**CGIC Economy Team – January 14, 2020**

**Savannah Economic Development Authority**

**131 Hutchinson Island Rd**

**Attendance:** Lizann Roberts, *Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition*; Pam Oglesby, *Savannah Chatham Council on Disability Issues*; Robert Simmons, *Department of Community Supervision*; Cindy Kelley, *Homeless Authority*; Ivan Cohen, *Community Stakeholder*; Dave Williams, *Gateway Community Service Board*; Gregori Anderson, *Chatham County*; Sarah McConville, *United Way*; Melissa Gillenwater, *Employability*; Clyde Newton, *SCCPSS*; Rachel McConathy, *Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition;* Leia Dedic*, SEDA*

**Meeting Minutes:** No corrections to the previous meeting minutes were made.

**Provider Round Table:** The ideas around the provider roundtable was that we would get together different providers within the community. These providers would be SEDA, WorkSource Coastal, Department of Labor, Employability, the School System, and some other organizations that could weigh in and help connect the dots with organizations that may or may not be communicating with each other.

**Propel Savannah:** There are some priorities that are aligning with Propel Savannah where we could potentially use that community help. At the next meeting, Leah can pull out some of those pieces. This past year, Savannah Economic Development Authority in partnership with Angelo economics went around and did a lot of focus groups and surveys with community members. Some people in this group, or some of our peers were probably a part of those focus groups and a part of those individual interviews. They collected all the things they thought we needed to improve from an economic standpoint. From our standpoint of economic development, SEDA’s job is to sell and market the community. And they view Savannah as the product and SEDA has partners like the ones around this table, and many other ones, that are building this product for us to sell. SEDA wants to engage in any way they can. One of the first things that came out of the propel Savannah plan that was a huge chunk was the childcare fund which was where quality child care commitments needed to be made by the end of December, 2020. SEDA partnered with Child Care Resource and Referral, and had them give a list of the needs for each facility, put a number amount on that, and then SEDA went to our workforce committee and we were able to pass a fund and the amount of $375,000. We just recently talked to the United Way, and confirmed with Toby, that we are going to be using them as the fiscal agent so they will be registering the funds, and hopefully that will start in February at the latest. Some ideas that we have for other opportunities are Junior Achievement. It looks like they're going to have a Discovery Center here that will be for the middle school age group. And the thing that this group can help with is once that announcement is officially made, they'll need to sell storefronts and need help with some of that fundraising and there are some high net worth individuals that they're going to be reaching out to. The Discovery Center is essentially a place where it's experiential learning for young that go in with play dollars and then they go and they learn how to budget and they get that financial literacy, but it's hands on. It is like a mall setup, and all of those storefronts are going to be like a miniature version of what they are in real life so it's a simulation of the real world. When the time is appropriate, as far as when they make that announcement we can talk to Camille. The unemployment rate in the Savannah MSA is 2.6% which for our metro area that is the lowest it has been in its recorded history. Companies are struggling because they have a smaller labor pool. From a community standpoint it's a little bit better because more people have jobs than a typical natural unemployment rate. What becomes really important is skills matching. So those that are still unemployed and the companies that still need jobs, is how can we get those unemployed people to have the skills that companies need and maybe using tools that WorkSource coastal has to see the jobs. We need to figure out the unemployment rate among African Americans specifically. Mike Toma may be a good person to ask about that in the 2020 Outlook Data.

**Policy Brief:** we really do need the fundamental policy work. without that we just have these conversations in a mediator recession. We know that we've got a growing and overrun homeless population and we have real problems with sex offenders. We've got many of the downtown folks who are running businesses desperately needing employees, but they have high turnover rates. We may want to do some research on the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the National Low - Income Housing Coalition for some data to start conversations with the Mayor and Chairman about affordable housing. We can also follow up with Alicia Johnson at Step Up to see what data they have available. Clyde will ask Lee Acevedo to attend our next meeting. Lizann and Rachel will invite Brent Stubbs from Savannah Tech.

**2020 Focus Next Steps:** The starting place will be to get data and understand from the different groups that are doing workforce development training (SCCPSS, Step Up Savannah, WorkSource Coastal, the Chamber) how they are supporting workforce development.

**2020 Census:** Remember the Census determines a lot of funding for our community. If you need Census Materials, email Lizann ([director.cgic@gmail.com](mailto:director.cgic@gmail.com)).

**CGIC Website Tour:** CGIC will be having a website workshop on January 17th at 3PM via WebEx. This will be a great opportunity to learn how to use the CGIC website for data and tools. An invitation will be sent out.

**Next meeting Date:** March 3, 2020 at SEDA (131 Hutchinson Island Rd) from 3PM to 4:30PM.