

Georgia Association of Training, Employment, and Supports

Board of Directors Meeting
Nobis Works – Marietta, GA
April 21, 2017

The meeting began at 9:30 am and was held at Nobis Works in Marietta, GA.

BOARD Members present included:

Lynn Smith
Dave Ward
Carrie Edwards
Keith Powell
Sheila Zipf (by phone)
Tricia Llewellyn Konan (by phone)
Fontaine Huey (for Anisio Correia)

Other GATES Members & Guests present:

Charles Hall
Shawn Pursley
Ken Carswell (by phone)
Marcus McBride
Jennifer Tucker
Dawn Randolph (by phone)
Robert Couey
Cole Chase
Shawn Casey
Kevin Harris
Mary Ellen Mendiratta
Jasmin Perry

I. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda

President Smith commenced the Board of Directors meeting and reviewed the agenda. A call to approve the agenda was made by President Smith. The agenda was approved by the BOARD.

II. Approval of February 3, 2017 Board Minutes

President Smith called for the approval of the Minutes. The Minutes were approved by the BOARD as written.

III. Committee Reports/Update

Finance Committee Report

Charles Hall reported the financials as of March 31, 2017. The total revenue of GATES for MARCH was under the projected budget for the period by approximately (-\$49,500). Accordingly, the cost of sales was under budget projections as well. This resulted in \$63,245 of net revenue for March, which was approximately (-\$14,000) under budget.

Expenses for the month were under budget by \$9,785. This gave GATES a net gain for March in the amount of \$909. The gain was less than the projected budget of \$5,838 by (-\$4,929). As compared to FY16 the March gain was less than the \$10,429 gain GATES had in March of 2016.

Year to date (Y-T-D) there has been a NET LOSS of (-\$41,029). Since July, GATES has had a decrease in revenue under budget projections by (-\$419,134) or (-9.2%). The net revenue Y-T-D is (-\$57,167) or (-10%) under the budgeted net revenue of \$596,642. When comparing the FY16 to FY17, the FY17 Net Revenue Y-T-D total is (-\$76,333), or (-12%) under the FY16 Net Revenue.

GATES total Y-T-D expenses are under the projected expenses by 6% or \$37,244 for a total Y-T-D expense of \$580,503. This is also less than the FY16 expense on 3/31/16, which was \$609,177. The net gain/loss over expenses Y-T-D (-\$41,029) is more than the negative budget projection of (-\$21,105) and approximately (-\$47,000) less than the net gain on 3/31/2016 of \$6,630.

President Smith called for the approval of the Finance Committee report. The report was approved by the BOARD as written.

Charles Hall noted staff was studying the cost savings and other considerations of making the GATES office a virtual office. Mr. Hall will be preparing a financial report for the Finance Committee. Upon the committee's acceptance of the proposal, the request would then go to the Board. A decision will be needed before developing a budget for GEPS to be presented at the State Use Council meeting in June, followed by the GATES budget which will be presented in July.

IV. Update on GATES Annual Meeting

The GATES Annual Meeting will be held on June 9, 2017, at Goodwill of North Georgia in Decatur, GA. The BOARD discussed having a 'Ted Talks' type of presentation at the Annual Meeting where all the CRPs would share a successful program. All of the Board members and guests felt that type of program could be very informative and interesting. It was the consensus to move forward with that type of program.

President Smith noted all officer positions will be expiring on June 30, 2017. Dave Ward, Carrie Edwards and Keith Powell formed the nominating committee in anticipation of the Annual Meeting. All current officers are eligible to serve a second term except Sheila Zipf who has served as Treasurer for two terms.

V. Update on GVRA

The BOARD members prepared important questions to ask at the meeting with the Executive Director of GVRA, Shawn Casey. The main concern was the current status of the Step Program and future contracts.

Director Shawn Casey visited the BOARD meeting to give an update of the last five months. He focused on the legislative session and the budget that passed out of the GA House and Senate, what has been going on at GVRA since he took over leadership, and where GVRA is headed in the future. GVRA had a hiring freeze which was lifted after 60 days in all locations except the 200 Piedmont office. The organization is also now moving away from being too centralized and Mr. Casey has begun the process of decentralization, with the focus of putting more decision-making capabilities in the hands of the forty offices located statewide.

GVRA did not introduce any new agency legislation but did ask for consideration from the legislature and Governor's office to provide time to make the changes at GVRA under his leadership. Mr. Casey also noted that GVRA's budget will be raised by six percent due to the support from GATES and grass root efforts to reach out to legislators. While on a recent listening tour it was made clear to Mr. Casey there are two segments of clients not receiving proper focus. Therefore, a restructuring of the organization to delivery services to the blind and the deaf has been implemented, and will be headed by Denine Woodson.

VI. Government Affairs/Legislative Update

Dawn Randolph provided an updated report on current legislation. Some bills that were being followed did not make it to the session. One main bill being followed was introduced by Senator Tom Kirby. The bill was concerned with placing canines of any type of service animal. Establishments such as restaurants want more clarity in this regard because people are reporting animals as service animals even though they are not. The bill would be more specific in the code for those who train, handle or breed service animals but, unfortunately, the issue will be held over for the next session.

House Bill 343, introduced by Representative Scott Hilton, was passed. This bill will replace the phrases "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" throughout the criminal code with the phrase "intellectual

disability”. This should help bring consistency between the state and federal levels on how people with intellectual disabilities are handled.

Another bill being followed closely was a piece of legislation by Senator Renee Utterman which establishes the Georgia Mental Health Treatment Task Force and includes substance abuse services. Unfortunately, on the last day, the Senate did not agree with the House substitute so the bill has been put on hold for next year. Senator Utterman also sponsored Senate Bill 118 which would change the age limit for medical benefits coverage. This too was not approved and may come back next year.

Senator Harbison introduced Senate Bill 144 which looked at how to designate Lottery funds for veteran’s services, with a specific focus on post-traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, health insurance support, disability benefits, long-term care, employment and employment training. The bill was not passed, but is liable for next year’s session along with a study committee resolution on inclusive post-secondary education by Senator Tom Kirby.

Dawn Randolph commended the CRPs for their hard work in getting legislators to visit their programs and showing them the benefits that are available. Legislators want to see people being served locally and for the organizations they work with to be able to sustain their commitments to people with disabilities.

VII. Georgia Enterprises Report

Mr. Shawn Pursley provided a summary report to the BOARD regarding GEPS which included the ‘Service Contracts Report’.

VIII. New Business:

Charles Hall requested approval of two contracts under the State Use Program that are required to be renewed yearly. One of the contracts is the State Use Council recognizing GATES as the central nonprofit agency for the State Use Program. The other is between the central nonprofit agency, State Council and DOAS.

President Smith called for the approval of the contract recognizing GATES as the central nonprofit agency and the three-way contract with DOAS and the State Use Council. Both contracts were approved by the BOARD as written.

Calendar

There being no other business and announcements to come before the BOARD, the meeting was adjourned. The next quarterly Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2017 at Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers in Columbus, GA.

The GATES Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, June 9, 2017 at Goodwill of North Georgia in Decatur, GA.

Respectively Submitted,

Anisio Correia,
Secretary of the Board

Minutes prepared by Jasmin Perry
GATES/GEPS Program Coordinator