

Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services

Montgomery, Alabama

AGENDA

Friday, March 8, 2019

Call to Order	Eddie Williams, Chair
Prayer	
Verification of Quorum	Karen Freeman
Verification of Open Meeting Act Notice	Eddie Williams
Approval of Agenda	Eddie Williams
Approval of Minutes for the Dec. 7, 2018 meeting	Eddie Williams
<i>New Business:</i>	Eddie Williams
Vocational Rehabilitation Service Presentation	James Myrick
Update to Division Reports	Executive Leadership Team
Commissioner's Comments	Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw
<i>Announcements:</i>	
Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services meetings for 2019:	
• Friday, June 14, 2019 – 10:00 a.m., Huntsville/AL Department of Rehabilitation Services office	
• Friday, September 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m., Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room	
• Friday, December 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m., Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room	
Board Business/Discussion	Eddie Williams
Adjourn	Eddie Williams

Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services
Minutes
March 8, 2019

Call to Order

Mr. Eddie Williams, board chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. in the large conference room at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services State Office in Montgomery.

Prayer

Mr. Micah Williamson, supported employment and community rehabilitation program specialist, opened the board meeting with prayer.

Verification of Quorum

Board members present: Mr. Eddie Williams, board chair; Mrs. Penny Foster, board vice-chair; Dr. Stephen Kayes; and Mrs. Leah Patterson Lust. A quorum was declared.

Board member present via conference call: Mr. Jimmie Varnado

Verification of the Open Meeting Act Notice

Mrs. Karen Freeman verified that the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services meeting for March 8, 2019, was successfully posted on the Alabama secretary of state's website on Jan. 22, 2019.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Williams asked for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mrs. Lust and seconded by Mrs. Foster. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for Dec. 7, 2018 Meeting

The minutes from the Dec. 7, 2018, meeting were mailed prior to the board meeting. Mr. Williams stated that if there were no corrections, the minutes would stand approved. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

New Business

Vocational Rehabilitation Service Presentation

Vocational Rehabilitation Service (VRS) assistant commissioner James Myrick, along with various VRS leadership team members, presented an in-depth overview of the VRS general program.

VRS is a federal/state partnership, with 78.7% of funding for the program coming from the federal government and 21.3% from state matching dollars.

The goal of the program is to assist qualifying individuals with disabilities overcome disability-related barriers to employment so that they can earn a living as a part of Alabama's workforce.

Update to Division Reports

The division directors were provided an opportunity to give updates to their written reports.

Statement of Economic Interests

Mr. Steve Simpson, attorney with the ADRS Legal Office, provided a reminder that the Statement of Economic Interests should be completed and filed with the Alabama Ethics Commission no later than Tuesday, April 30, 2019, for calendar year 2018. The Statement of Economic Interests form may be completed by visiting www.ethics.alabama.gov. Specific instructions for completing the form are available on the website, if needed. Please note the Alabama Ethics Commission could assess fines against non-filers and late filers.

Alabama Administrative Monthly

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is proposing to repeal the current Children's Rehabilitation Service and Hemophilia Program rules and replace them with new rules. The proposed new rules will be published in Alabama Administrative Monthly in April 2019.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw provided an update to her written report.

Melinda Davis

Mrs. Melinda Davis, assistant commissioner of Children's Rehabilitation Service, will be retiring from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services on April 30, 2019. The commissioner and board members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for more than 20 years of faithful service.

Alabama's Early Intervention System

The commissioner has spent a large amount of time educating Alabama's Early Intervention System families, the finance director, state legislators, disability advocates, and the public about the need for additional state funds for Early Intervention. In addition to the FY20 budget request of \$4.57 million that was discussed during the December 2018 board meeting, Commissioner Burdeshaw has also requested a FY19 supplemental appropriation of \$1.3 million. This request was submitted to the finance director and both budget chairs. To potentially receive these funds, a supplemental appropriation recommendation would need to be made by the Governor's Office and then a separate bill would need to be passed by the Alabama Legislature. The supplemental request does not decrease the amount that is being requested in FY20. If received, these funds would cover the cost of moving currently eligible children to Early Intervention programs for the last quarter of the fiscal year.

Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services Member for Congressional District I, Mobile

The commissioner is currently working to identify a potential board member to replace Dr. Stephen G. Kayes, whose term expires Sept. 30, 2019. This individual will serve as a representative of individuals with disabilities. The goal is to make a recommendation to the governor's appointment office and have that name submitted for Senate confirmation during the upcoming legislative session.

Announcements

The next quarterly board meeting will be *Friday, June 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.* in the community room at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services office in Huntsville.

Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services board meetings for 2019:

- Friday, June 14, 2019 – 10:00 a.m., ADRS, Huntsville/Community Room
- Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m., ADRS, Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room
- Friday, Dec. 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m., ADRS, Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room

Board Business/Discussion

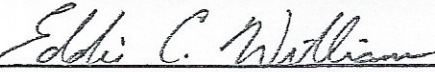
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Minutes were taken by Karen Freeman.

Respectfully submitted:


Jarle E. Burdeshaw, Commissioner

Approved:


Eddie Williams, Chair