



Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board Winter (ZOOM) Meeting

December 5, 2024
Columbus City Hall
1111 1st Avenue, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Georgia 31902

Type of meeting:

LCWDB WINTER (ZOOM) MEETING

Agenda topics

- I. Welcome Chester Randolph, WIOA Chair
 - a. Approval of Minutes
(September 19, 2024)
- II. ETP Appeal
- III. Old Business Dr. Valerie Richardson, WIOA Director
 - a. ETPL Application Revision
 - b. ETPL Reconsideration:
 - i. Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.
- IV. New Business
 - a. RFP for Youth Services for PY25
 - b. Supportive Services for Transportation/Meals Policy
 - c. Financial Report
 - d. Upcoming Job Fair
- V. Next Meeting & Adjournment Chester Randolph, WIOA Chair

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Board Members in attendance:

Chester Randolph, C. Randolph & Associates, LLC (Chair)
Carl Brown, C. Brown & Associates, Inc.
Tony Calloway, Calloway & Associates, Inc.
Joel Domineck, Jr., TCSG
KeKe Dupree, Ga Voc Rehab Agency
Jonathan Evans, Greater Cols. Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Jackson, Columbus Regional Health
Conner Miller, Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Jasmine Newton, Legacy Link
Ernestine Ramsey, YMCA of Metro Columbus (Retired)
Gwen Ruff, Columbus Water Works
Dexter Smith, Communication Workers of America, Local 3212
Jamie Thomas, Enrichment Services Program
Wendy Timmons, Sixty-Two Graphic Studio
Eddie Watson, Clay Hill Hunting
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart County Board of Commissioners

WIOA Staff

Dr. Valerie Richardson
Feleshia Marshall
Barbara Coppage
Deloris Shelly
Lisa Lane

Guest

Julie Johnson, Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker &
Ford, P.C.
Bierck Saxton, VTEC

Agenda Discussion

I. Welcome

Chester Randolph, Chair

The following is a summary of the discussion as it pertains to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and the responsibilities conferred upon the local workforce area, which comprises the eight-counties of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot, and the cities and municipalities contained therein. These minutes, in accordance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, contain motions presented for approval. A sufficient number of members were present to satisfy a quorum for voting. These minutes are open for public viewing and made available upon request.

After all attendees had arrived and/or been admitted into the ZOOM meeting, the meeting was called to order by Chair Chester Randolph. The Chair thanked the members and guests both present and virtually (through ZOOM) for their attendance and requested that the roll be taken. Roll was officially called and noted for the record.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the minutes of the September 19, 2024, meeting (A copy is attached to the original minutes as permanent record). During discussion, a typo was noted on the date listed on the second page of the minutes. The correction was noted, and the minutes would be amended to reflect the actual date before being posted on the webpage (www.columbusga.gov/jtd).

The Chair asked for a motion to approve September 19, 2024, minutes as amended.

Action Taken:

Tony Calloway so moved and Dexter Smith properly second, approval was granted by majority of all active board members in attendance to approve September 19, 2024, minutes as amended.

II. ETP Appeal

The Chair noted that Mr. Saxton was here today representing Veterans Empowerment Training Center (VTEC) and Ms. Julie Johnson from Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker, & Ford, P.C. representing the City of Columbus and Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board. The Chair noted as this was an Administrative Appeal Hearing, general procedures would be in place, so rules of evidence were not applicable.

The Chair turned the meeting over to the WIOA Director.

The WIOA Director noted as you all know, VTEC was a provider on our eligible training provider list (ETPL). As a result of an investigation and desk top review conducted by the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development, (OWD) (the State level administrative entity) regarding WIOA violation concerns reported by DeKalb County, Georgia and our local area, VTEC and their programming had been removed from the ETPL.

In accordance with OWD policies and procedures, in the event that an eligible training provider sought to file an appeal of its removal from the State ETPL, they must file the first level appeal (within thirty days) with the local area that initially submitted them for inclusion on the State ETPL listing. As we were the local area, we must conduct the first level appeal process.

The LCWDA Appeal Process Instructions/Guidelines were provided to everyone in attendance (A copy is attached to the original minutes as permanent record). These instructions were read through so all parties would be clear on the process. They were as follows:

1. This is an Administrative Appeal Hearing. General procedures will be in place, so rules of evidence are not applicable.
2. The appealing party will present first and be given thirty (30) minutes to complete their presentation.
3. Once both sides have presented, the board will convene in Executive session to discuss the matter and come to a decision.
4. The appealing party and LCWDA staff will leave the meeting to allow the board to decide on whether to uphold or rescind the decision of the Office of Workforce Development's Review Board.
5. Once the board has come to a decision in Executive Session, the board meeting will resume with all parties present.
6. The findings will be announced in full board session and on the record.
7. Each board member will recite their name and the vote for the record to be placed in the minutes.
8. The appealing party will be notified in writing of the full board's decision within thirty (30) days.

The WIOA Director asked if there were any questions before getting started. With no further discussion, the WIOA Director gave the floor to Mr. Saxton with VTEC and reiterated he would have 30 minutes to give their presentation.

