

Council of Chief Elected Officials (CCEO) of Northwest Georgia

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Rome Civic Center
Rome, Georgia

Minutes

Attendance

CCEOs Present or Represented, County:

Craig Guyton, Bartow
Steve Taylor, Bartow
Steven Henry, Catoosa
Andy Allen, Chattooga
Rickey Hughes, Chattooga
Alex Case, Dade
Don Townsend, Dade
Allison Watters, Floyd
Charlie Paris, Gilmer (proxy, Alex Case)
Bud Owens, Gordon
Steve Holcombe, Haralson
Brian Walker, Haralson
Noah Bishop, Murray
K. W. Gong, Murray
Tim Estes, Paulding
Kirk Raffield, Pickens
Sam Branch, (proxy, Alex Case)
Jevin Jenson, Whitfield

CCEOs Not Present or Represented, County

Nick Millwood, Catoosa
Jamie Hensley, Fannin
Andy Rhodes, Fannin
Craig McDaniel, Floyd
Al Hoyle, Gilmer
Jimmy Palmer, Gordon
James Kelly, Paulding
Kris Stancil, Pickens
Hal Floyd, Polk
Teddy Harris, Walker*
Angie Teems, Walker
Ken Gowin, Whitfield

Guests/Staff:

Lesia Lambert
Terri Morgan
Anthony Rucker

*vacancy

I. Welcome Alex Case

Chairman Alex Case called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. It was established that a quorum was present.

II. Minutes Alex Case

Mr. Case informed those present that the *minutes* from the October 23, 2025 Meeting had been e-mailed and was also attached for review. Bud Owens made the motion to accept the minutes. Kirk Raffield seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Fiscal Report Anthony Rucker

Anthony Rucker presented a **Grant Summary (7/1/2025-12/31/2025)** for Worksource Northwest Georgia (attached) encompassing the Adult; Dislocated Worker; QUEST; Rapid Response; and Youth programs, noting that the QUEST program ended in September 2025. Steven Henry made the motion to accept. Don Townsend seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Workforce Development Bylaws Lesia Lambert

Lesia Lambert informed those present that staff had updated the WDB Bylaws to reflect guidance from the Technical College System of Georgia (handout attached). The addition is as follows (removing the reference to Gerald Syndor's name):

"Upon the election of a CLEO, hiring of a LWDA Director, or election of a LWDB Chairman, the LWDA must notify the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development (OWD) within 10 business days. The LWDA must also notify OWD, within 10 business days of any major staff changes, including management new hires, promotions, and/or any terminations/layoffs. This notification should be directed to WIOACompliance@tcsge.edu and must include contact information for the individual and documentation that supports the assumption of the new role. Examples of acceptable documentation may include LWDB minutes, a letter of appointment from the CLEO in accordance with the local policy, or an offer letter."

Don Townsend made the motion to approve this change. Steven Henry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Workforce Development Board Membership Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert informed those present that the WDB has a vacancy for the CCEO category, recently held by Mayor Harry Harvey from Summerville. Steven Henry volunteered to serve. Steve Taylor made the motion to approve. Craig Guyton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

V. HERO Institute Request Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert reminded the Council that, at the October meeting, the Council had requested more information regarding a request from Health Education Reimagined Online (HERO) Institute to add the Medical Assistant program to their agreement. Staff requested additional information from the provider (handout attached). After discussion, Steve Taylor made the motion to approve the request to add this program to WorkSource Northwest Georgia's list of vendor training for HERO Institute. Allison Watters seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other

The Council asked that staff provide reports regarding funds expended, by provider and county.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.