

**SOUTHERN GEORGIA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) MEETING
Date: May 20, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m.
MEETING MINUTES**

The Southern Georgia Workforce Development Board (WDB) and Youth Committee (YC) met on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission in Waycross, Georgia. The following were in attendance:

Workforce Development Board					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Absence</u>	
Bannamon, Frank	WDB Member (EC)	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Bryant, Keith	Chairman (EC)	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Cole, Sandra	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Dark, Melissa	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☒ Excused	☐ Absent
Dixon, Elton	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Ellis, Kevin	WDB Member	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Felder, Katrena	WDB Member	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Gainey, Jennifer	Vice-Chairman (EC)	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Gove, Sarah	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Gray, Jonathan	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☒ Excused	☐ Absent
Griffin, Curtis	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☐ Excused	☒ Absent
Howell, Ivy	WDB Member	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Johnson, Melvin	Parliamentarian (EC)	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Jones, Dr. Todd	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Mays, Kellie	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
McClain, La'Rona	WDB Member	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Moore, Christie	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Panizzi, Sean	WDB Member (EC)	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Tait, Darlene	WDB Member (EC)	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	☒ Excused	☐ Absent
Wallace, Leigh	WDB Member	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent
Williams, Jamon	WDB Member (EC)	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	☐ Excused	☐ Absent

Youth Committee (<i>X Denotes Attendance</i>)							
<u>Name</u>		<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Name</u>		<u>Attendance</u>	
Bannamon, Frank		☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Felder, Katrena		☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Dixon, Adrienne		☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	Peacock, Kelly		☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Gainey, Jennifer		☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	Wallace, Leigh		☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual

Local Chief Elected Officials (LCEO) (X Denotes Attendance)					
Name	Attendance		Name	Attendance	
Baker, Henry	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Matheson, Scott	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Bennett, Neal	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	McDaniel, Zinda	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Brown, Travis	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Paulk, Tony	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Crews, Jesse	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Riley, Kaye	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Harris, Skipper	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Smith, Julie	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Holt, Jason	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	Staten, Jason	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual
James, Michael-Angelo	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Taylor, Shane	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual
Joyner, Jason	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	Thompson, Vince	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Lee, Alex	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual	Whiddon, Dana	☐ In-Person	☐ Virtual

Staff & Guests (X Denotes Attendance)					
Staff Name	Attendance		Guest Name	Attendance	
Cole, Michele	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Ambrose, Brittany	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Courson, Scott	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Burgess, Kimberly	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Estep, Evi	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Cone, Robin	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Howard, Bonnie	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Cordes, April	☐ In-Person	☒ Virtual
Lovett, Roberta	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Dossett, Trevecca	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Register, Urie	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Glenn, Charmane	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
Smith, Ashley	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual	Robbins, Riley	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
			Rollins, Ginger	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
			Walker, Dan	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual
			Wiley, Angelia	☒ In-Person	☐ Virtual

Introduction

This meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, with participants attending both in person at the Southern Georgia Regional Commission Waycross office and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Keith Bryant welcomed all in attendance and thanked members for participating both in person and virtually. He introduced Scott Courson as the new Deputy Director of Human Services overseeing Workforce Development and Aging Services. Chairman Bryant noted that Mr. Courson has been with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission for 26 years and welcomed him to the leadership team.

Review of Attendance

Chairman Bryant asked Urie Register, Programs Manager, to provide a review of attendance. Urie stated that a quorum of the WDB was present.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 25, 2026, WDB Meeting

Chairman Bryant referred members to the minutes of the February 25, 2026, WDB Meeting and asked if there were any questions or corrections. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. Frank Bannamon made a motion to approve. Dr. Todd Jones provided the second. The motion carried.

PY25 Budget and Expenditures Report

Evi Estep, Fiscal Manager, presented the "PY25 Budget and Expenditures Report" (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). She stated that these numbers represent expenditures through March 31, 2026, 75% of the program year. She reviewed expenditures by funding stream. Following the presentation, a motion was made to approve the report. Frank Bannamon made a motion to approve. Jamon Williams provided the second. The motion carried.