Mr. Saxton introduced himself stating he was the Vice President of VTEC. He asked if everyone had received the three paged document from Ms. Johnson. The board members in attendance confirmed they had received the documentation.

Mr. Saxton apologized to Ms. Johnson and Dr Richarson because they had not been a part of Area Fourteen but found themselves having to deal with the issues left by the previous WIOA Director.

Mr. Saxton stated his company felt the issues had risen from trying to hire four individuals from “Georgia Jobs” who failed to uphold their employment obligations. VTEC used a system called RING which allowed us to stay in contact with our customers, vendors and staff; and customers could contact us. The four individuals were working from home, and customers complained about the background noise during phone calls (dogs barking, children playing, etc.). Upon reviewing the RING records, we found this to be true. Would you as business owners continue to pay their salaries? I think not. Two individuals found other jobs and two we terminated. Ever since then, we’ve had nothing, but issues from the WIOA office. Mr. Saxton stated he represented over a thousand soldiers on Fort Moore that are transitioning out of the military. These soldiers want to take these programs, and our company is being denied WIOA funding. Ms. Saxton further stated, “Our company believes us being taken off the ETPL (Eligible Training Provider Listing of Georgia) was personal. I attended a meeting up at the State and approached the Commissioner. She asked who I was and why I was at her meeting. I told her who I was and who I represented and why I was there to discuss how we had been treated. She immediately put up her hand and stopped me and said I am fully aware of the situation out of that office (local area 14) they have a new director and hopefully she will make changes and head in a new direction. I tried to get Ms. Richardson’s contact information and was denied. I tried to get the contact information from the Board’s Director Mr. Randolph, but he would not give me any information.

Mr. Saxton stated when they had first started the program, we were in talks with Goodwill. We told them we were going to be in contact with the WIOA office in Columbus to help with funding for these soldiers, their response was, “Good Luck” So a lot of these issues and the reason we’ve been taken off the ETPL stems out of the Columbus WIOA office. We’ve even been in contact with other WIOA offices in the state and were told the Columbus office told them not to deal with us. I’m going to have an opportunity to provide this evidence and proof there’s nothing wrong with our program.

Mr. Saxton stated when the 5 soldiers went through our program and when we were ready to invoice for their training, we wanted to know how the payment process was going to work. I called the WIOA office and talked to the person responsible for processing the payments and was told the paperwork had been given to the city to cut a check. So, I called the City’s accounting department and was told they hadn’t received any paperwork. Two weeks later when I called the paperwork had finally been given to the city and a check was cut the very next day. So, we constantly got the run around with the WIOA Columbus office.

Mr. Saxton continued by stating as I’ve said, I represent thousands of soldiers out there on Fort Moore. The army is transitioning. A lot of the jobs or MOSs were being combined or done away with altogether. There were a lot of soldiers getting out of the army. I see this every day. These guys were scared. Because what are they going to do? So, they take these CSG classes so they can have that training position so they can support their families. They’re petrified. We’re trying to provide a service to get these soldiers what they need to go to work and provide for their families. Because as soon as my students graduate, I hand them a certificate of completion and I immediately turn around and hand them an offer letter to come work for my company.

During their training, they have the capability of obtaining over 300 NACE certifications where they can apply for their journeymen license, plumbing license, and all that. We’ve had to turn away about 40 soldiers for training because WIOA Columbus won’t provide the funding.

Mr. Saxton stated he would love to sit down with Ms. Richardson and Ms. Johnson to show them his proof that the accusations were false. We’re not here to fight with you guys or to argue with you guys. We are here to support these soldiers transitioning out of the army.

Mr. Saxton confirmed that the WIOA funding coming out of Columbus was to support residents of Muscogee County; and inquired how many counties this office supported.

Dr. Richardson confirmed local area fourteen encompasses service to eligible residents of the eight counties of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, & Talbot.

Mr. Saxton clarified, “but it’s for here (Columbus) other bases (Warner Robins) has another WIOA office, but this office supports Fort Moore – correct?”

Dr. Richardson confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Saxton inquired, “so why is our money going out there?” “CSP is not in this County. So, you’re providing funding for soldiers that do not reside in your county.”

Dr. Richardson stated there were seventeen workforce delivery areas within the State of Georgia. Each of those local areas were funded through WIOA through the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development.

It was noted that Mr. Saxton’s 30-minute time limit to present and make argument was almost up.

Mr. Saxton stated he was not here to argue with Ms. Richardson or Ms. Johnson. He wanted to state for the record that we had soldiers from this county who live in this county who need funding for his programs and the WIOA Columbus office was using

the funds elsewhere. I'm fighting for those soldiers that deserve these opportunities of my programs. As I've said a lot of this was personal feelings. I'm going to go to the next higher up. So, if it hurts your feelings, I'm sorry but I'm trying to do something about this. So again. I am requesting that the Board approve to allow us to be put back on the ETPL list for Georgia. We were taken off because of the four individuals from Georgia Jobs. That's when all this started to go downhill. If those four individuals were still working for me, none of this would be happening. But I'm not going to keep someone on my payroll that's not doing their job. I am extending this to all the board members and everyone here, I welcome you to come to my facility to see what we teach and how we're teaching it. Look at all the certifications these guys have available to them. We provide a wonderful and great service to these soldiers. Denying them the funding was like how the soldiers were treated coming home from Vietnam. Thank you.

