

**MINUTES OF THE  
GEORGIA DRIVER'S EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING  
November 10, 2015  
Department of Driver Services Headquarters**

Chairman Blackwood called the November 10, 2015 Georgia Driver's Education Commission meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

**Members in Attendance**

**Mr. Harris Blackwood, Chairman**  
**Mr. Rob Mikell, Vice Chairman**  
**Ms. Frankie Jones**  
**Mr. Eddie Rish**  
**Ms. Beth Graham (by phone)**

**Members Not in Attendance**

**Mr. Kevin Boyd**  
**Mr. Wright Edge**

**Non-members in attendance were as follows:**

Mr. Josh Turner, Georgia Driver's Education Commission  
Ms. Amy Radley, (by phone) Georgia Attorney General's Office  
Mr. Spencer Moore, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Denae Hartsfield, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Mr. John Fleisch, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Ms. Jessica Johnson, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
Mr. Tommy Grant, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Ms. Anna Rhoades, Georgia Department of Driver Services  
Dr. Robert Vogel, Georgia Southern University  
Dr. Stuart Tedders, Georgia Southern University  
Ms. Shenee Bryan, Research and Evaluation Group

**Invocation**

Mr. Eddie Rish offered the invocation.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Eddie Rish made a motion to approve the November 10, 2015 Agenda. Ms. Frankie Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of September 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Frankie Jones made a motion to approve the September 15, 2015 minutes. Mr. Eddie Rish seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**GDEC Director's Report**

Chairman Blackwood asked Mr. Josh Turner, Director of the Georgia Driver's Education Commission to give the director's report. Mr. Turner reported on the following items:

- **Technical College System of Georgia Vehicles**  
Thirty-two of the fifty Kia Optimas have been completed and were picked up by the technical colleges on October 28, 2015. We did not have a program as planned due to scheduling conflicts with TCSG officials. However, we are planning to visit each school

and invite legislators to see the vehicles and program components. We will be sure that the Commission is invited to these events slated for the first week in December.

- Driving Simulator Delivery  
Almost half of the driving simulators have been delivered to our driver's education partners.
- Rules and Regulations and By-laws  
GDEC staff and Assistant Attorney General Amy Milard Radley have been meeting to develop proposed changes to Rules and Regulations and to draft By-laws to govern the Commission. We plan to propose a draft for the board review soon.
- Orange Duffle Bag Initiative  
GDEC has entered into a partnership with the Orange Duffle Bag Initiative. ODBI is, "a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, providing at-risk teens and young adults programs proven to improve their education success, ongoing advocacy, support to their guardians and caring adults, and service to the community in a spirit of offering hope and positive systemic change". GDEC will refer these students to TCSG driver training providers for driver's education. This organization was referred to GDEC by Commissioner Mikell.

### **Adoption of GDEC Strategic Plan**

Chairman Harris Blackwood presented an overview of the proposed strategic plan and noted that members had been provided a copy of the draft prior to the meeting. Mr. Turner commented that the only change in the document since the draft provided prior to the meeting was updated statistics provided by the Georgia Department of Driver Services. Mr. Mikell inquired on how much the strategic plan as written would change if the percentage of fees collected changed. Chairman Blackwood indicated that the number of students would change based on the funding level. Mr. Turner asked the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget staff in attendance to confirm that the strategic plan can be amended at any time as the Commission deems necessary. Ms. Jessica Johnson with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget confirmed that the strategic plan can be updated and a new plan sent to the deputy director of OPB.

Ms. Frankie Jones made a motion to adopt the Strategic Plan. Mr. Eddie Rish seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presentation from Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University**

Chairman Blackwood introduced Dr. Robert Vogel, Dr. Stuart Tedders with the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University and Ms. Shanae Bryant, an epidemiologist with the Research and Evaluation Group. Dr. Vogel presented a proposal to evaluate the effectiveness of Joshua's Law in reducing driving incidents among newly licensed drivers in Georgia. A copy of Dr. Vogel's report and presentation is attached.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Eddie Rish made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rob Mikell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Josh Turner.