

**Council of Chief Elected Officials  
of Northwest Georgia**  
Thursday, September 10, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
via GoTo Meeting

Minutes

**Attendance**

---

**CCEOs Present or Represented, County:**

Al Pallone, Bartow  
 Steve Taylor, Bartow  
 Harry Harvey, Chattooga  
 Jason Winters, Chattooga (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
 Alex Case, Dade  
 Ted Rumley, Dade  
 Stan Helton, Fannin  
 Donna Whitener, Fannin (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
 Bill Collins, Floyd (proxy Wendy Davis)  
 Scotty Hancock, Floyd  
 Charlie Paris, Gilmer  
 Becky Hood, Gordon  
 Jimmy Palmer, Gordon  
 Ronnie Ridley, Haralson  
 Greg Hogan, Murray  
 David Carmichael, Paulding (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
 Robert Jones, Pickens (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
 Steve Lawrence, Pickens  
 Matt Foster, Polk (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
 Shannon Whitfield, Walker (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
 Ken Gowin, Whitfield (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
 Lynn Laughter, Whitfield

**CCEOs Not Present or Represented, County**

Nick Millwood, Catoosa  
 Steven Henry, Catoosa  
 Al Hoyle, Gilmer  
 Pete Bridges, Haralson  
 K. W. Gong, Murray  
 James Kelly, Paulding  
 Hal Floyd, Polk  
 Teddy Harris, Walker

**Staff and Guests:**

Carolyn Barrett  
 Joey Cumbie  
 Susan Gentry  
 Tammy Helbing  
 Lesia Lambert  
 Derrick McDanilel  
 Sharrell McKnight  
 Terri Morgan  
 Anthony Rucker  
 Judy Siddall  
 Phyllis Walker

---

**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 July 8, 2020 Meeting and a performance report, attached) had been e-mailed and were also attached for review. Greg Hogan made the motion to accept the Minutes. Ronnie Ridley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Fiscal Report . . . . . Anthony Rucker**

Anthony Rucker presented the "Northwest Georgia Regional Commission WIOA Grant Financial Report, Grant Inception to 7/31/2020" (attached). This report encompasses the Adult, Dislocated Worker, COVID/Disaster, HDCl, and Youth programs. Lynn Laughter asked if the COVID-19/Disaster grant needed to have been spent by September 1, 2020. Mr. Rucker replied that 75% of those funds would need to be spent by June 30, 2021 (statewide). Al Pallone made the motion to accept this report. Scotty Hancock seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Workforce Development Board Membership . . . . . Terri Morgan**

Terri Morgan informed the Council that Illya Copeland, an Economic Development Representative on the Workforce Development Board, passed away in July. Lisa Adkisson, also a Board member, suggested Christi Gribble, Executive Director, Fannin County Development Authority, for the vacancy. Staff contacted Ms. Gribble and she agreed to serve. Richard York, Chairman, Fannin County Development Authority, nominated Christie Gribble to serve on the Workforce Development Board. Lynn Laughter made the motion to approve this nomination. Greg Hogan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Workforce Development Board Actions**

**A. Support Policy . . . . . Susan Gentry**

Susan Gentry presented proposed revisions to the Adult/Dislocated Worker Support Policy (three documents, attached). Ms. Gentry informed the Council that, during Program Years PY19-20 and PY20-21, funding allocations from TCSG State office were reduced by approximately 12%. As a result of the reduction in funds the following adjustments were made: all WIOA contract budgets, participant slots, and support services were cut by approximately 15% to make up some of the loss of program funding; the Needs Related Payment program has been suspended; and contractors were instructed to stop enrollments for PY 19-20 as early as January 2020.

In March 2020 the COVID-19 Pandemic affected training services in the following ways: shutting down training programs at colleges, vendors, and some work-based training providers; training completion dates were extended, resulting in more carryover students and costs in PY20-21; and participant costs increased as training program costs were increased by the school/training provider.

