

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday May 25, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via a Zoom conference call. Participants in the call were:

Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College
Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College
Stephanie Ponce, Georgia Department of Labor
Mark Winters, Georgia Department of Labor
Whitney Williams, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Danielle Avelar, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Diane Jackson, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Micah Thomas, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Catherine (Cat) Allen, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Alex Balla, Goodwill Industries
Corin Morgan, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Greg Vitek, Workforce Strategies Group
Shelley Logan, Workforce Strategies Group
Wakethia Cunningham, Compass Center, United Way of Hall County
Tonya White, Ga. Dept. of Community Supervision
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates

Welcome

Marsha Hopkins welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation to group members for continuing to strengthen collaborations and referrals between agencies and organizations represented. Participants were asked to sign into the chat section with their names, organizations, and preferred contact information. This information will be made available to all participants.

Minutes

Minutes from March 30, 2021 meeting were emailed previously. Posted at: www.onestopworkgamtns.org under the heading "Our Partners".

Focus Topic: Resources for Job Search and Workforce Development

Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates, One Stop Operator presented PowerPoint about available resources for Job Search and Workforce Development. A list of all resources mentioned in PowerPoint is included as attachment to email for these minutes.

Highlight of a valuable local resource - a bi-monthly newsletter about jobs and job training resources is being compiled and distributed by **Maria Calkins, Gainesville Housing Authority** as part of the United Way of Hall County's One-Hall Economic Stability Committee. To receive jobs newsletter, or to contribute content, please send a request with your email address to: mcalkins@gainesvillehousing.org
Example of Jobs and Job Training Newsletter <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org/read-the-new-may-jobs-and-job-training-newsletter>

Partner Updates: Partners offered information about current activities for their respective organizations.

Workforce Strategies Group, Greg Vitek: greg@workforcestrategiesgroup.com 404 944-9904

Currently completing projects of the second phase of the Sector Strategy process, including development of apprenticeship programs, and work with employers to develop employability boot camps. Now preparing for next phase of sector strategy process. Next big task – to focus efforts on marketing – getting the word out about jobs and job training availability to the right audience.

Shelly Logan: shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com, *Collaborating to realize a skilled workforce.* Offered reminder that 16% of all companies in the thirteen counties composing the Georgia Mountains Region are

manufacturers. The average starting wage paid by these employers for individuals (even with little or no experience) is \$14.00 per hour. The current focus for sector strategies in this region is on manufacturing.

Lanier Technical College <https://www.laniertech.edu/> **Shannon Cole** scole@laniertech.edu 770 531-3367: New allocations have been received. Allocation same as previous year, but there are cost increases across the board, so some services will be reviewed regarding adjustments. With 222 GED graduates since July 1, 2020, LTC may be highest GED grantor in the state. Continuing partnership at the One-Stop with instructor for SHIFT program, assisting individuals in obtaining GEDs <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/shift> Have an automated process through a state grant to do a Certified Literacy Community program.

LTC Recently conducted a successful three-week manufacturing skills training program involving four women with training in forklift, OSHA 10, and CPR/First Aid. Each participant received three nationally recognized credentials. This training encouraged the participants to consider a career rather than just "a job".

Jim Watson jwatson@laniertech.edu 678 677-5384 (cell): Summer semester has just begun. Working to get GED graduates enrolled in college. Pivoting to IETs. In eight weeks of credit classes, individuals can receive nurse aide certification. High school graduation or GED not required for this program. Funding is now available. Additional funding sources are being sought. Anticipating additional training classes in welding.

WorkSource Georgia Mountains <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> **Whitney Williams**: WSGM just received funding allocations for the coming program year. Not quite as much as hoped for. Now going through a strategic budgeting process to determine what can be funded. Offered to assist partners with links to employers who might consider helping with costs for training new employees. Will be applying for Appalachian Regional Commission grant to supplement funding. Will be requesting partnership letters to submit with application. WorkSource continues to offer services through Virtual Career Coaches. This includes virtual resume writing and virtual job search assistance. A Virtual Job Board is available online for employers to post job openings.

