

## **GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING**

### **Minutes**

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday, December 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at The HUB at Gainesville High School, GA. Participants were:

Jim Watson, Transition Coordinator, Adult Education, Lanier Technical College [jwatson@laniertech.edu](mailto:jwatson@laniertech.edu)

Beth Williams, Voc. Rehab. Supervisor, Athens, Cleveland, Gainesville offices [Beth.Williams@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:Beth.Williams@gvs.ga.gov)

Shannon Cole, Dean of Adult Education, Lanier Technical College [scole@laniertech.edu](mailto:scole@laniertech.edu)

Danielle Avelar, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Outreach Coordinator [davelar@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:davelar@gmrc.ga.gov)

Juston Kearby, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Youth Intake Program Asst. [jkearby@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:jkearby@gmrc.ga.gov)

Catherine Allen, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Assistant Outreach Coordinator [callen@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:callen@gmrc.ga.gov)

Tonya Sanders, The HUB, Gainesville City School System, Executive Director [tonya.sanders@gcस्क12.net](mailto:tonya.sanders@gcस्क12.net)

Jessica R. Williams, Goodwill of North Ga., Regional Manager for Workforce Dev. [jrwilliams@ging.org](mailto:jrwilliams@ging.org)

Dr. Carroll Turner, Dawson Co. Chamber & Development Auth. representative [carrollturner@windstream.net](mailto:carrollturner@windstream.net)

\*Yury Carmona, Hall County Library System, Outreach Coordinator [ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org](mailto:ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org)

\*Teigha Snowden, United Way of Hall County, Director of Advocacy [tsnowden@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:tsnowden@unitedwayhallcounty.org)

\*Sondra Rogers, The Salvation Army, Social Services Director [Sondra.Rogers@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Sondra.Rogers@uss.salvationarmy.org)

\*Annaliza Thomas, Hall County Family Connection Network, Executive Director [hcfcn.director@gmail.com](mailto:hcfcn.director@gmail.com)

\*Natalie Smith, CTAE Program Coordinator, Gainesville High School [natalie.smith@gcस्क12net](mailto:natalie.smith@gcस्क12net)

Maria Calkins, Gainesville Housing Auth., Resident Services Coordinator [MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org](mailto:MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org)

Benjie Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, *Hopkins Associates* [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

Dr. Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, *Hopkins Associates* [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

\* Indicates first-time participant in One-Stop Partnership meeting

### **Welcome**

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

### **Minutes**

Minutes from the September 28, 2021 Partners 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: The HUB, Gainesville High School** **Tonya Sanders, Executive Director of the HUB,** <https://hubforhall.org/> presented an overview of the program. The HUB is a student center, located at the Gainesville High campus, but open to all students in Hall County as well as their families. In 2017, both the Gainesville City Schools and United Way of Hall County (One Hall) researched reasons why students were not successful. This included information concerning poverty, mental health, literacy, workforce development, etc. 5% of Hall County teens reported they had attempted suicide. 30% of students in Hall County enter the workforce directly from high school. 54% of families residing in Hall County are *\*financially burdened*. 92% of students reported they need assistance with college applications.

In response to these and other findings, the HUB was developed over a period of about two and a half years. Funding to build and furnish the HUB was secured through The North Georgia Health System's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament and through Gainesville City School System. This provided \$340,000 for the initial development and outfitting of the multi-functional facilities. The HUB opened officially on January 31, 2020. The HUB's programs focus on three areas: mental and behavioral health; academics; and basic needs such as clothing and food. In collaboration with community agencies and local non-profits, mental and behavioral health services are brought to a centralized location. These support services help students reach their full potential and have positive ripple effects within families and throughout the community. An environment of trust with students is developed. By working to destigmatize the need for mental and behavioral health services, the health and development of students and their families are being improved. A full time mental health clinician works as part of the HUB's team. A dual-enrollment coordinator, counselors, and social workers are on staff. Community partnerships with the HUB are strong. These include Lanier Technical College, University of North Georgia College of Education, Center Point, United Way of Hall County, Hall County Family Connection Network, Junior Service League, The Wisdom Project, and many more.

Tonya led a tour of the HUB facilities, explaining the uses of each area, including a café where mentors meet with students – (additional community mentors are needed). Donations of attire appropriate for job interviews, the classroom, the workplace, or a prom are welcomed for the clothing boutique area. Rooms are available for individual and for group counseling and for meetings. Community partners are invited to use the space for activities related to the purposes of the HUB. The usual schedule for the HUB is from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, an emergency response team is on call duty 24/7 to respond to safety alerts concerning students. \*Note: Report concerning poverty levels and the term, *financially burdened*, pg. 6. [Community Game Plan](#) [United Way of Hall County](#)

**Natalie Smith: CTAE (Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education) Director, Gainesville High School** <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/>

The CTAE program includes sixteen different career clusters, or pathways. Some of the most popular clusters include construction, education, healthcare, marketing, manufacturing, public services, and business. A program called YouScience is used to quiz students on their interests and match them with a cluster. An Advanced Studies Center opened this fall. Facilities include a mock hospital room with medical beds, construction workshop and a large, industrial kitchen area.

