

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday, November 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:

John Phillips, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College
Mark Winters, Georgia Department of Labor
Lupita Sosa-Smith, Georgia Department of Labor
Johnny Varner, Goodwill
Cory Addison, Goodwill
Diane Jackson, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Whitney Williams, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Jessica Williams, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Greg Vitek, Lanier Technical College
Stephanie Ponce, Georgia Department of Labor Business Services
Joy Griffin, United Way of Hall County
Pat V. Freeman, Legacy Link, Inc.
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.

Minutes from the September 25, 2018 meeting were emailed previously. Those are posted at:

www.onestopworkgamtms.org

Announcements

-Benjie distributed copies of a recent article in *The Times*, recognizing our own One-Stop Partners member, Pat Freeman for her recent Lifetime Achievement Award for 42 years of “visionary guidance and outstanding leadership” in providing aging services. Congratulations and thank you, Pat for your dedication and commitment!

<https://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/what-legacy-link-creator-has-say-about-long-career-and-when-shell-slow-down/>

-Joy Griffin announced an upcoming meeting of a focus group on mental health to be convened by One Hall, a program of United Way of Hall County. She invited participation of the One-Stop Partners in this and other One Hall focus groups throughout the year.

-Greg Vitek discussed the development of the Registered Apprenticeship Program at Lanier Technical College. One is in progress for machining and industrial systems technology. The program is two years in length. Participants successfully completing the program earn a journeyman’s card and credentials in the field. This program is for employers with less than 100 employees. An active recruitment effort is underway for participants in this program.

-Jessica Williams highlighted the success of Project Search, a program involving work with those with learning disabilities. She stated that two internship participants from this program have recently been hired at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. One of these individuals was hired as a chef, and another in a position with environmental services.

-Cory Addison reported that donations at the Oakwood location of Goodwill Industries had just experienced an exceptional weekend with over 1,000 donations. Goodwill Career Services focuses on serving individuals with barriers to employment.

-Goodwill, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Rehabilitation Services, and North Georgia Technical College, recently collaborated on a culinary training program for individuals who are completing their stay with Arrendale State Prison. Participants have been successful in obtaining certification and employment.

-Jim Watson reported that Lanier Technical College's GED classes will be relocating from their Woods Mill site. Brandy Rowley will be working with GED classes at the One-Stop Center

-John Phillips reported that new contracts are being completed to have contractors at each of the technical colleges.

Focus Topic: United Way of Hall County

Marsha Hopkins introduced guest speaker, Joy Griffin, President and Chief Professional Officer of United Way of Hall County. Joy is a native of Gainesville, current President of Kiwanis Club of Gainesville, and a member of the Board of Directors of Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce.

Joy began by distributing booklets entitled "Community Game Plan" recently published by United Way of Hall County. <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/gameplan/>

She explained that it has transitioned from its traditional role as coordinating entity for raising funds and distributing them among non-profit organizations. Its new direction is to strategically design and implement the most effective collective impact for addressing social issues in Hall County. Its emphasis is now concentrated on identifying the biggest problems and then determining options for solutions. Partnerships are developed for advocacy, collaboration, and funding. The past year has been spent in an extensive study to accurately assess problems. Those have been evaluated locally in the focus areas of: education, financial stability, and health. United Way has held monthly "One Hall" meetings for each of the focus areas. From these meetings, four major problems have been identified in each of the focus areas. Additionally, specific strategies for resolution of these problems have been proposed. (The Community Game Plan booklets summarize the study and its strategies.) Joy described a shared measurement system for determining children's ability to track words as they learn to read. She emphasized the importance of agreement on tools for measurement so that collective impact of projects can be determined accurately. Joy mentioned the importance of restoring dignity to those in poverty. She said they want to change "the way we do charity". The message is: "You can get a better job". They want to give those at the bottom a "ladder to climb out of poverty". A big emphasis is on graduating teen mothers, being sure they have opportunities to continue their education. A huge issue locally is the lack of housing for individuals with low income. Another is the issue of education debt. Individuals still owe bills for education many years after their training. Joy discussed the importance of Hall County United Way's Compass Center, a one-stop community resource center connecting individuals and families in poverty with existing services and providers throughout Gainesville and Hall County. <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/thecompasscenter/>

She expressed appreciation for the chance to share information with the One-Stop Center Partners, and she anticipates many opportunities for further collaboration.

Partner Information:

-Justin Kearby is the new intake assistant for youth with WorkSource Georgia Mountains.

-North Georgia Technical College is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. They have recently introduced a new Associates Degree in Agribusiness. A new economic development center will be opening in March at the Clarksville campus. This facility includes a large conference area.

-Lanier Technical College held a ribbon-cutting for their new Gainesville campus on October 19th. The new facility includes six buildings on 95 acres. A meeting was held recently to invite employers to participate in apprenticeship programs. Ten of the twelve employers in attendance agreed to be a part of this program. Additional apprenticeships are being planned. Changes may be made in the schedule of GED classes offered by Lanier Technical College at the One-Stop Center

- GDOL continues to host successful job fairs and recruitment events. A valuable GDOL resource is that of federal bonding. It can be provided at no cost to employers or candidates.
- WorkSource Georgia Mountains offers an overview session each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Center. (The only exception in the last Tuesday each month when the overview is held at the GDOL offices, 2756 Atlanta Hwy., Gainesville, GA 30504). The WorkSource Georgia Mountains Career Coaches continue to serve all thirteen counties in our services area.
- Several partners will be involved in providing services to those affected by the recent announcement of a layoff by General Motors.
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services frequently offers specific success stories in its monthly newsletters. One recently published story that is especially inspiring is about Ann Harrison-Barnes, a blind GVRs client who is the author of four books.
https://gvs.georgia.gov/sites/gvs.georgia.gov/files/related_files/press_release/nov%202018.pdf (pages 7-8).

Date for Next Meeting

The date for the next One-Stop Partners Meeting was set for Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

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