

Georgia Association of Training, Employment, and Supports

Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting

Creative Enterprises
Lawrenceville, GA

February 1, 2019

BOARD Members present included:

Lynn Smith
Tricia Llewellyn Konan
Carrie Edwards
Dave Ward

Larry Gluth
Leigh McIntosh
Myndi Kuhlmann (via phone)

Other GATES Members & Guests present:

Shawn Pursley
Charles Hall

Dawn Randolph

I. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda

A quorum of the membership was established. President Smith commenced the Board of Directors meeting at 10:00 a.m. and reviewed the agenda.

II. Approval of Board Minutes

President Smith called for the approval of the October 26, 2018 Minutes. On a motion by Carrie Edwards with second by Larry Gluth, the Minutes were approved by the BOARD as recorded and emailed.

III. Committee Updates:

Financial:

Dave Ward, Treasurer and Charles Hall, GATES CEO, provided financial updates.

Hall reviewed the December 31, 2019 financial report. He noted after six months into FY19, GASP and GISN were reporting a net decrease under expenses and GEPS has a positive net income over expenses. For the combined GATES report, net revenue is \$ 65,607 behind budget. Expenses are \$396,719 or 3% under budget. This gives GATES a negative net revenue under expenses of (-\$45,479). Hall reported the primary issue is reduced revenue from GVRA for A&I assignments. GISN is 63% under budget for this line item. The new interpreter rate structure and customer fees were implemented 1/1/2019. While there was no change in the GVRA rates paid to GISN, the other revenue sources should help off-set the reduced GVRA revenue.

Dave Ward, Treasurer, reported the Finance Committee met by conference call to review the second quarter financials. On a motion by Ward on behalf of the Finance Committee he moved the December financial report be accepted as presented.

IV. Committee/Programs Reports:

Georgia Interpreting Service (GISN),

April Smith provided an update on GISN operations.

Georgia Enterprises (GEPS),

Shawn Pursley provided a summary report to the BOARD regarding GEPS which included the 'Service Contracts Report' and 'Operational Plan.'

Government Affairs/Legislative Update,

Dawn Randolph provided an update on legislative activities and status of debate underway during the current General Assembly. She reported the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services held a budget hearing earlier in the week. Sean Casey made the presentation for GVRA and was questioned about services and effectiveness of the agency. No new funds were requested. The committee also discussed the need for a Study Commission to be authorized to review GVRA activities and their services to the citizens of Georgia.

Ms. Randolph reported she would be requesting GATES Board members and/or CRP volunteer leaders to come to the Capitol when subcommittee hearings are conducted to provide testimony.

GATES Strategic Planning Process

President Smith reported several of the Working Groups had met and called the Board's attention to the reports provided in the Board Packet. The Education Working Group still did not have a Chair and she asked for those members to come together and organize collectively. She expressed encouragement for the other Initiatives to continue their work.

GATES Economic Impact Survey

Hall provided the Board a copy of the 2018 economic impact study. Ms. Randolph stated this survey is provided to all legislators when GATES is providing testimony in committee meetings.

Employment First Council.

Dave Ward reported the Employment First Council held its first meeting. Sean Casey serves as Chair of the Council per the enabling legislation. This meeting primarily provided orientation to the members and discussion on the purpose of the Council.

V. Old Business:

There was no old business for action to be taken.

VI. New Business:

Letter to the Governor:

Dave Ward made a motion GATES send a letter to Governor Kemp expressing concern Georgians with Disabilities were not being properly served by GVRA and requesting the Governor take steps to help this population so they could support his employment and economic growth plan for all of Georgia. A second to the motion was made.

President Smith opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Ward read a draft of a possible letter to consider. A complete and detailed discussion followed. All Board members and visitors spoke and shared ideas, concerns and concepts for how best to put forward GATES position regarding

GVRA. Following the discussion, it was determined the key messages to be in the letter to Governor Kemp included,

- An explanation of the organizations that make up GATES and the broad services our organizations provide to Georgians with disabilities to prepare them for the workforce.
- The low national ranking of Georgia in the funding of services provided to Georgia citizens with disabilities.
- The low goal for the number of Georgians to be placed in employment set by GVRA.
- GATES desire to work with the Governor's office to explore private and public partnerships to develop greater potential for employment opportunities.

The Board was in unanimous consent agreement to develop and send a letter to the Governor with these messages, and request a meeting.

President Smith volunteered to develop the first draft of the letter, and asked for volunteers to serve on the 'Edit and Review Committee'. Myndi Kuhlmann, Larry Gluth, Leigh McIntosh, and Dave Ward volunteered to be on the committee. The goal was to get the letter to the Governor as soon as possible.

VII. Future meetings:

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 April 26, 2019 with the location TBD.

Respectively Submitted,

Leigh McIntosh
Secretary of the Board

Minutes prepared by
Charles Hall,
CEO, GATES