The Chair addressed Mr. Saxton to clarify comments he had made regarding the Chair's actions. "Mr. Saxton you stated you called me asking for Ms. Richardson's phone number, but I wouldn't give it to you. This was quite a while ago, before Dr. Richardson was even on board. However, you already had the phone number for the director. The second point I want to address is when you called me, I tried to set up a meeting with you and you told me you don't need to have a meeting, you needed me to send you documentation. It even got to the point that you threatened me.

That does not work with me. So, at that point in time, I cut off all communication with you. I'm a firm believer that it's a very good idea that if there's a problem, let's bring it to the table and discuss it, but you didn't want to do that. All you cared about was getting documentation. I didn't understand that. I also tried to explain that although our area had funding, there wasn't any way that we could fund one agency 100%. But you could not comprehend that. You expected us to fund your program 100% and we simply don't have that kind of funding.

Mr. Saxton responded stating he had text messages on his phone asking for meetings that never happened. And as for funding I pulled a report off the City's website that lists WIOA's funding as 4.2 million dollars. You have the funding.

Dr. Richardson noted we have had a chance to hear from Mr. Saxton, we will now hear from Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Johnson thanked everyone and introduced herself as the attorney representing the Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board who here on out would be referred to as "the Board". As stated, we were here today as the State had conducted a desk review of VTEC and found that VTEC had submitted inaccurate program information in an effort to remain eligible to remain on the ETPL list. The State has removed VTEC from the ETPL I am here to request that you all (the board) vote to uphold that decision.

The reason that led to the request for the desk review and the decision to remove VTEC as an eligible provider was the plethora of inaccuracies from the very beginning of the relationship and continued through it. I have exhibits. These will be entered into the record. We have hard copies available for the members here and digital copies for the members attending virtually if interested.

Ms. Johnson stated she would be covering some of these inaccuracies.

From the beginning in the (ETPL) application process VTEC listed their training program as an on-going program. Listing the address of a building located on Fort Benning (now Fort Moore) with a minimum of 2.5 staff required to provide the training (EXHIBIT LCWDB 1 & 2). Shortly after entering into the master agreement for this training program, the Job Training Division discovered and realized VTEC neither had the actual building space nor the actual staff to provide the training (EXHIBIT LCWDB 3). So, VTEC couldn't even provide the training program for which they had applied. This was enough to terminate the relationship at that time. But the City was willing to give VTEC an opportunity to succeed and provide training for local area fourteen by assisting them with hiring the additional staff needed through the work experience program with Georgia Job T.I.P.S.

Through the program with Georgia Job T.I.P.S., VTEC selected four individuals to train for positions within their company. During this period, the City and Job Training Division received multiple complaints throughout their training period, which was culminated in an email from Ms. Cobb, Director, Georgia Job T.I.P.S. to the WIOA Director (EXHIBIT LCWDB 4).

Ms. Johnson noted, unfortunately the time constraints wouldn't allow the whole communication to be read here so I'll only read two paragraphs from Ms. Cobb's communication.

"We were told a lot of things that simply never were followed up on. All participants were supposed to get increases after completion of training but didn't. The company was supposed to hire them as employees instead of Contractors. The participants could not file their Income Tax Returns in a timely manner because they didn't receive the 1099 Forms until med-March. They had to utilize their personal vehicles, tools, computers, etc. but were told they would be provided by the company which wasn't true either."

We (Georgia Job T.I.P.S.) work diligently with all companies that utilize our services in hopes that they will comply with the terms and conditions of our programs. We also stress the importance of the intent of our programs which is to help our participants obtain training that leads to unsubsidized, permanent employment. We have been operating in this region for 23 years now and do not want to jeopardize the reputation of our services because we all know participants will talk about their experiences, both

good and bad. Ultimately, they (participants) rely on us to make the right referrals in terms of the best company for them to be trained, hired, and retained and this was not a good choice."

Ms. Johnson noted, at the time this communication was received, VTEC still had no premises nor provided the training program for which they had applied and had a master agreement for.

The Job Training Division sent a letter September 1, 2025 (EXHIBIT LCWDB 5). Essentially breaking off the relationship with VTEC citing VTEC did not have a fully operational site nor the staff to provide the training program they had applied for inclusion on the ETPL.

After this, discussions were had VTEC had their opinions (which you've heard) and the city had theirs. VTEC insisted they were ready and able to provide the training program. The City and Job Training Division agreed they would send 5 trainees through VTEC's training program. They would evaluate the program's success by the percentage of trainees obtaining jobs after completing their training program.

