

**Annual Meeting  
Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Northwest Georgia  
and Chief Elected Officials**

Wednesday, July 17, 2024, Noon

Georgia Northwestern Technical College  
Calhoun, Georgia

*Minutes*

***Attendance-WDB***

**WDB Members Present, County:**

Andy Allen, Chattooga  
Cynthia Brown, Paulding  
Barry Gentry, Murray  
Bethany Gilmer, Floyd  
Jim Henry, Chattooga  
Randy Long, Pickens  
Mike Murphy, Bartow  
Lisa Shaw, Floyd  
Jason Smith, Gilmer  
Chris Thomas, Polk  
Carey Tucker, Floyd

**WDB Members Not Present, County:**

Marion Barber, Bartow  
Kate Daggett, Floyd  
Selena Galmon, Bartow  
Zac Dixon, Floyd  
Harry Harvey, Chattooga  
Beth Kelley, Walker\*  
Cam Parker, Bartow\*  
Deshawn Richardson, Bartow  
Matthew Salmon, Polk  
Elizabeth Scott, Bartow  
Robert Strickland, Gordon  
Laura Wood, Whitfield

**NWGRC Staff:**

Boyd Austin  
Karla Conetta  
Christy Elrod  
Susan Gentry  
Beth Kelley  
Lesia Lambert  
Terri Morgan  
Anthony Rucker

**Guests/Visitors:**

Larry Brooks  
Brian Cooksey  
Maizie Glore  
Kelly Gribble  
Lisa Ives  
Zelma Jones  
Lynn Long  
Michael O'Neal  
Spencer Page  
Stuart Phillips  
Anne Rapp  
Claude Ricketts  
Courtney Rouse  
Jessica Simmerson  
Wesley Thorpe

*\*resigned*

**Attendance**

**CCEOs Not Present or Represented, County**

**CCEOs Present or Represented, County:**

Steve Taylor, Bartow  
Blake Elsberry, Chattooga (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Alex Case, Dade  
Ted Rumley, Dade  
Jamie Hensley, Fannin (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Charlie Paris, Gilmer (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Bud Owens, Gordon  
Ronnie Ridley, Haralson (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
AJ Scott, Haralson  
K. W. Gong, Murray  
Greg Hogan, Murray  
David Carmichael, Paulding (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Kris Stancil, Pickens (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Jessica Payton, Polk (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Shannon Whitfield, Walker (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Kenny Gowin, Whitfield (proxy, Ted Rumley)  
Jevin Jenson, Whitfield

Al Pallone, Bartow\*\*  
Larry Black, Catoosa  
Nick Millwood, Catoosa  
Harry Harvey, Chattooga  
Rhonda Haight, Fannin  
Craig McDaniel, Floyd  
Allison Watters, Floyd  
Al Hoyle, Gilmer  
Jimmy Palmer, Gordon  
James Kelly, Paulding  
Kirk Raffield, Pickens  
Hal Floyd, Polk  
Teddy Harris, Walker\*\*

*\*\*Vacant*

**I. Welcome and Lunch . . . . . Mike Murphy/Ted Rumley**

Mike Murphy and Ted Rumley called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. It was established that a quorum was present for the Workforce Development Board and the Council of Chief Elected Officials. Mr. Murphy asked Chairman Ted Rumley if he would like the meeting to be conducted jointly. Mr. Rumley replied that the CCEOs wished to have a joint meeting.

**II. New Members, Staff, and Guests . . . . . Mike Murphy**

New Board Members, partners, and staff introduced themselves.

**III. Consent Agenda . . . . . Mike Murphy**

Mr. Murphy informed those present that a Consent Agenda (consisting of the May 15, 2024 minutes and the May 16, 2024 minutes) had been e-mailed and was also attached for review.

- A. *Barry Gentry made the motion that the WDB approve the Consent Agenda. Carey Tucker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
- B. *Greg Hogan made the motion that the CCEO approve the Consent Agenda. Alex Case seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Reports**

**A. Fiscal Report. . . . . Anthony Rucker**

Anthony Rucker presented a **Fiscal Report** for Worksource Northwest Georgia (attached) encompassing the Adult, Dislocated Worker, QUEST, Rapid Response, and Youth programs.

1. *Jim Henry made the motion that the WDB approve the Fiscal Report. Chris Thomas seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
2. *Alex Case made the motion that the CCEO approve the Fiscal Report. Greg Hogan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Rucker reported that TCSG allows local areas to transfer funds from the Dislocated Worker grant to the Adult grant and asked that the WDB/CCEO approve a transfer of one million dollars from the Dislocated Worker grant to the Adult Grant (letter attached).

1. *Barry Gentry made the motion that the WDB approve the transfer. Carey Tucker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
2. *Greg Hogan made the motion that the CCEO approve the transfer. Alex Case seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Rucker then informed those present that Worksource Northwest Georgia applied for additional Sector Partnership funds and received \$87,000. He asked that the WDB and CCEO approve this grant.

