

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

### Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 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:

Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College  
Danielle Avelar, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Ebony Tucker, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Saleemah Sabree, Legacy Link, Inc.  
Tonya Sanders, The Hub, Gainesville City School System  
Cindy Bryant, Gateway Domestic Violence Center  
Dr. Carroll Turner, Community Consultant  
Alexis Muir, Construction Ready  
Jared Frye, Construction Ready  
Veda White, Construction Ready  
Anthony Welch, Construction Ready  
Tosha Ford, Construction Ready  
Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates  
Dr. Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates

Remote:

Heather Feldman, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission  
Stephanie Ponce, Georgia Department of Labor  
Corin Morgan, Vocational Rehabilitation Agency  
Diane Jackson, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission

### Welcome

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone. All participants introduced themselves by name and organization.

### Minutes

Minutes from the July 27, 2021 meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted at the One-Stop website: [www.onestopworkgamtns.org](http://www.onestopworkgamtns.org) under the heading "Our Partners". Please contact Marsha Hopkins at [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com) with questions.

**Focus Topic: 'Construction Ready' Veda White** presented a description of training services offered through 'Construction Ready'. <https://constructionready.org/> She explained that CEFGA (Construction Education Foundation of Georgia,) <https://cefga.org/> is building a sustainable talent pipeline for the construction industry by offering entry-level construction training for participants through its NCCER (National Center for Construction Education Research) -accredited and nationally recognized Construction Ready Program. This four-week program offers industry-recognized training, credentials, and job placement assistance for career seekers. Industry Recognized Credentials offered through Construction Ready: National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Core Credential; OSHA 10-Hour care; First Aid/CPR/BB/AED Certification; Powder Actuated Tool Certification; Laser Certification; Forklift Safety Awareness; A.T.S.S.A. utility Flagger Certification; and Competent Person Training in Fall Protection. Classes for WorkSource Georgia Mountains at Gainesville at One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. from Nov. 8 – Dec. 3, 2021. **Jared Frye**, Community Outreach Manager for Construction Ready offered his contact information for partners. His email is: [jared.frye@cefga.org](mailto:jared.frye@cefga.org) Phone: 470 579-6967.

**First-time Participants** Marsha Hopkins offered a special welcome to three first-time participants in the One-Stop Partnership meeting. These are Tonya Sanders, Saleemah Sabree, and Dr. Carroll Turner.

**Tonya Sanders**, Director of the HUB, Gainesville City School System. <https://hubforhall.org/>

The HUB is located on the Gainesville High School Campus. Open to all in Hall County.

Areas of Focus: 1) Mental and Behavioral Health, 2) Basic Needs, 3) Academic and Workforce Development.

**Saleemah Sabree**, for **Legacy Link, Inc.** <https://legacylink.org/> Director of the Senior Community Service Employment Program <https://legacylink.org/community-programs/senior-employment-program-scsep/> Recruiting host agency sites for assigning participants to volunteer to help at agencies. Current training hours allowed – 15-20 hours a week. Interested seniors 55+ years, call intake # 770 538-2657.

**Dr. Carroll Turner**, Community Consultant, and business owner from Dawson County. Formerly associated with Lanier Technical College and Brenau University as Director of the Business Incubator. Dr. Turner commented concerning the value of providing training programs involving basic technical skills and industry recognized credentials, such as those provided by Construction Ready. This training, as well as others offered by the technical colleges, can lead to jobs that pay well in a relatively short time.

### **Partner Updates**

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

The Career Centers are still closed to the public, but they are being retrofitted for reopening. Employers are aggressively seeking workers. They are increasing wages as well as their sign-in and their retention bonuses. The most recent unemployment rate for the Georgia Mountains Region was 2.3%. 349,862 people were employed throughout the region, and approximately 8,300 were seeking employment. The most recent rate for unemployment in the State of Georgia was 3.5%, and the U.S. rate was 5.3%. There is a great need for additional members to enter the region's workforce, especially in manufacturing and in hospitality.

**Georgia Mountains Regional Commission: Heather Feldman, Executive Director**

<https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/> Great news to share concerning WorkSource Georgia Mountains area – A new report done by EMSI (Economic Modeling Specialists International) at the request of TCSG's (Technical College System of Georgia) Office of Workforce Development was released recently. The purpose of this report was to highlight information about the services offered in the Workforce Development Areas throughout the state and to provide economic impact data information related to these services. The report indicates a benefit cost ratio for the Georgia Mountains area of 2.79 to taxpayers. The State ratio was 2.04. The report estimates an economic impact for the Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Area to be \$1.1 million in total added income. This equates to approximately 32 jobs. Heather offered congratulations to the entire WorkSource staff and team.

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

Individuals who have been on a wait list are the longest period of time are now beginning to be served on a first-come, first-served basis. The wait list is currently about six months. Please continue to make referrals.

### **Lunch: Opportunities for Discussion and Collaboration between Partners**

### **Continuation of Partner Updates**

**Lanier Technical College: Jim Watson** <https://www.laniertech.edu/>

Continuing to use innovative approaches to recruitment and service delivery.

Basic/Entry level Workforce Certificates; 8-week Nurse Aide program – Dawson 5 students, Hall 7 students Podcasts and YouTube videos. GED graduation, November 15<sup>th</sup> at Ramsey Center, LTC, Gainesville.

Classes in person, online, and hybrid. Spring Semester at LTC begins Jan. 10, 2022. Recruiting students. 5,077 record last semester – 86 were from LTC Adult Education program.

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

**Ebony Tucker, re: Youth:** Have not yet filled the job opening for GED part-time instructor for SHIFT program at One-Stop. Need a qualified person for three days, 12 hours per wk. Please make referrals to Ebony Tucker: [etucker@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:etucker@gmrc.ga.gov)

Since July, two students have successfully completed the Welding Certification through Workforce Innovators.

Plan to fill class in November for Hall County and for Lavonia. Training spots are open for Construction Ready. Now recruiting for Manufacture Ready. Next Youth Committee meeting: October 27, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., virtual. Opening applications for onsite GED and college. Plan to open enrollment soon for credit recovery and other GED programs

**Danielle Avelar, re: Outreach:** Services: OJT (On-the-Job Training, TWEX, Welding Bootcamps, Electromechanical Refrigeration Academy, Construction Ready. Funding: National Dislocated Worker Grant. Welding Bootcamp in Gainesville – has been pushed back on start-date due to lack of participants. Welding Bootcamp in Lavonia, October 18<sup>th</sup>, one approved participant. Adult/Dislocated Worker - ‘Boots on the ground’ to get recruitment flyers out in surrounding counties.

**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. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A Breakfast & Briefing scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> at Roosevelt Square in Gainesville.

**One-Stop Career Center**, located at 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd., Gainesville. Operates from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. For One-Stop Center appointments, intake, and information, call: **770 538-2727** <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/>

#### **Date for Next Meeting**

Please note: a change in usual day of the week and location! The next One-Stop Partners Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at The HUB, Gainesville High School, (details TBD)**

#### **Adjournment**

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