The city doing its due diligence, communicated with the trainees. Copies of statements and emails were provided from four of the five trainees (EXHIBIT LCWDB 6). Four out of the five trainees (the fifth trainee did not respond to communications sent) gave unfavourable reviews of the training program and some of the reviews were very concerning.

Ms. Johnson noted she again would only read parts of trainees' statements due to the time constraints.

"My name is B. Markley, and I was in the VTEC Career Skills Program from January to April of 2024 on FT Moore, GA. Originally the program seemed like a great deal for me and my four other classmates but as time passed, I came to realize they were ripping off all the student in their program making them spend time and money on a fruitless venture. It also seems apparent that they were ripping off the WIOA program by not providing students with employment after the training course was complete. They also stated there was no plan for an allotment of payroll taxes if we did get jobs through their company. They were also running a for-profit business out of a U.S. Army government building on FT Moore disguised as a non-profit and thus not paying for the use of the building. They also made us get Army Emergency Relief fund grants in the amount of \$250 to pay for brand new tools that we were supposed to get upon graduation. However, the only tools we were saved were foreign amount less than \$250 and the tools were second hand tools that were already rusted. After we got the tools, it was prompt promised to us that they would follow up with us and arrange for us to receive the new tools from Lowe's. I still have not been contacted about getting new tools. I found out later our WIOA funds were supposed to cover the cost of the tools.

Before signing up for the course we were told that we would be receiving excellent hands-on training on basic electrical plumbing and appliance repair. We were told that this training would be more than enough to prepare us for any of the home warranty jobs that the for-profit company GI tech received after we graduated from the course. We were also told that there would be enough work for everyone to have full-time employment. We were also told that no matter where we moved in the continental US after we transitioned out of the military that they could find us full-time employment servicing home warranty repairs. None of these promises completely came to fruition.

During the course most of the time spent in class was spent watching TV or talking about news and stories that had nothing to do with home engineering repair. There was a great third party online based training system that they subscribed to called skills meal but during most of the course we sat around doing nothing in class and then were expected to work on Skills Mill after class. The main instructor did take us on some house calls and was very knowledgeable when he was instructing but never seemed to have a plan or a real syllabus. In fact, towards the end of the course part of our work was to come up with a Lesson plan for the net the incoming class.

We were also given lists of phone numbers for businesses that we were supposed to solicit for repair contracts. The businesses consisted of local laundromats and property management companies. These companies were expected to be cold during class time using our personal phones.

Every Wednesday it was also expected that at least two of the students set up a booth at the Soldier For Life Center on Fort Moore and try to recruit new students from all the soldiers who were transitioning out of the military into civilian life during the weekly career day fair at Fort Moore. At the time none of the students had yet recognized that we were being scammed and that there would be no work on the other end of the VTEC course."

Ms. Johnson noted Mr. Markley had attached an image of the tools he had received that were rusted and used. The second statement was from a G. Forsyth another trainee from that program.

"Hi ma'am I just wanted to bring to your attention many issues with the VTEC program. These issues include little to no actual training and the things we did cover were very basic and spread apart. No useful certifications when we were told we would get them. The \$250 toolbox they provided was found to be only \$112 and lacked things promised and was used before. It was a hostile environment if discovered you would not choose to work for them after graduating the class. Lying about WIOA funding to new potential students making them believe they would have WIOA funding when they do not and getting their hopes up while

embellishing the training HEAVILY while promising good pay, good hours which only one student out of five has received a single job. Lots of tax issues we were told we wouldn't even be registered as actual employees and he wouldn't even file our 1099 for taxes.

If you have follow up questions about this I would be happy to answer them and I know the other four students that were in the class with me are very upset and are now scrambling for work and providing for their families because of this mess."

Ms. Johnson noted the third trainee statement was from C. Dennis.

"Hello Ma'am, I hope you're doing well. I apologize for the delayed response transitioning out of the military turned out to be more challenging than I expected, and I've been working on getting things in order. Unfortunately, my experience with VTEC was not a positive one. The program seemed disorganized and at times it felt almost like a scam many of us graduated expecting jobs that were promised but never materialized we each paid \$250 expecting brand new tools but what we received were used tools that didn't even seem to match the value we were promised the owner of the company has been very hard to reach and avoids answering any questions about how we can benefit from the program at the moment I'm unemployed I appreciate you reaching out and thank you for your understanding."

Ms. Johnson noted the last statement was from trainee C. Hambrick.

"Good morning, I was able to find employment after the course I currently work at Sunbelt Rental. I did however not like the way the class was organized. There seemed to be no structure or rhyme or reason as to why we were being taught on certain topics. The overall opinion that I have of this course is that I did learn basic home repair tasks which I did not know before but it was very difficult to learn as there was no structure to what was being taught."

Ms. Johnson noted these were the reviews from four of the five trainees. Obvious concerns arose from these reviews which led to the State's request for the Desk Review.

Ms. Johnson noted getting back to VTEC's (ETPL) application. Within their application they stated:

- A. This program was continuing and on going at the time the application was submitted. However, that information was false.
- B. We have programs that immediately hire the trainees that complete the program and then listed the alleged partners. From the four trainee statements only one trainee was employed after completing VTEC's training.

