



Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board Summer (ZOOM) Meeting

July 31, 2025
Columbus City Hall
Job Training Division (WDA-14)
1111 1st Avenue, 2nd FL
Columbus, Georgia 31901

Type of meeting:

LCWDB SUMMER BOARD (ZOOM) MEETING

Agenda topics

- I. Welcome Chester Randolph, WDB Chair
Lisa Lane, LCWDB Board Liaison
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Approval of Minutes
(12/05/2024, 05/08/2025, &
05/29/2025)
- II. New Business Dr. Valerie Richardson, WIOA Director
 - a. MSYEP Progress Report
 - b. Approval of PY25 Operating Budget
 - c. Financial Report Ms. Barbara Coppage, WIOA Finance Manager
Wendy Timmons, Membership Committee Chair
 - d. Introduction of New Members
- III. Old Business Dr. Valerie Richardson, WIOA Director
 - e. Approval of Executive Committee Actions
 - 1. Recommendations for funding levels for PY25
 - 2. Approval of ETPL Policy & Application Updates
- IV. Next Meeting and Adjournment

TO JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

Meeting ID: 863 8603 2546

Passcode: 033438

Find your local number:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcdSVIoLc4g>





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Type of meeting:

LCWDB Summer Board (ZOOM) Meeting

Board Members in attendance:

Chester Randolph, C. Randolph & Associates, LLC (WDB Chair)
Tony Calloway, Calloway & Associates, INC. (WIB Vice Chair)
Joel Domineck, Jr., TCSG
KeKe Dupree, GA Voc. Rehab. Services
Jonathan Evans, Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia
April Hopson, Columbus Technical College
Betty Jackson-Sparks, BBC Services
Jamie Loyd, Columbus Technical College
Eddie Obleton, Second Chance WORKS
Ernestine Ramsey, YMCA of Metro Cols. (Retired)
Gwendolyn Ruff, Columbus Water Works
Dexter Smith, Communication Workers of America, Local 3212
Jamie Thomas, Enrichment Services Program, Inc.
Wendy Timmons, Sixty-Two Graphic Studio
Eddie Watson, Clay Hill Hunting
Kim Weaver, Georgia Power Company
Joe Lee Williams, Stewart Co. BoC
B. Ryan Willoughby, Muscogee Co. School District

WIOA Staff

Dr. Valerie Richardson
Barbara Coppage
Deloris Shelly
Lisa Lane

Guest

Jamall Wimberly, Columbus Technical College



Agenda Discussion

I. Welcome

Chester Randolph, WDB 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. Enough 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 signed in or been admitted into the ZOOM meeting, the meeting was called to order by Chair Chester Randolph. The Chair thanked the members and guests present for their attendance and requested that the roll be taken. Roll was officially called and noted for the record.

The WIOA Director noted, although the Executive Committee's Actions were item three on the agenda, the Chair had to leave early for another meeting so we're changing the order of discussion to allow the Chair to be on time for his other meeting.

The Chair noted that Ms. Gwen Ruff had been asked to officiate the rest of the meeting after his departure and thanked Ms. Ruff for agreeing on such short notice.

The Chair noted as there were new board members in attendance, he asked that everyone stand and introduce themselves. Each attendee gave a summary of who they were, their agency/organization and their responsibilities.

Once everyone had made their introduction, the Chair asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the minutes from December 5, 2024, May 8, 2025, and/or the (Executive Committee Meeting) May 29, 2025 (Copies are attached to the original minutes as permanent record). During discussion, members expressed that they felt the minutes presented were complete and accurate.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or further discussion. There being no further discussion, the chair requested a motion to approve the minutes for December 5, 2024, May 8, 2025; and May 29, 2025, as written.

Action Taken:

Tony Calloway so moved and Wendy Timmons properly second, approval was granted by majority of all active board members in attendance to approve the December 5, 2024, May 8, 2025, and May 29, 2025, minutes as written.

III. Old Business

Dr. Valerie Richardson, WIOA Director

The WIOA Director asked Ms. Lane to give a brief summary of the funding levels recommended for PY2025 presented to and approved by the executive committee on the board's behalf. The summary was as follows:

Ms. Lane noted the Youth Committee's recommendation for the RFP for Youth Services funding award for program year 2025 was a contract award for (Solicitation I as Sole Source) to Operation M.E.N. for a period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026; with a 2-year renewal option based upon performance, funds availability and continued need for services. Recommended funding awarded would be \$158,625 to serve thirty-seven (37) in-school youth (Juniors & Seniors in high school) within the seven counties of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot (deemed sole source); and a contract award for (Solicitation II) to Partnership in Caring for a period from July 1, 2025, thru June 30, 2026; with a 2-year renewal option based upon performance, funds availability and continued need for services. Recommended funding awarded would be \$146,800 to serve thirty-seven (37) out-of-school youth (ages 18 to 24 years old) for Muscogee County only.