1. *Jim Henry made the motion that the WDB approve the grant. Barry Gentry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
2. *Greg Hogan made the motion that the CCEO approve the grant. AJ Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**B. Executive Committee Report & Recommendations. . . . . Mike Murphy**

Mr. Murphy informed those present that the Executive Committee/CLEO met on June 10, 2024 to review the One-Stop Certification forms and guidance (required to be approved prior to June 30, 2024).

The document (attached) covers the following topics as well as required procedures:

- Customer Flow of Services
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Operational Details
- Branding
- Customer Satisfaction
- Continuous Improvement
- Accessibility and Equal Opportunity Compliance

The actual certification process for WorkSource Northwest Georgia is on a 3-year rotation and is not due until PY2026. The Executive Committee/CLEO approved and recommends the WDB/CCEO approve the One-Stop Certification Guidelines and forms for PY24 and PY25.

1. *Jim Henry made the motion that the WDB approve the recommendation. Randy Long seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
2. *AJ Scott made the motion that the CCEO approve the recommendation. Alex Case seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Murphy reported that the Executive Committee and CLEO approved the Workforce Development Board Membership (attached) and recommended WDB/CCEO approval.

- 1. *Barry Gentry made the motion that the WDB approve the WDB Membership. Jim Henry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2. *Greg Hogan made the motion that the CCEO approve the WDB Membership. Bud Owens seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

C. Rapid Response Report ..... Lesia Lambert

Lesia Lambert informed those present that staff had worked with TCSG and other partners to assist individuals impacted by recent layoffs in the region especially employees dislocated from Chemical Products in Cartersville, Georgia (updated dislocation list attached).

D. Youth Committee Report ..... Lesia Lambert

Ms. Lambert reported that the Youth Committee met on July 11, 2024. Items discussed were updating the Youth Services page on the website and the vacancy for Chairman of the Youth Committee. She noted that the Chairman of all WDB committees must be a WDB member.

**V. University of North Georgia Request ..... Susan Gentry**

Susan Gentry presented a request from the University of North Georgia to add the Nexus Degree in Applied Gerontology as a new academic credential to the Eligible Training Provider List. This program was developed in direct response to employer analysis in high demand career areas.

The Nexus degree in Applied Gerontology was specifically designed to educate Georgians to meet the workforce demands that the significant rise in numbers and percentage of the population of older adults will have on community services and businesses. This degree in Applied Gerontology can be obtained through 12 credit hours each semester for 5 semesters (including summer) at a semester cost of \$1,760 per semester for a total cost of \$8,800 for 60 credit hours or enroll for 15 credit hours each semester for 4 semesters at a semester cost of \$2,117 for a total cost of \$8,468 for 60 credit hours. She explained that there is no performance because the program has not yet begun. It is anticipated that classes would start as early as August. The class can be taught on-line or in person at all campuses except Dahlonega. Once students have graduated, their income range will start at \$40,322 to \$52,694 according to the Division of Aging.

Staff requested adding the University of North Georgia to our list of vendors and to also approve the Nexus Degree in Applied Gerontology to be included on the Eligible Training Provider List at the cost specified above.

- 1. *Barry Gentry made the motion that the WDB approve the recommendation. Jim Henry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2. *AJ Scott made the motion that the CCEO approve the recommendations. KW Gong seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**VI. Worksource Northwest Georgia Regional Plan . . . . . Lesia Lambert**

Ms. Lambert reminded those present that the Worksource Northwest Georgia Regional Four-Year Plan had been completed, as required by law. The draft plan was submitted to the state on June 30, 2024 following a public comment period. It was suggested by the Executive Committee that staff email the availability of the Plan online to Board Members and provide a list of notable changes. She provided a list of notable changes (attached). the changes were reviewed and Ms. Lambert asked that the WDB and CCEO approve the plan.

1. *Jim Henry made the motion that the WDB approve the Plan. Chris Thomas seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*
2. *Alex Case made the motion that the CCEO approve the Plan. AJ Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**VII. Change in September Meeting Date (WDB Only) . . . . . Lesia Lambert**

Mr. Murphy informed the Workforce Development Board that, due to the SETA conference taking place during the third week of September, the WDB meeting will need to be moved to September 11, 2024. Barry Gentry made the motion to approve this change in meeting date. Randy Long seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. WIOA Updates/End-of-Year Report . . . . . Lesia Lambert**

Ms. Lambert reminded those present that, in the past, staff had not provided direct services to employers and participants. She noted that, with Georgia Department of Labor's decision to no longer contract with Worksource Northwest Georgia to provide work-based training, staff is exploring options for providing those services in-house.

Ms. Lambert presented the "End-of-the-Year Report" (attached) to those present and asked that anyone with questions or suggestions please contact her.

**Other**

Mr. Murphy informed the Workforce Development Board members that there are vacancies in the Proposal Review and Executive Committees, a Vice-Chairman for the WDB is needed, and reminded them that a Chairman is needed for the Youth Committee. Sign-up sheets for Committees were provided.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.