Ms. Johnson noted that this was grounds for removal from the ETPL by itself, because per the master agreement at least sixty percent of the trainees must have completed successfully and have full-time employment. But there was even more information falsely provided within the (ETPL) application which was used in creating the master agreement and led to the core of the inaccuracies of VTEC which was the CEO of this company. The CEO was held out to be a David G. Wayne. Who was David G. Wayne? It turns out that "David G. Wayne the owner and CEO of VTEC was actually "David Wayne Gallemore". David G. Wayne was not his actual name. Also, throughout the master agreement the CEO signed the agreement beginning with "Lt." "Lt." was the abbreviation for the rank of "Lieutenant". So, Lieutenant David G. Wayne. Mr. Gallemore was not a lieutenant in the military. He served in the reserves. Googling Mr. David Gallemore, it was discovered that there had been an article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) about Mr. David Gallemore had done this before through another company and AJC had investigated Mr. Gallemore and discovered that he was in the Army reserves for less than six months and his was not a lieutenant (EXHIBIT LCWDB 7).

Ms. Johnson noted in the letter submitted to me last night (@ 8:35 PM) from VTEC and I believe will be entered into record as an exhibit to Mr. Saxton's presentation, they claim that Mr. Gallemore was not a lieutenant, and he wasn't trying to hold himself as a lieutenant. He was a "lead technician" and that was where the "LT" came from and why they all referred to him as, "Lt."

Ms. Johnson also noted throughout the (ETPL) application and email communication there was a board chair listed as a General Richard William Bowser. In the emails received from Mr. Bowser he identified himself as "Retired General Richard William Bowser, U.S. Army". We conducted a search of the database for US Generals and the results stated there never was dead or alive or retired a General Richard William Bowser in the United States Army.

So, the information supplied about the individuals of VTEC, and their programs were false and turned out to be harmful for the trainees rather than assist them in obtaining full-time employment. Therefore, I ask that the board uphold the State's decision of the removal of VTEC from the State Eligible Training Provider Listing. Thank you.

It was noted that the time was up for the presentations and the Board would go into an executive session for discussion.

Dr. Richardson asked everyone except the board members to wait outside until the board completed the session, then everyone could return, and we would continue the meeting.

Action Taken:

By unanimous vote of all board members present, the State's decision of the removal of VTEC from the State Eligible Training Provider Listing was upheld.

III. Old Business

Dr. Richardson gave a brief overview and discussion of the proposed revisions to the ETPL Policy and Application (A copy is attached to the original minutes as permanent record). Dr. Richardson informed members the proposed changes were necessary to be aligned with State policies and procedures.

Training programs included in the application must exist at the time of application and be approved by the NPEC; the program(s) must be currently available to the public and not solely dedicated/availed to WIOA customers.

- To be considered for review, each program must have at least five (5) students who have completed a program of study and obtained training related employment, with documentation available on their employment status. Newly formed programs should wait to apply until this has occurred. New programs without documented completion and employment records will not be reviewed.
- Respond to all questions. If the question does not apply indicate “not applicable”. When referring to a catalog or brochure, indicate, “See attached catalog”.
- The name of the training institution is the legal name of the entity.
- The contact person is the individual who may answer questions concerning the application.
- Program descriptions should be completed for each program or course of study. If a provider catalog contains the information requested, please attach.
- If the application is submitted via e-mail, it will be necessary to mail a provider certification as well as a catalog of courses of study, or reference website, if available online.

Credentialing: WIOA performance standards now include the attainment of recognized post-secondary credential received by participants. It is the Provider’s responsibility to assure that Credentialing goals are obtained for each student.

All training programs must prepare WIOA participants through job training and preparation to sit for testing in order to achieve attainment of industry-recognized credentials as specified by WIOA. Such nationally recognized industry, association or organizations include:

- A state education body
- An institution of higher education eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs
- A registered apprenticeship
- A public regulatory agency
- A professional, industry or employer association

Dr. Richardson noted if an organization was unable to meet any requirements of the responsiveness criteria listed, the programs would not be reviewed and would be considered non-responsive. The details of the provider/program application responsiveness checklist were as follows:

PROVIDER/PROGRAM APPLICATION RESPONSIVENESS CHECKLIST

If organization is unable to meet any requirements of the responsiveness criteria listed below, the programs will not be reviewed and will be considered non-responsive.

NAME OF PROVIDER

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be in statutory compliance with the laws of the state of Georgia as related to its operation as a training or educational institution
- Must have been in business for at least twelve months prior to initial application and must maintain active legal status to conduct business, evidenced by a current business license and/or proof of active compliance with the Secretary of State Corporations Division (must be attached to application).
- Must supply certification from accounting/tax firm of current tax standing regarding Federal and State taxes, including Unemployment Insurance (UI) taxes.
- Must be in good standing with the Better Business Bureau with no outstanding complaints.