Ms. Lane noted if there weren't any questions, she would continue with the contract renewals recommendation presented and approved for funding for PY2025.

With no further discussion, Ms. Lane summarized the approved contract renewals for PY2025.

- One-Stop Operator Services Contract with the IN THE DOOR, LLC agency was approved for their second-year renewal option at the PY2024 level of \$63,240.00

ADULT FUNDING for PY2025

- The Adult One-Stop Affiliate Site Operations/Case Management/CRT Services Contract with Columbus Technical College was approved for their second-year renewal option at the PY2024 level for PY2025 at \$236,058.00 for eighteen WIOA eligible adults attending approved programs of study at CTC.
- The Adult Reintegrative Work-Based Training (Work Experience and Placement) Services Contract with Georgia Job T.I.P.S. was approved for their first-year renewal option at the PY2024 level for PY2025 at \$83,750.00 serving 20 WIOA eligible adults. (It was noted that the contract was a combined funding of Adult & Dislocated Worker funds, and the Dislocated Worker portion would be discussed with the Dislocated Worker funding for PY2025).

DISLOCATED WORKER (DW) FUNDING for PY2025

- The DW One-Stop Affiliate Site Operations/Case Management/CRT Services Contract with Columbus Technical College was approved for their second-year renewal option at the PY2024 level for PY2025 at \$106,461.00 for eighteen WIOA eligible dislocated workers attending approved programs of study at CTC.
- The DW Reintegrative Work-Based Training (Work Experience and Placement) Services Contract with Georgia Job T.I.P.S. was approved for their first-year renewal option at the PY2024 level for PY2025 at \$83,750.00 serving 20 WIOA eligible dislocated workers. (The combined total of the contract renewal approved was \$167,500.00).

Ms. Lane noted if there weren't any questions or discussion, she would continue with the unsolicited in-house services considered and approved by the executive committee for contract renewal of the specified services for PY2025. (These too were based upon performance and fund availability.)

Ms. Lane summarized the approved contract renewals of the specified unsolicited in-house services for PY2025.

- Adult/Dislocated Worker In-House Work-Based Training (Work Experience) Services (City of Columbus Job Training Division) PY2025 funding would be varied based upon employer need as a special project.
- Adult/Dislocated Worker In-House On-the-Job Training Services (City of Columbus Job Training Division) PY2025 funding would be varied based upon employer need as a special project.
- Adult/Dislocated Worker/Youth Occupational Classroom Training (ITAs) (City of Columbus Job Training Division) providing financial aid assistance for WIOA eligible students entering/enrolled in advanced or post-secondary training in support of the Individual Training Account (ITA) System. Funding would be varied upon individuals' need.
- Youth In-House Work-Based Training (Work Experience) Services (City of Columbus Job Training Division) PY2025 funding would be varied based upon employer need as a special project.
- Possible Youth In-House Summer Employment Component (City of Columbus Job Training Division). Unsolicited with a determinant amount of youth for the eight counties within our local delivery area (WDA-14).

The WIOA Director thanked Ms. Lane for the overview and asked if there were any questions. There being no further discussion, the WIOA Director continued.

She noted that one of my goals has been to cultivate a more engaged and informed board. To this end, we will have each of our service providers give presentations to the board showcasing the services they provide to our communities. So, this presentation was informational as well. So, before we continued with the agenda I would like for him to tell you a little bit what they're working on. The program was approved before and on the ETPL list already, but it has gone dormant so there will be changes that will be brought to the board for consideration at a future board meeting. The WIOA Director introduced Mr. Jamall Wimberly, WIOA Coordinator at Columbus Technical College.

