

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday July 27, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Center at 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Gainesville, GA, and by Zoom conference call. Participants were:

Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College
Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College
Whitney Williams, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Danielle Avelar, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Micah Thomas, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Dawn Bruce, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Ebony Tucker, WorkSource Georgia Mountains
Maria Calkins, Gainesville Housing Authority
Jessica Williams, Goodwill of North Georgia
Cindy Bryant, Gateway Domestic Violence Center
Greg Vitek, Workforce Strategies Group
Tonya White, Ga. Dept. of Community Supervision
Veronica Schweitzer, Legacy Link
Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Remote:
Stephanie Ponce, Georgia Department of Labor
Stephanie Benson, Athens Technical College
Corin Morgan, Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Kevin Hankinson, Georgia Department of Labor

Welcome

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone. He noted that this was our first in-person meeting in over a year. All participants introduced themselves to the group by name and organization.

Minutes

Minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted at the One-Stop website: www.onestopworkgamtns.org under the heading "Our Partners". Please contact Marsha Hopkins at hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com with questions.

Focus Topic: Legacy Link

Veronica Schweitzer, Kinship Care Coordinator for Legacy Link offered information about the history and services of Legacy Link. She provided a newsletter and resource guide to everyone. Information about Legacy Link can be found at the website: <https://www.legacylink.org/>

Veronica also shared a compelling story about a successful collaboration involving a multitude of local and regional organizations working together to provide needed services for a local family. Home care for a special needs child was the one missing essential component that was vitally needed. That service was provided through the CCSP (Community Care Services Program) of Legacy Link. In-home childcare enabled the single mother of that special needs child to complete her GED, and to continue her education to become a sociology/gerontology professional in a human services organization. Veronica then revealed that the mother in the story was herself!

The Community Care Services Program (CCSP) of Legacy Link helps people who are elderly and/or functionally impaired to continue living in their homes and communities. Although Legacy Link is usually associated with a wide range of services for older adults, this program can also provide crucial funding for a broader spectrum of needed services.

Lunch: Opportunities for Discussion and Collaboration between Partners

Partner Updates:

Georgia Department of Labor: Stephanie Ponce <https://dol.georgia.gov/>

June, 2021					
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Preliminary
United States	162,167,000	152,283,000	9,883,000	6.1%	Yes
Georgia	5,179,101	4,948,901	230,200	4.4%	Yes
Georgia Mountains Local Workforce	356,759	345,395	11,364	3.2%	Yes

Seasonally adjusted: US: 5.9%; GA: 4.0%

Changes in Unemployment Effective 6/27/21: To be eligible for state Unemployment Insurance (UI), individuals must: Be unemployed through no fault of their own. Be monetarily eligible (have enough wages from past employers to qualify). Be able to work. Be available for work. Actively seek work. Report weekly work search. Be registered with Employ Georgia. Not refuse suitable work, if offered.

Additional Details: Georgia regulations allow claimants to receive up to 26 weeks of UI benefits. Eligible claimants will receive a weekly benefit amount ranging from \$55 to \$365 per week, based on their previous earnings.

GDOL provides extensive online support to job seekers looking to rejoin the workforce. Claimants receive access to Employ Georgia's job listings, résumé assistance, career counseling, skills testing, job fair information, job training services, and accessibility and special accommodations for people with disabilities and veterans transitioning back into the workplace. Job Seeker videos available to help guide through multiple processes: <https://employgeorgia.com/help-videos-js.htm> Employ GA: Total GA Job Listings: 184,500

Vocational Rehabilitation: Corin Morgan <https://gvs.georgia.gov/>

GVRA continues to operate. The Cumming VR office has moved out of building. Waiting for a new office. Cumming staff continuing to telework. Out in the community, accepting referrals.

Several priority categories closed, but referrals are encouraged. Individuals may qualify for open priority category of "most significant disability" Can get on the waitlist and be ready to move forward with services once the waitlist is opened, rather than starting from scratch.

GVRA staff members look forward to continuing to work with our community partners.

Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole & Jim Watson <https://www.laniertech.edu/>

New marketing videos: American sign language, Spanish, French, other languages

Podcasts/YouTube channel

IETs (Integrated Education Training and GED transitions

Online and in-person options will continue, E-learning offered through Blackboard

Nurse Aide IET (Integrated Education & Training) begins Aug. 16th – 8 week program leading to CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) on Dawson Campus

GED graduates transitioning to college – spring semester, 50; summer semester, 44; and 62 so far

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward <https://northgatech.edu/>

The Agriculture Program students have planned and planted a Milpa Garden in the NGTC

Experiment/Research Station off Tech School Road on the back side of the campus. The philosophy of a Milpa Garden is that a symbiotic relationship between multiple species of vegetable plants will produce a substantial amount of food while at the same time building soil health for future plantings. The garden is a collaborative effort between the National Milpa Association, the Habersham Food Bank and NGTC Agriculture. The Milpa Association donated the seed mix to NGTC Agriculture with the understanding that a portion of the produce would be given to the Habersham Food bank to help supply local families in need with healthy locally grown whole foods. The garden represents one of the ways community collaborations can offer opportunities for

student learning, return support services and goods to our community, and requires very little input from the college. Another name for the Milpa Garden is Chaos Garden. There are no rows of any one type of plant. The plants are comingled and provide shade for the soil to help retain moisture and keep the soil cool. The corn will provide vertical structure for the running beans, the beans will fix nitrogen into the soil for the corn, and the squash varieties will provide organic material as they complete their life cycle and decay back into the soil.

Athens Technical College: Stephanie Benson <https://athenstech.edu/>

Continuing pilot for Career Plus; Big building project in Elbert County – Open House invitations issued soon; Offering E-learning through Blackboard

Goodwill of North Georgia: Jessica Williams <https://goodwillng.org/>

New skills program flyer and catalog distributed <https://goodwillng.org/find-a-career/career-connector/>

Short term certifications, multiple funders

Dawsonville Workforce Development opening – new GED class now beginning at Dawson Career Center

WorkSource Georgia Mountains <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm>

Whitney Williams: Dislocated Worker funding is still available. Funding for additional programs will probably be approved by the end of the year for use next spring.

Micah Thomas: In partnership with WorkForce Innovators of America, WSGM hosted 8 participants in a 4-Week Welding Bootcamp. Videos featuring welding bootcamps are available on the WorkSource Georgia Mountains Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=348617980239781>

Ebony Tucker, re: Youth: Current job opening for GED part-time instructor for SHIFT program at One-Stop three days, 12 hours per wk. Please make referrals to Ebony Tucker: etucker@gmrc.ga.gov

Employability Bootcamps – 18yrs.+, no eligibility requirements, 4 days soft skills training, interview with local employer. (Do need basic soft skills knowledge).

Youth waitlist 2GED – 6 college. They will complete their applications for funding in mid-August

Danielle Avelar, re: Outreach: Welding with Workforce Innovators of America – 8 graduates; 2 youth employed; 2 NDWG employed; 4 pending

Accepting applications for a four week Welding Bootcamp that will begin October 4th at the One-Stop

Electro-mechanical – 5 pending – 3 more spots, starts August 30th.

Website link for screening and pdf

Outreach for OJT (on-the-job training) 13 spots

Screening tools for eligibility available online: <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm-screening-tool1>

City of Gainesville Housing Authority: Maria Calkins <https://gainesvillehousingauthority.org/>

Jobs and Job Training Newsletter being compiled and widely distributed every two months

Partners are encouraged to contribute and to subscribe to this publication

To contribute content or to subscribe (no cost), contact Maria Calkins: MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org

Request for some system of coding of requirements for various workforce development resources to simplify process for referrals. Sometimes difficult to determine whether to refer an individual for services, especially when the person may be reluctant to follow through with applying, and/or to persist with additional applications if found to be ineligible for a specific service.

Workforce Solutions Group, LLC: Greg Vitek, Shelley Logan <http://workforcestrategiesgroup.com/>

Beginning Phase 3 of Sector Strategy

Adding: Logistics – Transportation to Manufacturing

Recruiting new participants

Manufacturing (Advanced) video for attracting

Career Pathway – Manufacturing Technology – w/connection

App & Bootcamps – to support

Manufacturers – employers stressed when they have no applicants

Department Community Supervision (DCS): Tonya M. White <https://dcs.georgia.gov/>

S.E.T. – Program – Supervisee Employment Tract – August 11th

Offices moving to a new location, October 2021

Partnerships – DOL, Goodwill Career Center, Social Security Office, Affordable Care Act- health insurance free to anyone who has gotten out of jail/prison – must sign up within 60 days of release.

Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Cindy Bryant <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/>

Have had groundbreaking for new facility. Continuing to provide shelter and services needed for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence. Gateway is continuing their “Christmas in July” event. This includes an updated wish list for Gateway through Amazon. <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/>

The One-Stop Center located at 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd., Gainesville is currently open and operating from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Customers may call ahead to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins may ring a bell at the front door to be admitted. Masks are required inside. 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 **Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.** Details will be issued when available.

Adjournment

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