

## 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, August 27, 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:

Maria Calkins, Gainesville Housing Authority  
Heather Feldman, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission  
John Phillips, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Cindy Bryant, Gateway Domestic Violence Center  
Pat V. Freeman, Legacy Link, Inc.  
Jan Payne, Legacy Link, Senior Community Service and Employment Program  
Kathy Chamberlin, Child Support, Department of Human Services  
Patricia Tyson, Parental Accountability Court  
Amy Costoulas, Parental Accountability  
Beth Oropeza, United Way of Hall County  
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College  
Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College  
Tim McDonald, Lanier Technical College  
Kevin Hankinson, Georgia Department of Labor  
Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College  
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.

### Minutes

Minutes from the June 25, 2019 Partners Meeting were emailed previously. A copy is posted on the website: [www.onestopworkgamtms.org](http://www.onestopworkgamtms.org)

### Program Focus - Parental Accountability & Child Support Services –

Patricia Tyson, Parental Accountability Court Coordinator and Kathy Chamberlin, Agent III, Div. of Child Support Services presented information concerning local programs involving child support payments. The **Parental Accountability Court** Program (PAC) is a community outreach program aimed at strengthening Georgia's families. PAC seeks to remove the underlying barriers/issues that cause non-custodial parents to become chronic non-payers of child support. Opportunities for employment training may be offered as an alternative to incarceration. Random drug screening is a part of the program. An individual's driver's license is protected while in the program so that the person can get to a place of employment. There is also a voluntary 90-day Fatherhood Program focused on employment. Getting a GED is not a requirement of the program. A suggestion was made that not only registration for GED training become a requirement, but that attendance and evidence of improvement also be made a part of the court-ordered directive. Roundups are conducted prior to court dates to try to determine why child support payments have not been made. Letters are sent out to individuals who are behind on their payments, notifying them about deadlines for payments and options for addressing the issue. There are cases where the court-ordered amount of payment can be adjusted to a more affordable rate. If there is no court order for payment, the custodial parent or grandparent can make a request

for one from the superior court. Pat Freeman mentioned the Kinship Care Program of Legacy Link. This is a service to assist grandparents, aunts and uncles who are caring for children.

<https://www.legacylink.org/community-based-programs/kinship-care/>

Both Ms. Tyson and Ms. Chamberlin expressed their commitment to work with all One-Stop Partners to assist parents in their programs in obtaining needed training and in finding employment.

### Lunch

During lunch, partners discussed challenges and resources concerning service delivery.

### One-Stop Overview

Marsha Hopkins reported that 625 people had used One-Stop services for the period April through June of 2018. For that same period this year, there were 756. These numbers do not include approximately 125 individuals who participate in the Overview Session each quarter. The Overview is offered at the One-Stop every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. (except for the last Tuesday of each month when it is held at the GDOL office in Oakwood). Two new outdoor signs have been installed at the One-Stop Center. One of these is a large one located at the top of the signs for other businesses in the Chattahoochee Center.

### Partner Updates

Lanier Technical College – Tim McDonald reported a record enrollment – now at over 4600 students for 2019. They are pleased with a good economy as well as a good enrollment at all campuses. Technical skills are more important today than ever before. A new staff person is being hired to work with students regarding WIOA. Jim Watson reported that out of school programs are successful. They have two short-term programs now – welding and Excel. They have also developed many internships in partnership with area companies. Shannon Coles reported that in the past year NGTC had over 2,000 individuals enrolled in adult education.

North Georgia Technical College – Shelby Ward said NGTC enrollment is up 7%. Their new school of Agriculture is going well. A new director has been hired. The five buildings housing this program include a linked system including hydroponics and fish production at the Clarkesville campus. This will be set up to provide food for the dining halls.

Athens Technical College – Stephanie Benson could not attend the meeting, but she sent a report that ATC is going through a lot of renovations to upgrade their facilities.

Georgia Department of Labor – Kevin Hankinson reported that unemployment rates as well as unemployment insurance claims are down. A Job Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the Gainesville Civic Center. <https://www.ghcc.com/fall-job-fair-career-expo/>

There is also a Job Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the Forsyth Conference Center.

