

Georgia Association of Training, Employment, and Supports

Board of Directors Meeting

January 30, 2014

Due to inclement weather, the Board of Directors meeting was conducted via conference call rather than a face-to-face meeting. President Keith Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

BOARD members present included:

Kim Cantrell
Cheryl Cornett-Earley
Anisio Correia
Ralph Donaldson
Keith Kennedy
Becky Ketts
Paula Phillips
Lynn Smith
Sheila Zipf

Other GATES members and Guests present:

Angelica Figueroa
Charles Hall
Shawn Pursley
Dawn Randolph

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda:

President Keith Kennedy commenced the Board of Directors conference call and reviewed the agenda. Mr. Kennedy called for the approval of the Minutes. Sheila Zipf motioned to approve the Minutes, Becky Ketts seconded, and the Minutes were approved by the BOARD as written.

Legislative:

Dawn Randolph provided the GATES Board members with an update on Government Affairs. Ms. Randolph met individually with Representative Terry England, Senator Jack Hill, Representative Katie Dempsey and Amy Hobbs, Budget Analyst of the Senate Budget Office. Within each of her meetings, Ms. Randolph discussed GVRA and the need for the agency to become fully funded. Representative England expressed enthusiasm about GVRA and advised Ms. Randolph that he intends to initially concentrate efforts on GVRA's facility in Warm Springs, GA in addition to working on the 2015 budget. Likewise, Senator Hill also conveyed that his primary focus is on the 2015 budget. Representative Dempsey as well as Ms. Hobbs were entirely supportive with the efforts taking place to obtain full funding for GVRA. All four individuals advised Ms. Randolph that they would like to execute efforts for GVRA in 2015 in which would be incremental.

New Business:

President Kennedy led the discussion regarding the leave of Kim Cantrell from her role as GATES Board Treasurer. Charles Hall stated that the Executive Committee recommended Ralph Donaldson fulfill the position. Mr. Donaldson stated he had agreed to accept the Executive Committee's nomination. President Kennedy called for a motion from the BOARD to elect Mr. Donaldson as the new Treasurer. A motion was made by Cheryl Cornett-Earley and was seconded by Becky Ketts. The Board of Directors unanimously elected Ralph Donaldson to fill the remainder of Ms. Cantrell's unexpired term.

With Mr. Donaldson fulfilling the role of Treasurer, this created a vacancy in his position as Director. The Executive Committee has recommended Leigh McIntosh be elected to fill the position. Notification was sent to Ms. McIntosh with regard to her nomination, but due to the weather Ms. McIntosh has not responded. Mr. Kennedy suggested the BOARD wait upon hearing from Ms. McIntosh before proceeding with other nominees and instead voting via an electronic ballot. The BOARD agreed and thus, a decision from Ms. McIntosh is pending.

GVRA:

The BOARD discussed the Wait List Assistance survey requested by GVRA with regard to CRP interests. It was determined that GATES will hold another conference call the week of February 3rd once GVRA had provided additional information on the survey.

Calendar:

The next BOARD meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2014 at the Center for the Visually Impaired in Atlanta, GA.

There being no other business and announcements to come before the BOARD, the GATES call was adjourned at 12:37 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Paula Phillips, Secretary, GATES Board of Directors

Minutes prepared by:

Angelica Figueroa, GATES Administrative Assistant