

**GWLA**  
**Legislative & Communications Committee**  
**Friday July 27, 2007**  
**3:30 pm**  
**Hampton Inn, 201 East Bay Street**  
**Savannah, Georgia**

**Legislative/Communication Committee- Habersham Room**  
Federal Funding  
**Reauthorization Update Status**  
**Board Orientation**

**Amrey Harden, Area 9, Butch Jones, Area 1, John Helton, Area 4, Don McRae, Area 11, Lori Howard, Area 10, Lamar Geddis Area 10, Delores Crowell, Area 5, Howard Pendleton, Area 14, Ken Williams, Area 13**

**Federal Funding Status**

As was decided at the last GWLA meeting, GWLA Chair Butch Jones reported that he has sent letters to House and Senate leadership promoting adequate funding for WIA.

The committee discussed the status of Federal funding. Both the U.S. Senate and House Appropriations Committees have approved the same funding levels for FY 2008 as FY 2006 and 2007 for the major WIA grant programs. The full House has also acted to approve these levels, but with the provision to rescind \$335 million from PY 2005 and 2006 funds.

The Workforce Alliance developed estimates of the amounts that could be rescinded by State out of the \$335 million, and the amount for Georgia was over \$7 million, equating to 2,806 people losing WIA services. Expenditure data from the U.S. Department of Labor's website shows that Georgia's combined spending rate for PY 2005 (which does not include obligations) was 69.2%, while the nationwide rate was 72.6%. Georgia had no expired funds from previous years under current rules, while the nationwide amount of expired funds was only \$6.3 million. The premise of rescission proponents is that the definition of an acceptable spending rate under current rules is too generous.

After some discussion, the committee concluded that the GWLA should try to get up-to-date information on spending rates for Georgia at State and local levels before expressing its concerns regarding the proposed rescission. The committee would also like consult State officials on this issue.

**WIA Reauthorization Status**

Progress has been slow in both houses of Congress on reauthorization. However, the Bush administration has submitted a new version of its proposal in April, and the House has just begun committee hearings. Speculation on a Senate bill is that it will be next year before one is developed. The committee reviewed the GWLA's position paper on

WIA reauthorization in light of new issues raised and recommends the following additions to the GWLA's position:

1. Funds for supportive services, assessment, case management, counseling, placement and follow-up should be preserved and recognized as vitally important in assisting trainees to succeed in training and to attain their career goals. Coordinated assistance from other agencies and programs is already utilized by local support systems but is wholly insufficient to meet trainees' needs.
2. Responsibilities of the State Board should be expanded to include;  
In consultation with Local Workforce Investment Boards, development and review of statewide policies for the One-Stop Career Center system, including:
  - Strategies to support and promote the workforce development efforts of local boards,
  - Strategies for effective interagency coordination of One-Stop partners at the State and Federal level.
5. Inter-fund Transfers – If funds are not consolidated, there should be increased flexibility at the local level in transferring funds between Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams. The unpredictability of lay-off events and need for quick action justifies this flexibility, while knowledge of these needs is a local workforce board specialty.
6. Local Board Involvement in Federal and State Initiatives – Provisions should be included that ensure Local Board involvement in Federal and State workforce development initiatives occurring in local areas. Examples of these initiatives include pilot, demonstration and other such activities having local scope and focus. Too often in the past, these initiatives have contributed to fragmented and uncoordinated workforce development activities, a problem frequently cited as weakness in the current system. Local Workforce Investment Board oversight is the best insurance that funds will be used to advance workforce development in local labor markets.

### **Board Orientation**

The committee previewed and approved a slide show for new GWLA board member orientation. Plans are to offer a one hour orientation prior to each GWLA meeting. Howard Pendleton is preparing the materials and will arrange for the sessions to be conducted.

### **Adjourn**