

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 Tuesday, May 29, 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, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)
Pat V. Freeman, Legacy Link, Inc.
John Phillips, WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM)
Mary Margaret Garrett, WSGM
Whitney Williams, WSGM
Jessica Williams, WSGM
Mark A. Winters, GDOL
Steve McGruder, GDOL
Jim Watson, Lanier Tech
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 March 27, 2018 Partners Meeting were emailed previously. A copy is posted on the website: www.onestopworkgamtns.org

New Business

John Phillips introduced Mary Margaret Garrett as a new contractor with Georgia Mountains. She served previously as the director for Workforce Development for the Atlanta Regional Commission.

John stated that the workforce program's transition to the Technical College System of Georgia was proceeding well.

WorkSource Georgia Mountains will continue to work with GDOL regarding Rapid Response. Updates for Sector Strategies will be presented at the next Partners Meeting. This project involves direct input from local employers concerning workforce needs in our region.

John also announced that Hopkins Associates has been approved for a one-year contract extension as Operator of the One-Stop Center.

Jim Watson announced that Lanier Tech is suspending their GED classes at the One-Stop during June and July. These classes will resume on August 6th. They will be conducted by Terri Cunningham.

The One-Stop Work Schedule will be updated to reflect these changes, and it will be posted on the website. The One-Stop training room will be available during the summer, but meetings should be scheduled ahead of time, and posted on the master calendar. Please contact Benjie, Diane Jackson, or Dawn Bruce for scheduling.

Program Focus – GDOL Programs for Veterans

Mark Winters, with GDOL introduced Steve McGruder, Disabled Veterans Outreach Placement (DVOP) Specialist for the Georgia Department of Labor. Steve served as a Master Sargent in the United States Air Force. Steve stated that his service area includes the counties of: Hall, Lumpkin, Dawson, Forsyth, and White. Kevin Patterson also works with area veterans. They coordinate with area homeless shelters, local VSOs (Veterans' Services Offices), food pantries, VA hospitals, and other entities involved with veterans. Their mission is to provide intensive services through case management, education, training, and housing by building relationships with community partners. They target veterans who are Gold Card (ages 18-24 years), low income individuals, those who have been released recently released from incarceration, and those with any significant barrier to employment.

Steve described many of the services available to area veterans. Some of these are: a monthly seminar/job club offering resume assistance and feedback on career goals; an annual food drive benefitting veterans; an annual veterans' resource fair; a clothing closet specifically for veterans available at the Department of Labor office; a program through the Cress Winds Community providing bicycles and bus passes for veterans; a veterans' treatment court providing substance abuse treatment and mental health services; and a mentors program to assist veterans with system navigation.

Updates

Benjie reported that North Georgia Technical College had recently graduated their first class in handling and programming robots for manufacturing. They have also added diesel mechanics as a training option.

Lanier Technical College recently received a donation of one million dollars from Kubota Manufacturing. The new building construction is proceeding on schedule. The economic development portion should be opening this fall, and the rest of the college should be moved in by January.

GDOL reported that initial unemployment insurance claims were down 44% for the Georgia Mountains area. Hall County's unemployment rate was at 2.9% at the end of April.

There continues to be a tremendous need for CDL drivers, for both long haul and for regional bus drivers.

Legacy Link provides a newsletter with valuable information regarding services for seniors. This resource may be accessed through: <http://www.legacylink.org/news-and-events/newsletter/>

Marsha Hopkins stated that a brochure is being developed to summarize the workforce services and programs offered through the One-Stop Center. All partners are asked to assist in creating this product as a promotional tool.

Date for Next Meeting

The date for the next One-Stop Partners Meeting was set for Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

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