

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

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

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on March 27, 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:

Laura Gall, Vocational Rehabilitation  
Pat V. Freeman, Legacy Link, Inc.  
John Phillips, GMRC, WorkSource  
Heather Feldman, GMRC  
Diane Jackson, WorkSource  
Whitney Williams, WorkSource  
Jessica Williams, WorkSource  
Lupita Smith, DOL- Gainesville Career Center  
Mark A. Winters, GDOL  
Shannon Cole, Lanier Tech  
Brenda Thomas, Lanier Tech  
Shelby Ward, North GA Tech  
Jim Watson, Lanier Tech  
Robin Cone, GVRA-Voc. Rehab.  
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.

### Old Business

Minutes from the January 30, 2018 Partners Meeting were emailed previously. A copy is posted on the website: [www.onestopworkgamtms.org](http://www.onestopworkgamtms.org)

### New Business

John Phillips announced several staff changes for WorkSource Georgia Mountains. These are:  
Whitney Williams replaced Diana Eddins-Wiggin as Adult/Dislocated Worker Coordinator.  
Daniell Avaral took the position of Adult/Dislocated Worker, Outreach Coordinator, previously held by Whitney Williams.  
Bethany Coggins was hired as Youth Case Manager, taking Daniell Avaral's place in that position.  
Interviews are taking place this week for a receptionist.

Shelby Ward announced that Josh Watkins has taken a new position at North Georgia Technical College as a recruiter.

#### Focus Area – Lanier Technical College WIOA

Jim Watson, Work Experience Coordinator for the WIOA High School Work Grant, described the programs provided by Lanier Technical College. These include: Classes in ESL, citizenship classes, career readiness, soft skills instruction (using GDOL's program – Georgia Best), financial literacy, digital literacy, and career counseling are all offered through North Georgia Technical College. Online classes and night classes are offered to accommodate the needs of students. GED classes are held at the One-Stop Center, at Goodwill, and at the Lanier Tech campus at Oakwood.

Lanier Technical College's service area is: Banks, Barrow, Dawson, Forsyth, Hall, Jackson, and Lumpkin Counties.

Jim pointed out that students can participate in dual enrollment in GED training and in college at the same time if they have passed two of the four GED tests as well as the college entrance test.

The WIOA Program is for Out-of-School Youth, ages 16 to 24. Those without a high school diploma can qualify for special assistance including \$15/day for transportation and \$15/child/day for childcare. Also, there is a \$100 incentive paid to students who earn a GED. Occupational skills training is offered for the following: manufacturing specialist, welding, Microsoft Office, and forklift operation. Many of these are short term programs, involving 6 – 10 weeks of training. Following this training, many of the individuals become employed using these skills. Then they may continue advanced training while they work. The grant offers tuition assistance for up to two years.

High school graduates may also be eligible for these programs and support services if they have one of the following barriers to employment as qualifiers: history of any involvement in foster care, history of IEP in school, or history of being an offender. High school graduates may also qualify if they are parenting, pregnant, homeless, disabled, low income, or lacking in basic skills. Jim reported that the WIOA program began in November 2016, and it served 13 people in the first year. In 2017, there were 63 people served.

Kate Ballard, one of Lanier Technical College's nursing students in the WIOA program, earned the Eagle Award as the Most Outstanding Student in Georgia. She is currently serving as a state ambassador for the program.

Jim was asked how the One-Stop Center and Lanier Tech's programs synchronize their services. At the One-Stop's overview session, qualifying youth are often referred to the programs Jim described. It was pointed out that Adults over age 24 do not have to have a barrier to be able to participate in available training.

#### Updates

Facilities:

New signage for the One-Stop is now scheduled for arrival in April, and it should be installed in May. Efforts have been made to reduce interruptions for the GED classes. The One-Stop break room has been moved to an area at the end of the Youth hallway. Space in the training room will be made available for a desk and books for the GED instructor. A bulletin board for notices and job announcements is being installed in the front lobby. Heather Feldman announced that the lease for the building space is for one year with an option to renew. Rent is up approximately \$250 or about 3%.

#### Outreach Efforts:

Benjie reported that he and Marsha made a presentation about One-Stop services to the monthly meeting of Hall County Family Connection. Plans are to reach out to the Family Connection programs in other counties in our region.

Benjie and Marsha also made a presentation to an evening meeting of members of homeless families who are participating in the Family Promise program in Hall County.

At the invitation of Gainesville High School's guidance counselor and Maria Calkins, Resident Services Coordinator for Gainesville Housing Authority, Benjie and Marsha met with students who reside in public housing.

Gainesville High School will be having a Career Day/Job Fair on April 26<sup>th</sup>. They have requested that the Career Coach be there that day.

A special emphasis is being made to assist individuals in foster care who 'age out' of services. DFACS offices throughout the region are working on this effort. Some have hired additional staff. Churches are also participating. It was pointed out that as little as one day in foster care can qualify an individual for some workforce services.

Marsha reported that she spoke to a group at Lanier Village in Gainesville on the topic of 'Toxic Charity', based on a book by that name. Concepts in the book are being promoted this year by United Way of Hall County in their strategic planning and their annual campaign.

Benjie and Marsha met with a clergy group consisting of several local religious leaders. They presented information about One-Stop services available to area residents.

A meeting called by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, and it was hosted at the One-Stop. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Project Safe Neighborhoods, a comprehensive gun and gang violence reduction program. Two major components of the initiative are partnerships and prevention.

#### Work Schedule for One-Stop:

A copy of the work schedule was distributed for review. Updates will be available at the website under Partners:

<http://onestopworkgamtns.org/our-partners/>

#### Date for Next Meeting

The date for the next One-Stop Partners Meeting was set for Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

#### Adjournment

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