

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING MINUTES

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday March 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Participating were:

Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College
Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College
Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College
Stephanie Ponce, Georgia Department of Labor
Danielle Avelar, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Ebony Tucker, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Micah Thomas, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Jason Norsworthy, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Dawn Bruce, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Niki McPherson, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Corin Morgan, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Greg Vitek, Workforce Strategies Group
Shelley Logan, Workforce Strategies Group
Tonya White, Ga. Dept. of Community Supervision
Cindy Bryant, Gateway Domestic Violence Center
Linda Shadburn, Circle of Hope Domestic Violence Center
Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates

Welcome

Benjie Hopkins reminded the group of the purposes of this bi-monthly meeting – to create collaborations and to promote referrals between agencies and individuals.

Minutes

Marsha Hopkins stated that minutes from the January 26, 2021 meeting were emailed previously. These and all previous minutes are posted at: www.onestopworkgamtns.org under the heading “Our Partners”

Focus Topic: Employment Bootcamp

Danielle Avelar, Outreach and New Program Coordinator for WorkSource Georgia Mountains gave an informative presentation about a new Employment Bootcamp. A copy of her presentation is included as an attachment to the email for these minutes. Area employers had requested assistance in developing their workforce by offering opportunities for recent high school graduates to learn and to practice essential work skills. Deadline for application is May 12th. www.gmrc.ga.gov/bootcamps
The dates for Gainesville City Schools are May 24th – 27th at the One-Stop offices. Another bootcamp will be offered at North Georgia Technical College in Toccoa June 14th, 16th, 21st, and 23rd. Approximately 18 – 20 students (maximum) will be participating in each of these training opportunities. Referrals are required for all.

Partner Updates: Partners were asked to offer updates for their respective organizations.

WorkSource Georgia Mountains <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor reported: The GED program has reopened at the One-Stop Center. Staff members have been contacting community resources who will be coming in to talk with students this summer about topics related to their education, employment, and health.
Niki McPherson reported: Temporary work experience opportunities are available for eligible individuals. This includes dislocated workers and those who have been unemployed for an extended period.
<https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/copy-of-wsgm-career-coach> WorkSource is also working with health departments to fill 90 positions at vaccination sites.

Georgia Department of Labor <https://dol.georgia.gov/> Stephanie Ponce reported: Employers list positions daily on Employ Georgia. There are 224,082 jobs currently posted statewide. It is likely that unemployment benefits will be extended for at least an additional thirteen weeks. The GDOL website indicates a federal unemployment rate of 6.2%; State of Georgia rate of 4.8%; and Ga. Mtns. region rate of 3.4%.

Lanier Technical College <https://www.laniertech.edu/> Shannon Cole reported: This year's GOAL winner has been announced. Donations to support training costs have been received recently from local Rotary Clubs, and additional funding is being sought. LTC is at 75% of the targeted enrollment for the year. Since July 1st, 150 GED Certificates have been issued.

Jim Watson reported: Manufacturing IET will be offered in a three-week program. This includes training in first aid, OSHA 10, and soft skills. Short term training in welding and in Excel is also available. There is a new collaboration for a Business Administration Program between LTC and Brenau University.

North Georgia Technical College <https://northgatech.edu/> Shelby Ward reported: Classes for OSHA forklift operators and for home health aides are being offered, as well as programs for a Certified Literate Community. Several grants for training have been received recently, but additional training funds are being sought. 100% of targeted enrollment goals for the year are being met.

GVRA- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency <https://gvs.georgia.gov> Corin Morgan reported: Vocational Rehabilitation continues to operate offices in Cumming, Gainesville, and Cleveland. Services are still mostly remote. There has been an increase in referrals. Applications are being taken for a wait list.

Georgia Dept. of Community Supervision (DCS) <https://dcs.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville> Tonya White reported: She is continuing to seek resources for men and women who are being released from prison. GED training and WorkSource services have been useful in assisting individuals to gain employment.

Workforce Strategies Group - Greg Vitek reported: A steering committee meeting was held recently with area employers. Work is continuing with manufacturing as the focus area for Sector Strategies for the region. Videos about employment skills are being produced in each county, and these will be available to all school systems in the region in a digital library. A logo for advanced manufacturing is being developed. Also, an apprenticeship program for manufacturing technician is being created. Discussions are being held with employers about funding to sustain sector strategy efforts for the region.

Gateway Domestic Violence Center <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> Cindy Bryant, Transitional Housing Program Coordinator reported: Gateway is hoping to break ground soon on their new facility. Meanwhile, they are continuing to serve survivors of domestic violence in Hall Co. **24/7 CRISIS HOTLINE: (770) 536-5860.**

Circle of Hope <https://www.gacircleofhope.org/> Linda Shadburn reported: Circle of Hope provides housing and community engagement services for victims of domestic violence in the Counties of Habersham, Stephens, and White. **The 24 Hour Hotline number is: (706) 776-4673.**

Announcements

The One-Stop Center is currently open and operating from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Customers may call ahead to schedule an appointment. Persons arriving at the front door are required to call to be admitted to the building. Everyone must wear a mask inside. For One-Stop Center appointments, intake, and information, call: **770 538-2727**

Date for Next Meeting

The next One-Stop Partners Meeting is scheduled for **11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2021.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.