PY26 Allocations Update

Evi provided an overview of the PY26 allocation levels received from the state. She reported that overall allocations were reduced by approximately five percent, with the largest decrease occurring in the Dislocated Worker funding stream. Adult and Youth allocations increased slightly. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the allocation report as presented. Frank Bannamon made a motion to approve. Dr. Todd Jones provided the second. The motion carried.

PY26 Preliminary Budget

Evi reviewed the proposed "PY26 Preliminary Budget" (copy attached and made a part of these minutes), including estimated carryover funding, new allocations, anticipated transfers between funding streams, and projected available funds for Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, Rapid Response and Hurricane Helene DRDW programs. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the PY26 Preliminary Budget as presented. Kevin Ellis made a motion to approve. Dr. Todd Jones provided the second. The motion carried.

Individual Training Account (ITA) Exception Request

Urie Register, Programs Manager, presented an ITA exception request for a participant whose total training costs exceeded the established cap by \$250 due to nursing licensure and testing fees associated with the Practical Nursing Program at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. Urie noted that the participant had successfully completed the program, obtained licensure, and secured employment. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the exception request. Kevin Ellis made a motion to approve. Melvin Johnson provided the second. The motion carried.

Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery Grant Update

Urie provided an update regarding the Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery Grant. Members were informed that the grant was expected to receive an extension through December 31, 2026, allowing additional time to serve participants and implement temporary employment activities in Pierce County. Urie encouraged board members and partners to refer eligible individuals who were affected by the disaster and could benefit from training or employment services. Following the discussion, a motion was made to support the grant extension request. Melvin made a motion to approve. Frank Bannamon provided the second. The motion carried.

Executive Committee Election

Members reviewed the proposed Executive Committee roster for the upcoming program year (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). No additional nominations were received from the floor. A motion was made to approve and elect the Executive Committee as presented. Melvin Johnson made the motion, and Dr. Todd Jones provided the second. The motion carried.

Officer Elections PY26-PY28

Members reviewed the proposed slate of officers for the 2026–2028 term (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). No additional nominations were received. A motion was made to approve and elect the slate of officers as presented. Dr. Todd Jones made the motion, and Melvin Johnson provided the second. The motion carried.

PY26 Meeting Schedule

Members reviewed the proposed PY26 Workforce Development Board meeting schedule (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Staff noted that meetings would continue to be offered in a hybrid format to encourage participation and ensure quorum requirements are met. Frank Bannamon made the motion and La'Rona McClain seconded to approve the meeting schedule as presented. The motion carried.

Partner Updates

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)

La'Rona McClain, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Supervisor, provided an overview of GVRA services available to students and adults with disabilities throughout the region. She discussed transition services, employment assistance, post-secondary support, and the Bob McCall Scholarship Program.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Adult Education

Kelly Peacock, Dean of Adult Education at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, reported that Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Adult Education had already met its state-negotiated GED graduate target for the fiscal year and expected to exceed that goal before year-end.

Foster Care Innovation Challenge Grant

Elton Dixon, The Enay Foundation, provided an update regarding a recently awarded Foster Care Innovation Challenge Grant through the Flourish Fund. The initiative will focus on workforce pathways and transition services for youth in foster care across multiple regions in South Georgia.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College System Update

Dr. Todd Jones, Vice President of Enrollment Management at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, informed members that Wiregrass Georgia Technical College was transitioning to a new statewide software system. While the transition may temporarily delay activation of some new students, staff and workforce partners would continue coordinating enrollment activities to minimize disruptions to participant services. However, Deputy Executive Director, Roberta Lovett mentioned that ETC Schools would be able to enroll any new participants that might be missed due to the delayed activation.

Adjourn

Chairman Bryant thanked members and guests for their participation and continued commitment to workforce development efforts across the region. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Urie Register

Workforce Development Board Staff
Southern Georgia Regional Commission