- Must not be found in fault in criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding related to performance as a training or educational institution. Must disclose any pending criminal, civil or administrative proceeding as either a defendant or a respondent (sign Debarment Statement, Attachment A).
- Must disclose any and all conflicts of interest with state, or local LWDB staff or Board Members, including, but not limited to family ties, (spouse, child, parent), fiduciary roles, employment, or ownership interests in common.
- All applications must include the current federal tax identification number (the number used to file employee income taxes with the Internal Revenue Service).

To be considered for review, each program must have at least five students who have completed the program and obtained training related employment, with documentation available on employment status. Newly formed programs should wait to apply until this has occurred. New programs without documented completion and employment records will not be reviewed.

TRAINING PROGRAM CRITERIA

- Training skills are specific and in demand in the labor market.
 - A recognized post-secondary credential is attained after program completion
 - The program(s) is/are existent, ongoing, and continuous.
 - The training program(s) is/are open to the general public, have published catalog price structures and are not solely dedicated/availed to WIOA customers.
 - Job search and/or placement assistance is provided by the organization.
 - The organization does not appear on current federal, state or local debarment and suspension lists.
- The provider assures us that the proposed training facility is handicapped accessible or are reasonable accommodations made for provision of services to handicapped individuals.
- All program requests must be currently approved by NPEC (Include copy of NPEC certification for each program)

Dr. Richardson noted that these revisions were more stringent, and you all will be noticing the differences as we receive future applications and make recommendations to approve or disapprove agencies for inclusion on the ETPL

The Chair thanked Dr. Richardson for the explanation and asked if anyone had any further questions or discussion regarding the proposed revisions to the eligible providers listing (ETPL) policies and application process. With no further discussion, Dr. Richardson continued with item III b. Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.

* * * * *

Dr. Richardson noted our local area hadn't ever been registered for apprenticeship programs. Because of this, we believed that it prevented us from being able to support agencies providing apprenticeships. Thus, we recommended disapproval of the Independent Electrical Contractor, Inc. ETPL Application for their Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Program and their Professional Electricians' Program considered during the last board meeting.

Since that time, we have learned that if an agency has successfully completed the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) application process and been approved and placed on the State RAP listing, local areas throughout the State of Georgia may support their apprenticeship programs. Of course, we would only be able to fund up to our local area funding limitations, but we could assist someone with a portion of this cost picking up where other funding left off, and another funding source picking up after our funds were applied. We would still be able to submit our portion towards our performance outcomes. An inquiry was made for clarification. So, we could approve an apprentice in one of their programs even though it would not be completely paying for it, but still achieve a performance outcome for our part? Dr Richardson confirmed that was correct. The board was pleased to learn this.

Dr. Richardson informed members that she would be notifying Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc. that they were approved for our local area.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions or discussion. There being no further discussion. Dr. Richardson continued with the new business on the agenda.

Action Taken:
No action required.

Dr. Richardson began by informing members that Youth Services had been competitively procured for PY2022, and the contract awards had contained a two-year renewal option. Both renewal options had been exhausted, and youth services must once again be competitively procured for PY2025 (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026).

We're requesting approval to release request for proposals for Youth Services for the following activities for PY2025 (funding levels would remain at the current funding levels):

1) In-School Youth (Juniors & Seniors in High School)

A Year-Round Internship Program (Work Experience) for 7 counties (Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Talbot), serving 37 in-school youth (Juniors & Seniors in High School). Total funding available: \$158,625. and

2) Out-of-School Youth (18 – 24-year-olds) Work-Based Internship (Work Exp.) and Retention Services

A Year-Round Internship Program (Work Experience) that incorporates pre-employment/work readiness skills training and internship (work experience) and retentions services activity that results in job retention in unsubsidized employment at completion of training for Muscogee County only, serving 37 out-of-school youth (18- 24-year-olds). Total funding available: \$146,800; and

It was also recommended that selected contracts also contain an option for renewal of two additional program years, which would be contingent upon funds availability, program performance, and need.

During discussion, Dr. Richardson informed members that if approved, a notice of Request for Proposals (RFP) would be published in all the newspapers in our workforce area. A Bidder's Conference would be scheduled and interested parties would have an opportunity to get answers to any questions they may have regarding the bid process. The RFP would also be posted on our website for public access at www.columbusga.gov/jtd.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion or questions. There being no further discussion, a motion was presented for the Board to approve the request for proposals for Youth Services for PY2025 as presented.

* * * * *

Dr. Richardson noted that the supportive services policy had not been updated in quite some time to keep up with the increasing costs of inflation. One of our service providers has request that we ask the board to increase the stipend; Therefore, we're requesting that the current support payments paid to approved WIOA eligible participants for either transportation/meals and/or child care (for dependents 5 years-of-age or younger) for each day of classroom training attendance be increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per day.

During discussion, several inquiries were made. Were funds available to allow for the rate increase? When was the last increase considered and was this \$5.00 increase going to be sufficient for today's economy? Dr. Richardson noted that only those WIOA participants most in need would be considered for the additional supportive service payment and consideration would be based upon funding availability. Dr. Richardson noted that the \$5.00 increase was a fair and reasonable amount.