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

#### **Partner Updates**

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

**Whitney Williams: re: WSGM** Funding is available again for workforce training for adults. Current focus is on short-term training. Notify WSGM and/or Lanier Technical College if additional short-term training programs are identified, so these may be discussed, and possibly developed as a partnership.

**Danielle Avelar re: Outreach** Funding for training Dislocated Workers is still available.

**Juston Kearby: re: Youth:** Currently recruiting for electrical/mechanical/refrigeration boot camp - a five-week program beginning in January. Programs to assist with GEDs are also available through WSGM.

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

Since July 1st, 80 students have earned their GEDs. HOPE funds can be used to attend technical colleges. Additional funding is still needed for technical school training. Many courses can be completed online. The GOAL winner for LTC was announced recently. Criminal Justice student, Britany Parke, was named the 2022 GOAL Student of the Year. Fire Science/Emergency Management Program Director and Instructor, Karen Nowakowski, is the 2022 Rick Perkins Instructor of the Year.

**Vocational Rehabilitation: Beth Williams** <https://gvs.georgia.gov/> Many VR employees are back in the office full-time. The Gainesville and Athens offices are open two days a week, and the Cleveland office is open every weekday. Two online sessions are offered weekly to assist in determining “Is VR right for me?”. A Parent Forum is also available monthly.

**United Way of Hall County: Teigha Snowden** <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> A current focus for United Way of Hall County is Mental Health First Aid. Free in-person and virtual classes are being offered to the community to learn about the first steps to take to guide individuals to available mental health services. Register through the website. A volunteer data base is being developed and maintained. This will contain information about a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. Also, a Hall County Resource Newsletter is created and distributed by United Way. For information about subscribing or contributing to the newsletter, contact Teigha: [tsnowden@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:tsnowden@unitedwayhallcounty.org)

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

Goodwill has been approved by DOL for nine apprenticeship programs, and two more are in the approval process. Most of these programs are for one year. The Oakwood Goodwill facility is offering training in

Supply Chain Logistics, Forklift, and Welding. Through a United Way grant, Goodwill is working with area high schools to offer work experience and parent training programs. Training programs can be brought to other locations in the community. GED Training is being offered in Oakwood at the Career Center. Also working on GED training in coordination with Lanier Technical College. Also, Welding and Forklift skills training are being planned for Dawson County. New medical training options planned in Hall Co. beginning this March.

**Dawson County Chamber of Commerce/ Economic Development: Dr. Carroll Turner**

<https://www.dawsonchamber.org/> Carroll noted the number of people who have not re-entered the workforce. He said many of them are qualified for open positions. This can be a good time for individuals to take advantage of the many opportunities available in the job market, including many training options. Some businesses are beginning to utilize robots and artificial intelligence to substitute for human employees.

**Gainesville Housing: Maria Calkins** <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org/> Maria noted that many of the housing residents are currently working, but a lot of them are underemployed. They are not able to leave their jobs to take advantage of training programs, even those that are short-term. There may be an opportunity to assist with enrollment in online training programs so these individuals can train for better paying jobs. Maria has continued to compile and distribute a Jobs and Job Training Newsletter. To subscribe and/or contribute to this, contact Maria at: [MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org](mailto:MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org) More housing is being constructed for lease by Gainesville residents through collaboration with public and private partners. It is available based on different levels of income. The term, "Great Resignation", is being used by some, but it could also be described as a "Migration" to other jobs. Many people are leaving jobs for better opportunities, and this can cause shortages across the board, resulting in great difficulty for employers to find adequate staffing for their businesses. Individuals are finding jobs that pay a living wage. Also, an Affordable Housing List is being maintained as an up to date Google Doc This includes income based to transitional housing. Walton Harbor will begin leasing in Jan. This offers 80 units of affordable housing. 50 additional units will be available next year. Gainesville Housing is focusing on housing that is available and affordable for all. Willing to partner with public and private entities to promote this. Excited about development of a new community center at the Butler Center.

**Family Connection Network: Annaliza Thomas** <https://hall.gafcp.org/> The next meeting of the Family Connection Network for Hall County will be on Jan. 13, 2022 at the HUB at noon Community members are invited to participate in person or virtually. This is an open networking meeting with one or two speakers from local agencies or organizations offering services to promote the success of children and their families.

**The Salvation Army: Sondra Rogers** <https://salvationarmygeorgia.org/gainesville/> Currently have about 53 residents (single men and women) at the Center of Hope (shelter) at 711 Dorsey St. in Gainesville. Also, five apartments for families are occupied there. Need volunteers to come to Center to teach life skills to residents. Residents are required to look for work and to participate in life skills classes while they live at the Center for approximately 30 to 90 days. Difficult to find affordable housing after they find work. Seeking to partner with a local apartment complex so residents from the Center of Hope can transition there temporarily.

**Hall County Library System: Yury Carmona** <https://www.hallcountylibrary.org/> The library is working on a mobile computer lab to take out to the community. Yury is the Outreach Coordinator for the system.

**One-Stop Career Center**, 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Gainesville. Operates from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Mon. Fri. For One-Stop Center appointments and information, call: 770 538-2727 <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/>

**Date for Next Meeting**

The next One-Stop Partners Meeting is scheduled for **Tues., Jan. 25, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.