Contact **Micah Thomas** mthomas@gmrc.ga.gov 770 538-2632

Anticipating Career Coaches will be on the road throughout the region again soon.

Please share this information with anyone who may be interested. Paid advertising is not allowed, so help is needed to market available services and training.

Employment Bootcamps are being held soon. These offer opportunities for participants to interview with multiple employers for full-time jobs upon completion of intensive short-term training.

For information about the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) Welding Bootcamp, and Refrigeration Bootcamp, please see attachments to email for these minutes. Please help by sharing these links.

For additional training opportunities contact: **Danielle Avelar** davelar@gmrc.ga.gov 770-531-4043

WorkSource staff changes: **Jason Norsworthy** has left WorkSource to pursue another opportunity.

Catherine (Cat) Allen has changed from case management to outreach for WorkSource Georgia Mountains. callen@gmrc.ga.gov 770 538-2732

Georgia Department of Labor <https://dol.georgia.gov/> **Mark Winters**: The GDOL Career Center offices are still closed to the public, and a date has not been set yet for reopening. Still catching up on the backlog of payments to be processed for unemployment, so offices may not open again soon. Governor Kemp recently announced federal extension funds and all other additional funds will stop at end of June. Then, Labor Commissioner wants focus to be on employment services side. Many jobs currently available through Employ Georgia. <https://employgeorgia.com/jobseekers/home>

Stephanie Ponce: Georgia is one of 22 states announcing they will not be continuing support for CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act. Current focus on supporting employers trying to find workers. Will be many claimants coming off federal support in the next few months.

Compass Center, United Way of Hall County, Wakethia Cunningham
compasscenter@unitedwayhallcounty.org 678-989-5334

The Compass Center, collaborating with Family Promise and other local organizations, offering Legal Life Skills Classes in English and Spanish. Also offering interviewing skills classes at various local apartment communities. See flyers attached to email for these minutes.

Goodwill Industries <https://goodwillng.org/> **Case Manager, Goodwill in Oakwood. 678-863-1335; Alex Balla** aballa@ging.org: Continuing to offer a variety of skills classes including the following: forklift, CPR, job readiness, soft skills, welding, OSHA 10 and OSHA 30, First Aid, and logistics. Certifications may be earned with several of these. Goodwill is eager to strengthen partnerships with other organizations offering workforce development options.

Georgia Dept. of Community Supervision (DCS) <https://dcs.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville>
Tonya M. White-Dept. of Community Supervision tonya.white@dcs.ga.gov **470-728-6940**

Assisting with linking men and women transitioning from prison with available resources.

Dept. of Community Affairs funding for reentry partnership housing for homeless men and women has ended for now. Applications are being accepted, but funding is not available for now. Participated in Ninth District's recent Homeless Services Day at 'The Way' with over 100 participants receiving needed articles plus information about services. St. John's Baptist Church, Gainesville, is sponsoring a similar day, Mission Expo on June 12th.

GVRA- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency <https://gvs.georgia.gov>

Corin Morgan: One-Stop training room is being used periodically for auditory testing for GVRA clients. VR will be returning to more staffing soon. The Cumming office is staffed five days a week. The Hall County office is in GDOL facility, so cannot see clients there now. Making appointments at One-Stop or at Goodwill facilities. Applications are being taken, and individuals determined to be eligible, but only those with greatest need can be served now. Making referrals to other organizations and programs for resources for those who cannot be served currently by GVRA. Setting up summer programs in schools to assist high school students in gaining work experience.

Announcements

The **One-Stop Center** at 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd., Gainesville is open and staffed from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Customers may call ahead to schedule an appointment. For One-Stop Center appointments, intake, and information, call: **770 538-2727** <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/>

Date for Next Meeting

The next One-Stop Partners Meeting is scheduled for **11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021** Details will be issued by email invitation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately noon.