Board members expressed their concerns about \$15.00 per day not being much assistance. Dr. Richardson clarified that should an individual be approved for both transportation/meals and childcare they would receive a stipend of up to \$30 per day for each day they had attend classroom training. The board agreed the increase was warranted and that an individual would be appreciative to receive the stipend. Members thanked Dr. Richardson for presenting to the board for consideration.

The Chair asked if there were any further questions or discussion. There being no further discussion, a motion was presented for the Board to approve the supportive services rate increase for transportation/meals and/or childcare as presented.

* * * * *

A report of the WIOA Local Area Grant Summary broke down by Youth/Adult/Dislocated Worker/Rapid Response funds was provided to Board members for discussion. (A copy is attached to original minutes as permanent record). Dr. Richardson provided a brief overview and discussion of awards and expenditures.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or discussion. There being no further discussion, a motion was presented to approve the financial report as presented.

* * * * *

Dr. Richardson stated she was excited to announce what she hoped would be the 1st of many Job and Resource Fairs. We are partnering with Goodwill of the Southern Rivers, Inc. The event is scheduled for December 16, 2024, from, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and will be held at the Goodwill Career Center out at Cross Country Plaza.

Dr. Richardson wished to thank Ms. Wendy Timmons for all the graphic work for this project. Her contributions to the project have been amazing. We were in the process of updating all our branding information and Ms. Timmons graphics looked amazing.

We were excited to roll out the new images. Although the Job & Resource Fair is open to everyone, we will be focusing on dislocated workers. All our partners will be there. We currently have 12 – 13 companies that have agreed to partner with us and participate in the Job Fair. In addition to what Ms. Timmons has done we will have television and radio commercials as well as social media presence. We were in the process of redesigning our website as well.

Dr. Richardson noted that our front person for this project was Mr. Quentin Daniel, Program Monitor. He has also done an amazing job of coordinating with the local businesses and partners. As I've said, we hope this is the first of many we will have to move us towards reintroducing ourselves and showing what services we could provide for the community. Dr. Richardson asked if there were any questions.

With no further discussion, the Chair thanked Dr. Richardson for the detailed presentations today and stated if there weren't any other questions or discussion, we would vote on the motions presented under new business.

Motions Presented

- ***Motion to approve the request for proposals for Youth Services for PY2025 as presented. Wendy Timmons so moved and Joel Domineck, Jr. properly second.***
- ***Motion to approve the supportive services rate increase for transportation/meals and/or childcare as presented. Gwen Ruff so moved and Carl Brown properly second.***
- ***Motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. Ernestine Ramsey so moved and Wendy Timmons properly second.***

Action Taken:

The motions were approved by the full majority of board members present.

V. Next Meeting & Adjournment

Dr. Richardson noted that the 2025 Calendar was sent as part of the agenda packet and the next scheduled board meeting would be March 20, 2025, at 11:30 AM.

The Chair stated if there wasn't any other discussion, he would adjourn the meeting. With no further discussion, meeting was adjourned.

We wish all attendees and their families Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Action Taken:

No action required

Minutes Reviewed By: Dr. Valerie Richardson Approval Date: July 31, 2025

Member Name	Organization	Action Taken							
		<u>Agenda Item I</u> <i>(Minutes: 09/19/2024)</i>				<u>Agenda Item II</u> <u>ETP Appeal</u>			
		Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Bethune, Georgia	Rolling Hills Food			X				X	
Bloom, Richard, M.D.	Brookstone Surgical Center			X				X	
Brown, Carl	Brown & Associates	X				X			
Calloway, Tony	Calloway & Associates	X				X			
Chambers, Travis	Elite Ventures Leasing			X				X	
Deppe, Jeff	IBEW, Local 613			X				X	
Domineck, Joel, Jr.	TCSG	X				X			
Dupree, Kianca "KeKe"	GA Voc Rehab Svc.	X				X			
Evans, Jonathan	Housing Authority of Cols, GA	X				X			
Hollingsworth, Selvin	LightSpeed Datalinks			X				X	
Hopson, April	Columbus Tech			X				X	
Hugley, Carolyn	State Farm Insurance			X				X	
Jackson, Barbara	Piedmont Hospital	X				X			
Johnson, Will	CCG Eco / Dev/Planning Division			X				X	
Kelly, Andrew	Valley Hospitality			X				X	
Lewis, Carvel	Lewis Mortuary II			X				X	
Loyd, Jamie	Cols Tech College			X				X	
McNeer, Ann	Master Tax Solutions			X				X	
Miller, Conner	Cols Chamber of Commerce	X				X			
Newton, Jasmine	Legacy Link	X				X			
Ramsey, Ernestine	Metro Cols. YMCA	X				X			
Randolph, Chester	C. Randolph & Assoc.	X				X			
Ruff, Gwendolyn	Cols. Water Works	X				X			
Rutledge, Wanda	Kinetic Credit Union			X				X	
Smith, Dexter	Com Workers of USA, Local 3212	X				X			
Stoller, Frederick	Job Corps.			X				X	
Thomas, Jamie	Enrichment Services Program, Inc.	X				X			
Timmons, Wendy	Sixty-Two Graphic Studio	X				X			
Vinson, Tim	MCSD			X				X	
Watson, Eddie	Clay Hill Hunting	X				X			
Williams, Joe Lee	Stewart Co. BoC	X				X			
Totals:		16	0	15	0	16	0	15	0

- Attended in person.
- Attended virtually.

