 10 miles =\$6.00 per day  
 11 - 25 miles =\$8.00 per day  
 26+ miles = \$10.00 per day

Additionally, staff recommended revising the assistance with childcare as follows:

- Page 3; Reimbursement to the participant is limited to a maximum of \$15.00 per day, for one child only.

After discussing the possibility that revisions to the support policy may lead to dropouts or lower enrollment, Wendy Davis made the motion to table the item for further review. Shannon Whitfield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Youth Support Policy ..... Derrick McDaniel**

Derrick McDaniel presented the Youth Support Policy (attached with changes in color). Staff's recommendations are as follows:

- Page 3; Allowable Youth Supportive Services. Add "In the event, out-of- school youth (GED participants) must take online classes, they will receive a flat rate of \$10 per day. The days of attendance and progress made for GED participants will be recorded by the Career Advisers. Individual Training Account (ITA) participants taking online courses, must contact their Career Adviser on a weekly basis to advise them of course progress. In order to receive a flat rate of \$10 per day, ITA participants must send the Career Advisers a weekly report confirming days of attendance and progress made. However, if ITA participants or GED/short-term training participants attends classroom training in-person, the participants will

receive the following traditional rates for travel and childcare outlined in Section D, item b, "Assistance with Transportation", Clauses B and C. "

- Page 4; Revise the assistance with transportation to the amounts below:  
0.5 - 10 miles =\$6.00 per day  
11 - 25 miles =\$8.00 per day  
26+ miles = \$10.00 per day
- Page 4; Revise the assistance with childcare to the following:  
Reimbursement to the participant is limited to a maximum of \$15.00 per day, for one child only.

Al Pallone made the motion to approve these changes. Alex Case seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Other**

Ms. Lambert updated those present on the response to COVID-19. She reminded the Council that staff had applied for and received additional funds to assist those eligible individuals who have been temporarily or permanently impacted by COVID-19 individuals that meets the definition of a dislocated worker including individuals who are long-term unemployed. These funds can be spent on work experience or classroom training. Staff has also asked all providers to prepare a report outlining how services will continue during the pandemic. She noted that NWGRC staff have returned to working in the office full-time and that continuing adjustments were being made to the website to ensure that those individuals who are interested in services can easily obtain information and apply.

## **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.