

## **GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNER MEETING**

Georgia Mountains One-Stop  
Chattahoochee Center  
1856 Thompson Bridge Rd.  
Gainesville, GA 30501

### Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on November 28, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA. The following were present:

John Phillips, Director, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Pat Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, Legacy Link  
Jan Payne, Legacy Link, SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program)  
Diana Eddins-Wiggin, GMRC/WorkSource  
Heather Feldman, GMRC  
Diane Jackson, GMRC/WorkSource  
Josh Watkins, North Georgia Technical College  
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College  
Stephanie Benson, Athens Technical College  
Jessica Williams, WIOA  
Mark A. Winters, GDOL- Gainesville Career Center  
Lupita Smith, DOL- Gainesville Career Center  
Andrea Ashe, Lanier Technical College  
Brenda Thomas, Lanier Technical College  
Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College  
Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates  
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates

### Welcome and Introductions

Benjie Hopkins, Operator for the Georgia Mountains One-Stop Center, welcomed everyone, and had each person give a brief introduction.

### Overview of Status of One-Stop Center

Benjie reported that WorkSource Georgia Mountains has been occupying its new location since June, and the partners and operators have been getting in place since July 1<sup>st</sup>. During this time, WorkSource and the partners have been learning about each other's programs. This has enabled everyone to make better referrals. All partners have been very cooperative. A Partner Work Schedule is being updated to include all partners, business hours, and contact information. Discussions are being held with additional organizations regarding the potential for them to become partners. The current Partner Work Schedule is available at the One-Stop Website - <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/>

Benjie announced that individual copier codes have been assigned and distributed for each partner. This code should be used for all copies made in the One-Stop Center.

### The Legacy Link – Overview

Pat Freeman, Chief Executive Officer of The Legacy Link presented information about her agency and its services. She stated that The Legacy Link is a 501c3 (non-profit) agency. Its funding is received from Title V (federal funds) of the Older Americans Act. Individual counties also contribute funding. The Area Agency on Aging and Senior Centers are important parts of the program. The Legacy Link is now operating in 120 counties throughout the State of Georgia. The payroll system (ADP) is used to provide paychecks to 492 people on the program. Their employers agree to provide safe, effective training space for the workers, age 55 and older. They receive minimum wage for a maximum of 15 hours per week. They do not receive sick leave. They must meet low income guidelines, and their total duration for work experience can last for no more than four years. Approximately 42% of the trainees with Legacy Link enter a paid position after training. Most of the training is on-the-job, but some individuals receive paid training in programs at the technical colleges. Another component of The Legacy Link is an ombudsman program for assisted living and long-term care facilities. This service provides individuals who conduct visits to hear complaints regarding resident care issues in these facilities.

Additionally, The Legacy Link coordinates referrals for individuals who are eligible for services such as Meals on Wheels, personal care assistance in the home, and for energy assistance for the elderly. A major priority is to help individuals stay in their own homes for as long as they can safely do so.

A relatively new service offered is a resource center for assistive devices that are useful for individuals with special needs. These include special food preparation and serving items, gripping tools, dressing aids, etc. The Legacy Link offices are now consolidated at one location on Mundy Mill Road in Oakwood, GA.

### Lunch

### Ideas for Collaboration Between Partners

Benjie asked for an open discussion about ideas for collaboration between the partners. He stated he will be meeting with the GED classes to explain more about the other programs available at the One-Stop.

Marsha Hopkins reported that she and Benjie had met recently with two groups from Hall County United Way to describe the One-Stop and its services.

WorkSource staff members working in the Career Coaches are also knowledgeable about partner services. Partners are welcome to use the Career Coaches to share additional information about their programs.

John Phillips mentioned there may be a possibility for coordination with another area to purchase a mobile welding system. Stephanie Benson said that Athens Technical College currently has one they are using for training. Brenda Thomas noted there are two welding programs in use in area prisons.

The possibility of providing a service offering a customized list of services for each participant through a computerized program was discussed. John suggested this could be a good project for the technical colleges. Reducing barriers to employment is an area of current concern statewide. Mandates are in place to assure that barriers are reduced. All forms of communication regarding services must meet exact standards so that everyone has access.

Brenda Thomas mentioned that the Vocational Rehabilitation Agency had invited her to address the lead staff of their offices. This was useful. Brenda also felt it would be valuable to be able to get information about her programs to the front-line staff members. Marsha agreed that this was important for collaboration throughout the One-Stop – to have all front-line staff members from all partners learn about other programs and potential opportunities for referrals.

### Announcements

John Phillips announced that the company, Maher and Maher will be working with all the partners in HDCI – High Demand Career Initiative. Manufacturing will be leading the way in this initiative.

Diana Eddins-Wiggin announced a new grant opportunity available through The Georgia Department of Economic Development Workforce Division. A Request for Application including details regarding these discretionary funds is currently available. Partners with WorkSource Georgia Mountains are invited to make proposals for funding for eligible training projects. These are due by Dec. 22, 2017.

### Minutes

Benjie announced that printed copies of the minutes from the One-Stop Partner Meeting held on August 24, 2017 were available. These minutes had been distributed previously by e-mail and they are also on the onestopworkgamtns.org website.

### Discussion about One-Stop Cost Based on Square Footage

Benjie distributed spreadsheets with cost breakdowns for One-Stop Partners. He explained that actual costs for operations for the One-Stop Center for the first four months were included in the calculations. Office space and shared space were also used to determine a cost for each partner. Costs will be prorated based on the period of occupation for an individual partner. A revised Memorandum of Understanding will be completed in the next few weeks using this information. Each partner will be asked to sign the revised M.O.U. to remain in compliance.

### Next Meeting

The next One-Stop Partner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.