

Council of Chief Elected Officials (CCEO) of Northwest Georgia

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Rome Civic Center
Rome, Georgia

Minutes

Attendance

CCEOs Present or Represented, County:

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

CCEOs Not Present or Represented, County

Craig Guyton, Bartow
Nick Millwood, Catoosa
Jamie Hensley, Fannin
Andy Rhodes, Fannin
Jim Bojo, Floyd
Jimmy Palmer, Gordon
James Kelly, Paulding
Kirk Raffield, Pickens
Kris Stancil, Pickens
Hal Floyd, Polk
Teddy Harris, Walker*
Angie Teems, Walker

Guests/Staff:

Lesia Lambert
Terri Morgan
Anthony Rucker
Phyllis Walker
Fred Welch

*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 March 19, 2026 Meeting had been e-mailed and was also attached for review. Ken Gowin made the motion to accept the minutes. Allison Watters seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Fiscal Report Anthony Rucker

Anthony Rucker provided a detailed financial **Summary** (7/1/2025-5/20/2026) for WorkSource Northwest Georgia (attached) encompassing the Adult; Dislocated Worker; QUEST; Rapid Response; and Youth programs. Additionally, Mr. Rucker provided a budget for PY26 (attached). Andy Allen made the motion to approve the report and budget. Charlie Paris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Performance Report Lesia Lambert

Lesia Lambert presented a performance report with data through PY25, Quarter 2 (attached). She explained that this is the most up-to-date performance available and that she anticipated that the "measurable skills gain" measure would be met with the addition of new information (input into the system by providers). Steve Taylor made the motion to approve the report. Brian Walker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Workforce Development Board (WDB) Membership, Officers, and Youth Committee Membership Terri Morgan

Terri Morgan presented the WDB membership listing, noting that a vacancy existed for a Business Representative (and encouraged the Council to make recommendations for members of their communities who might be interested in serving). She also provided the WDB Officers and Executive Committee, both with vacancies, as well as the Youth Committee membership and Officers. Allison Watters made the motion to approve these. Jevin Jenson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Workforce Development Board Actions

A. Career Advisor/Case Management Budgets Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert reported that the Proposal Review Committee and the WDB approved the following budget requests, contingent upon the availability of funds and successful negotiation and recommended CCEO approval.

Contractor	Service	Number of Participants	Total Cost	Recommendation
Chattahoochee Technical College	Occupational Skills Training	201 Total 127 – New 74 - Carryover	\$1,028,000	Staff recommends approval of CTC's budget requests and participant totals. The request is to serve a minimum of 201 participants (including carryovers) for a total not to exceed \$1,028,000, contingent upon the availability of funds and successful negotiations.
Georgia Northwestern Technical College	Occupational Skills Training	261 161 – New 100 – Carryover	\$1,219,554	Staff recommends approval of GNTC's budget request and participant totals to serve a minimum of 261 participants (including carryovers) for a total not to exceed \$1,219,554, contingent upon the availability of funds and successful negotiations.
West Georgia Technical College	Occupational Skills Training	66 50 – New 16 – Carryovers	\$325,064	Staff recommends approval of WGTTC's budget request and participant totals to serve a minimum of 66 participants (including carryovers) for a total not to exceed \$325,064, contingent upon the availability of funds and successful negotiations.

Don Townsend made the motion to approve the recommendations. Al Hoyle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. One-Stop Operator Recommendations Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert reminded the Council that In the Door, LLC., the current One-Stop Operator, is in the 2nd year of a three-year bid cycle. The Proposal Review Committee and WDB approved In the Door, LLC as the One-Stop Operator for PY26 in the amount of \$110,389, contingent upon the receipt of funds from the Technical College System of Georgia and successful negotiations and recommended CCEO approval. Allison Watters made the motion to approve. KW Gong seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Youth Program Budgets Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert presented the Youth Program Budget and Enrollment Numbers (attached and below). She noted that the Committee had also reviewed provider performance and enrollment. The Youth Committee and the WDB approved the Youth budget and enrollment numbers for Program Year 2026 (which begins June 30, 2026, and ends June 30, 2027) contingent upon Youth Funds received from the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development and successful negotiations and recommended CCEO approval.

Contractor	Enrollments	Contract	Participant Wages	Support	Total Funding Recommended
Rome BOE	New 50 C/O 5 Total 55	\$65,000	\$40,000	N/A	\$105,000
Chattooga BOE	New 45 C/O 13 Total 58	\$50,937	\$30,000	N/A	\$80,937
GNTC Youth	New 118 C/O 45 Total 163	\$517,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$577,000
Eckerd Connects Paxen	New 73 C/O 20 Total 93	\$280,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$330,000
Total	369	\$912,937	\$130,000	\$50,000	\$1,092,937

Steve Taylor made the motion to approve these recommendations, contingent upon the availability of funds and successful negotiation. Noah Bishop seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) Lookup Agreement Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert then informed those present that the current Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) Lookup Agreement expires on June 30, 2026. The GDOL has proposed a two-year extension which will begin July 1, 2026, and terminate on June 30, 2028. The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) will continue to cover all Partner Access charges up to \$7,600. These charges include the following (also attached):

- o A \$200 fee for setup, maintenance, and review of each user ID.