Mr. Wimberly thanked the board for their time and allowing him to discuss the radiologic technology program. This program would be designed to equip students with the necessary skills and certifications to pursue careers in the growing field of radiologic technology, critical to the healthcare industry. Mr. Wimberly noted Columbus Tech was preparing to submit the program's request for board consideration for inclusion on the ETPL. The program's overview was as follows:

Radiologic Technology Program

- Credential to be offered: Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology
- Program Duration: 90 weeks (6 semesters, 77 credit hours)
- Delivery Method would be: In-person instruction with clinical rotations
- Accreditation: Accredited by Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT)
- Licensure/Certification: Would prepare students to sit for the ARRT (American Registry of Radiologic Technologists) Exam
- Prerequisites would be:
 - 1) high school diploma or equivalent,
 - 2) background check,
 - 3) immunization record,
 - 4) 18 years of age or older
 - 5) No provisional or special admission consideration
 - 6) Must have a grade of C or minimum overall GPA of 2.0 or higher in all courses, in the year of making application
- Approximate grand total costs: \$10,075.00

The WIOA Director thanked Mr. Wimberly for his presentation and asked if there were any questions. An inquiry about when Mr. Wimberly anticipated the program would be ready to offer to students. Mr Wimberly stated he planned to submit it for their consideration at the next board meeting. The board members agreed that this would be an excellent additional option for individuals

wishing to pursue a career in the healthcare industry and looked forward to his submission.

Action Taken:

No action required.

II. New Business

Dr. Valerie Richardson, WIOA Director

The WIOA Director informed the members that the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP) final report would be tabled for now to allow all the data to be compiled and analyzed for the final report. The WIOA Director commended Ms. Deloris Shelly and Ms. Ashley Hamilton of her staff for their work coordinating the worksite locations, counselors and youth participating in this year’s program. They did a fine job.

* * * * *

The WIOA Director noted the State had required each local area to have their board and CLEO approve the operating budget for the upcoming program year for submission to the State for final approval. The WIOA PY25/FY26 budget documentation was included in the agenda packets for your review and discussion (A copy is attached to original minutes as permanent record). The WIOA Director gave a brief overview of the budget documentation.

Ms. Ruff asked if there were any questions or further discussion. There being no further discussion, Ms. Ruff requested a motion to approve the WIOA PY25/FY26 budget documentation as presented.

* * * * *

The WIOA Director informed the board that Ms. Barbara Coppage would present the financial report.

A report of the WIOA Local Area Grant Summary broken down by youth/adult/dislocated worker funds was provided to Board members by Ms. Barbara Coppage for discussion. (A copy is attached to original minutes as permanent record). Ms. Coppage provided a brief overview and discussion of awards and expenditures and discussed the challenges our Local Area was facing with the shrinkage in funding each year.

Ms. Coppage asked if there were any questions regarding the information provided. With no discussion, Ms. Ruff thanked Ms. Coppage for her informative discussion.

* * * * *

The WIOA Director turned the meeting over to Ms. Wendy Timmons, Chair of the Membership Committee.

Ms. Timmons noted as we turn a new page in and for the future of our Board and Committees, you all saw during the introductions, we’re a very well-rounded group of individuals. We’re very excited for the things to come in the upcoming years. Especially now with the addition of Ms. Jackson-Sparks, Mr. Obleton, Ms. Weaver, and Mr. Willoughby and their wealth of knowledge and contributions they’ll bring to the table. These were exciting times.

The WIOA Director noted the new members had not sung their praises as they should have during their introductions. She further noted she would trust Dr. Jackson-Sparks with her life. These individuals give their all 100% which is what was needed to be a successful board. Ms. Weaver and I have just recently met, but with the discussions we’ve had she’s a real go getter. I’m excited by what Ms. Weaver will be bringing to the table. Mr. Willoughby, whom I chased down, was someone who truly loved kids and goes above and beyond for them and the challenges they would be facing in this world. Dr. Obleton, I have known personally for a hundred years, and he was also very committed to our youth making education a top priority for them.

The WIOA Director noted that there were a few other people we were hoping to add as members, and I will be just as excited once they were on board too. I cannot wait to see what we accomplished together.

Ms. Ruff commended Dr. Richardson for her vision. You were truly a breath of fresh air. You’ve stated you would be very intentional about the people sitting on the board allowing us to have a very robust board implementing the initiatives and strategies we would need to be effective in these economic environments. Thus far you have been true to your word, and you are moving us forward to be in the right place at the right time. Ms. Ruff asked everyone for a round of applause for Dr. Richardson as the new director and the four new board members. During discussion, several members expressed their thoughts and agreed they had made a wise decision choosing Dr. Richardson as the new director. Ms. Weaver noted in this new technology world – AI, if you not using AI and Google Chat you’re considered behind the times, but. AI would not replace my air conditioner stopped working at 8:30 PM in the evening or we had technology all over our power grid, but AI would not replace that lineman that’s going out at 2:00 AM to fix a power line hit by a vehicle and now your powers out. We (Georgia Power) lean heavily toward the trade skills so I’m so excited to be a part of this effort.