<https://web.cummingforsythchamber.org/events/2019-Community-Job-Fair-4376/details>

A Job Fair will be held on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> in White Co. at Truett McConnell University from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Vocational Rehabilitation – Beth Williams reported on changes in the organization. Some administrative positions have been cut to hire additional field staff. All the changes are geared toward serving clients. With the beginning of the school year, all counselors are very active. Their website includes many success stories: <https://gvs.georgia.gov/vocational-rehabilitation-can-work-you/success-stories>

Legacy Link, Inc. – Pat Freeman mentioned the Governor's recent call for state budget cuts of 4% this year and 6% next year. This will influence many area programs. The Legacy Link website has an excellent resource guide for services. Information is also available by email or by telephone for services available for seniors and for individuals with disabilities living throughout the country. <https://www.legacylink.org/>

Ninth District Opportunity – A recent Summit on Homelessness was held last month at the One-Stop Center. It was organized by Michael Fisher with Ninth District Opportunity. Approximately 60 people from about 25

organizations attended this meeting to better coordinate efforts to address this issue by linking resources.

#### WorkSource Georgia Mountains

Jessica Williams announced that donations have been coming in for furnishing the new Youth Center. The staff is arranging these and getting ready for programs to expand. The GED program is for youth in a classroom at the center. After careful deliberation, a new name has been chosen

It is ROUTE 180. (Road to Opportunities Utilizing Training and Enrichment. The 180 refers to a complete change of direction – or 180 degrees). This program will focus initially on at risk youth in Hall County, but it will be extended to additional populations throughout the Georgia Mountains area. Some of the planned areas in the new center include: a resource lab, offices, an assessment room, a children's room for use by those clients who are parents, clothing closets, a café to teach entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills.

Workshops and short-term training classes will be offered. An intern from the University of North Georgia will be assisting. Volunteers are being sought to assist with tutoring, mentoring, and other areas of service.

John Phillips distributed copies of a newly published booklet of programs offered through WorkSource.

Printed copies are available at the One-Stop Center. This is a link for an electronic copy

[http://www.gmrc.ga.gov/WSGM\\_ProgramOverview\\_082019.pdf](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov/WSGM_ProgramOverview_082019.pdf)

Whitney Williams reported that approximately 60 applications for adult clients were accepted in July, so the five case managers have been very busy. She also mentioned a new cohort of trainees in welding at the Whitworth Women's Facility. This program is in collaboration with Goodwill Industries and Athens Technical College.

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission – Heather Feldman mentioned the new Story Map feature of the GMRC web page. This is a virtual map that tells stories about the impact various GMRC projects are having on local communities in the thirteen-county area including thirty-eight municipalities.

<http://www.gmrc.ga.gov/> Heather was pleased to announce that this project recently won a national award.

Gainesville Housing Authority – Maria Calkins announced that about 200 units of public housing in Gainesville have been renovated recently at the cost of approximately \$80,000 each. Individuals on the list for public housing are notified by mail concerning availability of these units. Maria encouraged those who are working with individuals needing housing to consider these options. Walton Summit will have 86 additional units available. 13 of these are public housing and others are affordable housing. Additional units will also be built where Tower Heights housing is being demolished. Adventure Centers, located at some public housing areas, offer free after school care for children in those neighborhoods. <http://www.gainesvillehousing.org/>

United Way of Hall County – Compass Center – Beth Oropeza mentioned that they want to have information about all resources available so they may make appropriate referrals throughout the county. One-Hall Committee on Economic Stability is a United Way group meeting monthly. They will have a meeting soon at the One-Stop Center to learn more about workforce services provided through the Partners. One-Hall focuses on several key areas of need in the community <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/one-hall/>

Gateway Domestic Violence Center – Cindy Bryant reported that Gateway is almost at capacity. In addition to the local shelter, they also have transitional apartments available for those who have experienced domestic violence. Cindy manages these apartments and assists individuals in finding employment. Gateway's capital campaign for a new shelter is progressing well. <http://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/>

#### Date for Next Meeting

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

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m. and attendees were invited to tour the new Youth Center adjacent to the One-Stop Center.