She explained that the goal in PY20-21 is to continue to offer quality training programs to as many participants as possible without requiring additional cuts to contracts and essential services. To prevent continued shortages, staff analyzed the program and services offered and recommended the following revisions to the Support Policy:

- Transportation Assistance will be offered at the following rates:
  - 0.5-10 miles = \$6.00 per day
  - 11-25 miles = \$8.00 per day
  - 26 + miles = \$10.00 per day
- Childcare Assistance will be offered for participants with a child under age 12 at a rate of \$15.00 per day.
- On-line only students are eligible to receive a flat rate of \$10 per day in lieu of the travel supplement. They will not be eligible for childcare on days attending on-line training. However, in the event they are required to attend in person for tests, clinicals, meetings with teacher, etc. they will be eligible for the traditional rates for travel and childcare noted above.

Ms. Gentry provided information regarding the amounts of funding that would be saved if these revisions to the policy were approved (information pertaining to the number of students affected and the cost saving is attached). Additionally, she provided a revised copy of the policy, with changes highlighted (attached). Ms. Gentry stated that the Workforce Development Board had approved these changes and recommended CCEO approval. Lynn Laughter asked why a supplement was provided for those taking online classes. Ms. Gentry responded that it was an incentive to students to remain in training. Al Pallone made the motion to approve these revisions. Scotty Hancock seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. New Programs/Providers ..... Lesia Lambert**

Lesia Lambert presented the "Logistics and Supply Chain Management" program (attached). She stated that Chattahoochee Technical College had submitted a request to approve the Logistics and Supply Management program. This training consists of a forklift component and courses in Certified Logistics Technician (CLT) and Certified Logistics Associate (CLA), which are assessed by the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC). She added that Chattahoochee Technical College conducts the MSSC CLA/CLT program in partnership with Goodwill of Northwest Georgia.

Ms. Lambert stated that the Proposal Review Committee had approved the submission of the Logistics and Supply Chain Management and Forklift Program to be added to the State Eligible Training Provider List and approval for five (5) slots for training in Northwest Georgia at a cost not to exceed \$2,050 per student. Greg Hogan asked if a participant failed, would WIOA be required to pay for the training again. Ms. Lambert responded that we would not; only the retake fee would apply (which is included in the cost). Steve Taylor made the motion to approve this new program for five (5) slots, not to exceed a cost of \$2,050 per student. Greg Hogan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Youth Work Experience Pay Rate Increase Request . . . . . Lesia Lambert**

Ms. Lambert presented a recommendation to increase the wage amount for the work experience program from \$8 per hours to a minimum of \$9 per hour. The wage increase will assist in spending the 20% allocation for work experience (which is mandated in the federal regulations) and help meet the need for serving out-of-school youth. Al Pallone made the motion to approve this request. Alex Case seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. COVID-19 Response . . . . . Lesia Lambert**

Ms. Lambert provided those present with an update on staff and contractors' response to COVID-19. She stated that staff has worked to come up with virtual training and meetings to ensure that information is provided and exchanged in a timely manner. Ms. Lambert informed the Council that an online portal had been created for applicants to complete and submit applications and the required forms. Additionally, through the COVID/Disaster Grant, 23 adults have been enrolled in training and six participants in a work experience component. Ms. Lambert noted that, in times when the unemployment rate is high, many individuals are interested in occupational skills training. Staff has been working through the pandemic and continues to research ways to provide resources to applicants and providers.

**VII. Year-End Report . . . . . Lesia Lambert**

Ms. Lambert directed attention to "The Year in Review, July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020," (attached). She stated that the report reflects individuals served and training dollars spent in the Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Incumbent Worker programs along with a breakdown of the numbers of individuals served by county. Additionally, Region 1 performance information is provided and she noted that we are exceeding the negotiated levels of performance. A listing of dislocations was provided and Ms. Lambert informed those present that, when notice of a layoff or closure is received from the USDOL, staff contacts and meets with those impacted by the layoff/closure to inform them of the services available through WIOA. Finally, Ms. Lambert presented two success stories from WIOA participants.

**Other**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.