Ms. Ruff stated if there were no other comments we would move into open discussion. Were there any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns? Inquiries were made regarding how often the board met, when the next meeting would be, and if there were any new projects coming up in the fall or on the horizon that we (the members) could assist with.

The WIOA Director stated the board met four times a year spring, summer, fall and winter. The next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 11:30 AM. There were some projects on the horizon and information would be provided to the board as the information developed. As a matter of fact, I have attended some meetings with Mr. Willoughby at Jordan. They are

working on the “Think Like an Adult” program. The program originated out of LaGrange, Georgia, but Mr. Willoughby assisted in facilitating the first program in our area and did a wonderful job. I’ll let Mr. Willoughby speak about it because it was so impressive.

Mr. Willoughby informed members that the program gave out real life working scenarios. What sort of job they held, and the wages earned and the fact that those wages would have deductions for taxes and insurance; how many people they had in their household and the expenses for rent, utilities, vehicles, and food. It really opened the participants’ eyes to what they’d be facing as adults and that every decision made had a consequence. I had kids complaining about how their “project” kids were killing them. They couldn’t make ends meet on the wages they were making. (I had to laugh to myself because they should be thanking their parents for all they were doing to provide for them). I reminded them that it would be wise to remember this exercise on Friday and Saturday nights. Making good decisions so they wouldn’t find themselves in their project’s situation.

Several members praised Mr. Willoughby for his efforts in enlightening our youth and expressed their support in seeing that the project grew. Dr. Richardson stated she would like to expand this project to high schools within our delivery area. It would be a great way to prepare them for their future.

Action Taken:

Wendy Timmons so moved and Tony Calloway properly second, the motion to approve the WIOA PY25/FY26 budget documentation as presented was approved by the full majority of Board members present.

IV. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Ms. Ruff noted the next board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 11:30 AM. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the meeting so we could continue the work we’re doing. If there weren’t any other questions, comments, or discussion, she would ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Action Taken:

Tony Calloway so moved and Wendy Timmons properly second, approval was granted by majority of all active board members in attendance to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes Reviewed By: Dr. Valerie Richardson

Approval Date: 06/11/2026

Member Name	Organization	Action Taken							
		Agenda Item I (Minutes: 12/05/24, 05/08/25 & 05/29/25)				Agenda Item II b. (New Business – Approval of PY25/FY26 Operating Budget)			
		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	C. Brown & Assoc.			X				X	
Calloway, Tony	Calloway & Assoc.	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			
Hopson, April	Columbus Tech	X				X			
Hugley, Carolyn	State Farm Insurance			X				X	
Jackson, Barbara	Piedmont Hospital			X				X	
Jackson-Sparks, Betty	BBC Services	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			
Miller, Conner	Cols Chamber of Commerce			X				X	
Newton, Jasmine	Legacy Link			X				X	
Obleton, Eddie	Second Chance WORKS	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			
Watson, Eddie	Clay Hill Hunting	X				X			
Weaver, Kim	Georgia Power Co.	X				X			
Williams, Joe Lee	Stewart Co. BoC	X				X			
Willoughby, B. Ryan	MCSD	X				X			
Totals:									

- Attended in person.
- Attended virtually.

Member Name	Organization	Action Taken							
		Agenda Item III a.(1) (Old Business – Approval of Exc. Com. Actions - PY25 Funding Levels)							
		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							
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							
Hopson, April	Columbus Tech				X				
Hugley, Carolyn	State Farm Insurance			X					
Jackson, Barbara	Piedmont Hospital			X					
Jackson-Sparks, Barbara	BBC Services	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				
Miller, Conner	Cols Chamber of Commerce			X					
Newton, Jasmine	Legacy Link			X					
Obleton, Eddie	Second Chance WORKS	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							
Watson, Eddie	Clay Hill Hunting	X							
Weaver, Kim	Georgia Power Co.	X							
Williams, Joe Lee	Stewart Co. BoC	X							
Willoughby, B. Ryan	MCSD	X							
Totals:		16		13	2				

- Attended in person.
- Attended virtually.