

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 January 30, 2018 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
Jessica Williams, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Tim McDonald, Lanier Technical College
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College
Diane Jackson, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Heather Feldman, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission
Josh Watkins, North Georgia Technical College
Mark Winters, Georgia Department of Labor
A'Prill Spencer, Georgia Department of Labor
Laura Gall, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Diana Eddins-Wiggin, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Dan Thornton, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Whitney Williams, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
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.

Update

Benjie gave an update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding between partners. After several months of operation, actual costs for operation were calculated, and a division of costs was determined based on square footage. These costs were incorporated into the agreement. All signatures have been obtained, and the MOU is currently under review at the state level. Benjie expressed appreciation to all involved for their cooperation in updating this agreement. He stated that partners will be billed quarterly.

Focus Area – Adult Programs

Diana Eddins-Wiggin was introduced as the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program Supervisor. Diana was recently recognized by Heather Feldman, Executive Director of Georgia Mountains Regional Commission as Employee of the Year. Heather stated there are many dedicated employees of the Regional Commission, but that Diana was selected because her work and service during the past year had been exceptionally outstanding. She also announced that Diana will be leaving in February for a new position out of state. She will be missed greatly.

Diana described the services offered to adults through WorkSource Georgia Mountains. She stated there are ten staff members involved in this department. She introduced those in attendance – Dan Thornton, Senior Adult/Dislocated Worker Case Manager/RR Coordinator; Wanda Payne, Senior Adult/Dislocated Worker Case Manager; and Whitney Williams, Adult/Dislocated Worker Program Assistant.

Whitney presented an informative overview of services in a Prezi format. She conducts a weekly session at the One-Stop every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to offer an overview to anyone who is interested in any aspect of workforce development services. Appointments can be made, but walk-ins are welcomed. Afterwards, assistance is provided for completing application forms. Whitney explained that the Career Coaches travel daily to locations throughout the thirteen-county region, and that these may be scheduled for service at libraries, schools, career days, job expos, community events, etc. Benjie encouraged all partners to share promotional materials from their programs for the Career Coach staff members to distribute.

Overview of Status of One-Stop Center

Benjie reminded everyone that the copier is available for use by partners. Each partner should use the assigned code for printing. The cost of copies is nominal. Black and white copies are less than one cent each. Color copies are approximately six cents each. Billing for copy costs will be issued quarterly.

Benjie reported that in the last quarter of 2017, the One-Stop Center recorded 543 customer visits. 120 of these attended an Overview Session. 45 individuals came to meet with partners. GED classes are being held four mornings a week through Lanier Technical College. Average attendance is 4 - 5 people per class.

Benjie presented some statistics concerning poverty in Hall County he had received recently from Hall County United Way. Some points of interest were: Of the total estimated population of 194,000 in Hall County, approximately 36,000 people do not have Internet access at home. An estimated 32,000 individuals in the county live below the poverty line. Approximately 36,000 residents of Hall County do not have health insurance.

Minutes from Nov. 28, 2017

Copies of the minutes of the last meeting were distributed by email, and they are available on the One-Stop website at www.onestopgamtns.org.

Update for Partners Work Schedule

Marsha Hopkins noted a minor change in the Partners Work Schedule for GVRA's hours. Also, an adjustment for the schedule for GDOL's hours was noted. A copy of the revised Work Schedule is available on the One-Stop website at www.onestopgamtns.org

Announcements/Discussion/Ideas for Collaboration Between Partners

John Phillips gave an update on the contract for the High Demand Career Initiative. The company, Maher and Maher will be working with area employers and with the One-Stop Partners to focus on Advanced Manufacturing in the region. John stressed the need for cooperation from all partners in this effort. Maher and Maher will be convening groups, led by manufacturers, to advance this project.

John Phillips stated that a change has been announced for the management of the Office of Workforce Development at the state level. The program is being moved from the Department of Economic Development to the TCSG (Technical College System of Georgia). John stated that the WIOA law gives the Chief Local Elected Officials the authority to make decisions locally concerning workforce programs, and that the Georgia Mountains Workforce Board would remain in place. Tim McDonald, Vice President, Economic Development for Lanier Technical College, expressed his appreciation to Dan Thornton, Diana Eddins-Wiggin and Jessica Williams for their coordination and support in providing training programs to area employers. He said this has been a valuable plus to offer employers who are considering locating or expanding their businesses in this area.

Tim McDonald reported that the new campus for Lanier Technical College located in Gainesville is on schedule and on budget. Opening date for classes is scheduled for mid-January 2019. There will be some adjustments for semester lengths beginning in the summer of this year to accommodate the move from Oakwood to the new campus. Tim mentioned that truck driving training is currently offered in Jackson County, and that trainees are being recruited to meet a strong employer demand. A commercial truck driving range will be a feature of the new Gainesville campus.

Shelby Ward reported that the horticulture program at North Georgia Technical College will have new greenhouses. Also, ground has been broken at the Clarkesville Campus for a new building to offer agricultural degrees.

John Phillips mentioned that he and Benjie would be meeting individually with all economic development directors in the region to discuss how our services could be beneficial to their efforts.

Benjie stated the One-Stop will be issuing newsletters every two months with updates concerning available services and examples of effective collaboration in the region. Input from partners is welcomed. Chambers of Commerce and economic development leaders will be special targets for this information. The program, *Mail Chimp* was suggested for consideration to use for distribution.

Heather Feldman suggested it would be useful to have Adult and Dislocated Worker staff members talk with the Economic Development Department staff about available program options.

Date for Next Meeting

The date for the next One-Stop Partners Meeting was set for Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

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