

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

### **Minutes**

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA. The following were present:

Meg Minelli, United Way of Hall County  
Beth Williams, Vocational Rehabilitation  
Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity  
Lupita, Smith, GDOL, Gainesville Career Center  
Pat Freeman, Legacy Link, Inc.  
Diane Jackson, WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM)  
Whitney Williams, WSGM  
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College  
Tiffany Richey, Lanier Technical College  
Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College  
John Phillips, WSGM  
Heather Feldman, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission  
Stephanie Ponce, GDOL, BSU  
Mark Winters, GDOL  
Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates  
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

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

Minutes from the April 30, 2019 meeting were emailed previously. A copy is posted at:

[www.onestopworkgamtns.org](http://www.onestopworkgamtns.org)

#### **Focus Topic: WorkSource Georgia Mountains Youth Services**

Marsha Hopkins introduced Ebony Tucker. Ebony was a participant in the local workforce development summer youth program – then known as JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act). After her senior year, she was offered a one-year internship as the Youth Office Assistant. That internship became a permanent position with the Department of Labor as Secretary 1. Then Ebony was promoted to Customer Service Specialist. After 8 years, WIOA was transferred to the administration of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, and Ebony became a Case Manager. She was then promoted to her current position as senior Youth Case Manager. In total, she has 15 years of experience with the program.

Ebony discussed the variety of services offered in the WSGM Youth Program, and she presented a PowerPoint about the program. [Partner Meeting Youth Center Presentation.pptx](#)

She described the success of the Annual Youth Conference held on June 7, 2019 at the Ramsey Center at Lanier Technical College in Gainesville. Approximately 80 youth participated this year. There were several speakers offering information about workforce related topics such as interviewing skills and real-life money management. There were door-prizes provided, and the participants gave the event positive reviews. She stated that the new Youth Center Project is moving forward. Space adjacent to the One-Stop has been rented, and it is being adapted to provide support services as well as education and training services for Out-of-School Youth. The Youth Center will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be a library/resource center. Volunteers will be needed as tutors, mentors, and credit counselors. A ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for October.

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### Partner Information

Benjie gave an update on services statistics for the One-Stop Center. He reported that approximately 800 people had come through the One-Stop Center in the previous quarter. In addition, 116 individuals participated in Overview Sessions. <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/>

Benjie highlighted some activities of all Partners and offered each of them an opportunity to share additional updates from their respective organizations.

Lanier Technical College: Enjoying new facilities at Gainesville Location. Fall Semester Deadline is August 14<sup>th</sup>. Graduated 346 in 2019 GED Ceremony. <https://www.laniertech.edu>

North Georgia Technical College: The new Agribusiness program is going well. The NGTC Medical Assisting Program was recently named number 1 in the State of Georgia <https://northgatech.edu/programs-of-study/medical/medical-assisting>

Athens Technical College: Two new Board Members, Kyle Brown and Tom Denny  
<https://athenstech.edu/executive/PR/newPress.cfm>

Georgia Department of Labor: Referred to several Job Fairs in the area: One will be held in Hall County on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Gainesville Civic Center. <https://www.ghcc.com/fall-job-fair-career-expo/>

Ninth District Opportunity – Website (under “Resources” contains online applications for many services including: Voter Registration, SSI, Food Stamps, TANF, Medicaid, etc.  
<https://www.ndo.org/web/resources.html>

Legacy Link, Inc. – Employment Program for Workers Over Age 55 continues with over 550 people currently working. Many valuable services are described on their website: <https://www.legacylink.org/>

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission – Useful regional information on a range of topics including Workforce Development and Economic Development is available in draft form on the GMRC website under “Documents” Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Regional Plan:  
[http://www.gmrc.ga.gov/GMRC\\_2019RegionalPlan\\_DRAFT\\_05292019.pdf](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov/GMRC_2019RegionalPlan_DRAFT_05292019.pdf)

WorkSource Georgia Mountains – Staff members are preparing for fall enrollment activities. Work is progressing on furnishing the new Youth Center. Plans are being implemented through Sector Strategies for Advanced Manufacturing in the region. <http://www.gmrc.ga.gov/WorkforceDevelopment.htm>

United Way of Hall County – Spearheading “One Hall” effort with local committees exploring ways to reduce poverty in the area. Individuals are invited to join in effort. Also, Compass Center is available to direct individuals to needed services. <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/our-work/>

During lunch, attendees collaborated on current projects and exchanged ideas for working together to provide a more coordinated system of services throughout the region.

Benjie requested that signatory Partners for the One-Stop Memorandum of Agreement remain to review details for the document’s revisions.

### Date for Next Meeting

The next One-Stop Partners Meeting was set for Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.