- o A charge of \$1.00 each time a Social Security lookup screen is accessed by a registered user.

The Proposal Review Committee and the WDB approved entering into a sole source contract with the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) for their Wage and Unemployment information services and approval for an additional \$10,000 to cover any charges not covered by the \$7,600 from TCSG and recommended CCEO approval. Brian Walker made the motion to approve. Allison Watters seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. TrackSource/Entre Financial Management System Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert explained that TrackSource/Entre Financial Management System is used to track obligations and updates that occur in the participant's actual cost. It is also used by the Career Advisors to create vouchers to send to the WIOA Fiscal Department for payment. TrackSource has requested continuing the agreement with Northwest Georgia. The pricing as of July 1, 2026 is as follows (also attached). Entre Financial System will continue to provide our office with monthly services for services rendered during June 30, 2026, through June 30, 2027. There are no changes to the pricing from the current year.

Monthly Subscription:	
One subscription (Includes Maximum of 10 users)	Additional user Subscription (Not to exceed 15 users)
\$105.50 per month/per user	\$105.50 per month/ per user
\$12,660 per year	\$18,990 per year

The Proposal Review Committee and the WDB approved this request to approve the pricing for the subscription as shown above and recommended CCEO approval. Noah Bishop made the motion to approve. KW Gong seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Vendors Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert provided the Council with a listing of Individual Training Account Vendors (attached and below). The Proposal Review Committee and the WDB approved the vendors listed below for Program Year 2026-2027 and recommended CCEO approval.

160 Driving Academy
 Chattahoochee Technical College
 Cobb Medical Institute
 Coding Clarified
 Cumberland
 Dental Assistant School of Atlanta
 Dental Careers Institute
 Gadsden State College
 Georgia Driving Academy
 Georgia Northwestern Technical College
 Goodwill of North Georgia

Katlaw Driving School
 Lanier Technical College
 North Georgia Technical College
 Northwest Georgia RESA
 Primrose Health Institute
 Roadmasters Drivers School
 Southeastern Lineman Training Center
 Training Center of Northwest Georgia
 West Georgia Technical College

Brian Walker made the motion to approve these vendors. Andy Allen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. National Student Clearinghouse. Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert informed those present that the National Student Clearinghouse provides student tracker data services allowing staff to access the only nationwide source of college enrollment and degree data. This allows staff to determine if participants have received credentials (which assists with performance). The cost is \$735 for access through 06/01/2026 - 05/31/2027. The Proposal Review Committee and the WDB approved this agreement with the National Student Clearinghouse Student Tracker as requested and recommended CCEO approval. Charlie Paris made the motion to approve this request. Steven Henry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Primrose Health Institute. Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert presented a request from Primrose Health Institute to provide Certified Nursing Assistant Training (handout attached). This training is four weeks long. Students are given an option of training as a blended student or attend in-person. The cost to attend as a blended student is \$1,425. In-person cost is a total of \$1,275. This training is not PELL or HOPE eligible. The Proposal Review Committee and the WDB approved adding Primrose Health Institute as a vendor for our region and recommended CCEO approval. Allison Watters made the motion to approve this request. Al Hoyle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Dental Assistant School of Atlanta. Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert informed those present that the Dental Assistant School of Atlanta requested a tuition increase from \$3,800 to \$4,800 due to feedback from local dental employers and workforce demand trends. The school has added Expanded Dental Assisting and Orthodontic Assistant training to their curriculum. Dental practices are no longer seeking entry-level assistants alone; they are requesting graduates who can perform expanded functions and assist in orthodontic procedures from the beginning. To meet employer demand, the school invested in additional instructional hours, advanced clinical training, specialized equipment, and faculty with expanded duties and orthodontic experience.

There have been 25 students enrolled in this program since 2022. Of those 25, twenty-four have completed and 22 are employed. Their average wage is between \$20-\$23 an hour. The Proposal Review Committee and the WDB approved the request to increase tuition from \$3,800 to \$4,800 and recommended CCEO approval. Steven Henry made the motion to approve this request. Andy Allen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. One-Stop Certifications Susan Gentry

Ms. Lambert explained that a certification review of all One-Stop Centers has been conducted as a requirement under WIOA Law. Certification of each center and WDB approval is required every three years. Each Center Manager or the WIOA Career Advisor completed the Certification form provided by the TCSG Office of Workforce Development. She noted that Alencia Crower and Susan Gentry reviewed the completed certifications for compliance. Each center met the requirements for the Certification. The WDB approved the

certifications and recommended CCEO approval. Brain Walker made the motion to approve this request. Andy Allen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.