Member Name	Organization	Action Taken							
		<u>New Business IV a.</u> <i>(RFP for Youth Services for PY25)</i>				<u>New Business IV b.</u> <i>(Approval of Supportive Services for Transportation/Meals & Child Care)</i>			
		Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Bethune, Georgia	Rolling Hills Food			X				X	
Bloom, Richard, M.D.	Brookstone Surgical Center			X				X	
Brown, Carl	Brown & Associates	X				X			
Calloway, Tony	Calloway & Associates	X				X			
Chambers, Travis	Elite Ventures Leasing			X				X	
Deppe, Jeff	IBEW, Local 613			X				X	
Domineck, Joel, Jr.	TCSG	X				X			
Dupree, Kianca "KeKe"	GA Voc Rehab Svc.	X				X			
Evans, Jonathan	Housing Authority of Cols, GA	X				X			
Hollingsworth, Selvin	LightSpeed Datalinks			X				X	
Hopson, April	Columbus Tech			X				X	
Hugley, Carolyn	State Farm Insurance			X				X	
Jackson, Barbara	Piedmont Hospital	X				X			
Johnson, Will	CCG Eco / Dev/Planning Division			X				X	
Kelly, Andrew	Valley Hospitality			X				X	
Lewis, Carvel	Lewis Mortuary II			X				X	
Loyd, Jamie	Cols Tech College			X				X	
McNeer, Ann	Master Tax Solutions			X				X	
Miller, Conner	Cols Chamber of Commerce	X				X			
Newton, Jasmine	Legacy Link	X				X			
Ramsey, Ernestine	Metro Cols. YMCA	X				X			
Randolph, Chester	C. Randolph & Assoc.	X				X			
Ruff, Gwendolyn	Cols. Water Works	X				X			
Rutledge, Wanda	Kinetic Credit Union			X				X	
Smith, Dexter	Com Workers of USA, Local 3212	X				X			
Stoller, Frederick	Job Corps.			X				X	
Thomas, Jamie	Enrichment Services Program, Inc.	X				X			
Timmons, Wendy	Sixty-Two Graphic Studio	X				X			
Vinson, Tim	MCSD			X				X	
Watson, Eddie	Clay Hill Hunting	X				X			
Williams, Joe Lee	Stewart Co. BoC	X				X			
Totals:		16	0	15	0	16	0	15	0

- Attended in person.
- Attended virtually.

Member Name	Organization	Action Taken							
		<u>New Business IV c.</u> <u>(Financial Report)</u>							
		Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Bethune, Georgia	Rolling Hills Food			X					
Bloom, Richard, M.D.	Brookstone Surgical Center			X					
Brown, Carl	Brown & Associates	X							
Calloway, Tony	Calloway & Associates	X							
Chambers, Travis	Elite Ventures Leasing			X					
Deppe, Jeff	IBEW, Local 613			X					
Domineck, Joel, Jr.	TCSG	X							
Dupree, Kianca "KeKe"	GA Voc Rehab Svc.	X							
Evans, Jonathan	Housing Authority of Cols, GA	X							
Hollingsworth, Selvin	LightSpeed Datalinks			X					
Hopson, April	Columbus Tech			X					
Hugley, Carolyn	State Farm Insurance			X					
Jackson, Barbara	Piedmont Hospital	X							
Johnson, Will	CCG Eco / Dev/Planning Division			X					
Kelly, Andrew	Valley Hospitality			X					
Lewis, Carvel	Lewis Mortuary II			X					
Loyd, Jamie	Cols Tech College			X					
McNeer, Ann	Master Tax Solutions			X					
Miller, Conner	Cols Chamber of Commerce	X							
Newton, Jasmine	Legacy Link	X							
Ramsey, Ernestine	Metro Cols. YMCA	X							
Randolph, Chester	C. Randolph & Assoc.	X							
Ruff, Gwendolyn	Cols. Water Works	X							
Rutledge, Wanda	Kinetic Credit Union			X					
Smith, Dexter	Com Workers of USA, Local 3212	X							
Stoller, Frederick	Job Corps.			X					
Thomas, Jamie	Enrichment Services Program, Inc.	X							
Timmons, Wendy	Sixty-Two Graphic Studio	X							
Vinson, Tim	MCSD			X					
Watson, Eddie	Clay Hill Hunting	X							
Williams, Joe Lee	Stewart Co. BoC	X							
Totals:		16	0	15	0	0	0	0	0

- Attended in person.
- Attended virtually.