

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Online participants were:

Whitney Williams, Director, WorkSource Ga. Mountains wwilliams@gmrc.ga.gov

Diane Jackson, Intake Supervisor/Admin. Asst., WorkSource Ga. Mountains djackson@gmrc.ga.gov

Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor, WorkSource Ga. Mountains etucker@gmrc.ga.gov

Heather Feldman, Executive Director, Ga. Mountains Regional Commission hfeldman@gmrc.ga.gov

Beth Williams, Voc. Rehab. Supervisor, Athens, Cleveland, Gainesville offices Beth.Williams@gvs.ga.gov

Shannon Cole, Dean of Adult Education, Lanier Technical College scole@laniertech.edu

Shelby Ward, Dean of Adult Education, North Georgia Technical College sward@northgatech.edu

Stephanie Ponce, Regional Coordinator, Region 2, GDOL Stephanie.Ponce@gdol.ga.gov

Mark Winters, Manager, GDOL Gainesville Career Center Mark.Winters@gdol.ga.gov

Yury Carmona, Hall Co. Library System, Outreach Coordinator ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org

Cindy Bryant, Transi. Housing Prog. Coord., Gateway Domestic Violence Center cbryantgateway@yahoo.com

Teigha Snowden, United Way of Hall County, Director of Advocacy tsnowden@unitedwayhallcounty.org

Natalie Smith, CTAE Program Coordinator, Gainesville High School natalie.smith@gcssk12net

Tonya White, Reentry Services Div., Ga. Dept of Community Supervision tonya.white@dcs.ga.gov

Michael Fisher, Housing/Program Planner, Ninth District Opportunity Michael.fisher@ndocsbg.org

Maria Calkins, Gainesville Housing Auth., Resident Services Coordinator MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org

Benjie Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, *Hopkins Associates* hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, *Hopkins Associates* hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Welcome

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone. He stated that the purpose of these meetings is to enhance collaboration between partners and to facilitate referrals for services related to workforce development in the Georgia Mountains region. Marsha Hopkins acknowledged those participating in the meeting.

Minutes

Minutes from the December 1, 2021 Partners 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 Topics: Identification of current challenges to provision of workforce development services. Discussion concerning improvement of collaboration between organizations and individuals. The discussion included comments concerning the difficulty of obtaining documentation for individuals seeking training and/or employment. Funding to pay for these documents is a barrier for many. Birth certificates may cost \$20 to \$40. Whitney Williams will research possible sources of funding for needed documents. Transportation was also identified as a major barrier for individuals seeking employment. Vouchers for public transportation is offered for some individuals, but many people are unable to get back and forth to services or to places of employment. Beth Williams shared that the following agencies are being provided with contracted transportation services with DHS: Department of Aging/Legacy Link, DFCS, DBHDD/ADA, GVRA, and GDOT. Availability of housing is also a big challenge. Partners agreed to explore possible strategies to combat these issues. There are not enough people with Commercial Driving Licenses, and the training schools have a long waiting list. The program to train these individuals at Lanier Technical College was closed due to budget cuts, but it will be reopening soon. Shelby Ward stated that North Georgia Technical College has seen more interest in CDL training recently. Some students want GEDs along with training. Others are entering employment without their GEDs, because more employers are willing to accept them. Also, the nursing programs at all technical colleges has seen dramatic growth. However, there is a huge challenge to find CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) instructors. Beth Williams noted that many individuals with disabilities are seeking remote positions due to concern about susceptibility to Covid. Natalie Smith said that Gainesville High School has experienced a large

increase in the number of employers contacting them to find students to work for them. Tonya Smith said more companies are willing to hire individuals who have a felony. She confirmed the need for CDL training.

Partner updates, submitted electronically

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

Whitney Williams and Danielle Avelar re: Outreach.

Recruitment:

- Upcoming Bootcamp: Electro-Mechanical– Lanier Tech – March start date – one application pending; still recruiting for a minimum of 6 participants
- Temporary Work Experiences available under NDWG until March 31st
- Occupational Skills training

Revolving Programs:

- Application Assistance: Every Friday from 10:30-12:30 (will try to give a heads up if canceled)
- **UPDATE:** Resume Writing and Job Search workshops placed on hold. BUT, if you someone needs help, please let me know and we'll work something out.
- **WIOA Talks:** New for this coming year; WIOA staff will go out to two counties a month for an information session/application assistance at a library or a community partner's site. Dates and times w listed on the Facebook events calendar and the Outreach calendar in Outlook. Also hosting a **WIOA Talks Zoom session** quarterly, open to everyone, discussing different aspects of the WIOA grant. First session on Mar 9th at 11:00 with focus on Youth Programming - Ebony Tucker is first speaker.

Family Connection Meetings: Intake covering: Dawson, Lumpkin, White, Hart, and Towns; **Outreach** covering: Stephens, Hall, Habersham, Rabun, and Union; **Youth** covering: Franklin, Forsyth, Banks
Ebony Tucker: re: Youth: Still searching for a GED teacher for One-Stop. Also accepting applications for College, GED, and Credit Recovery Programs. Staff members scheduling to attend events and/or present workshops. Please contact Ebony. Also, some funds available for subsidized work experiences. Student must be enrolled in one of our educational programs to qualify for this service. WorkSource partners with local employers to provide subsidized employment opportunities for students. All wages and workers compensation insurance.

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

Due to the pandemic and weather conditions, have had a slow start to year, but beginning to see increases in enrollment and gains in Adult Education again. Currently have 1,414 students, with 969 having 12+ hours. 314 of those have received a Measurable Skill Gain: 198 TABE test gains, 112 GEDs, and 4 students who earned certificates through IET training. Overall, at 45% of meeting gains target and 68% of meeting enrollment target for the academic year.

Currently have four IETs in process that began on January 10.

- Early Childcare and Education at the Hall Campus (two Adult Ed students enrolled)
- Auto Electric/Electronic Technician at the Dawson Campus (one Adult Ed student enrolled)
- Certified Nursing Assistant, 8-week session at the Dawson Campus (one student enrolled)
- Certified Nursing Assistant, 16-week session at the Hall Campus (three students enrolled)

EAGLE winner, Ashlee Adams, Ashlee will represent LTC at the state EAGLE competition on March 14-16 in Atlanta. Continue to add podcasts for learning and recruitment. Continue to search for candidates for instruction at the One-Stop Career Center, and at Stallworth Street.

Please note: Slides on employment research conducted with Lanier Tech Students by Sarah Crowe and Tim McDonald with Lanier Tech students are attached to email for these minutes. This information was presented at a Greater Hall Chamber Small Business Success Seminar on January 11, 2022. The items the students identified as being most important when considering employment were these: salary, flexible hours, work/life balance; paid time off; health insurance and benefits; and room to grow within the organization.

Georgia Mountains Regional Commission: Heather Feldman <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/>

Heather referenced a document compiled for the Georgia Mountains region, the CEDS (Comprehensive Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Regional Plan. A copy is available on the GMRC

Website under Administration – Publications: <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/publications>

A federal reconciliation bill may provide some funding to help address some issues related to employment and training in the region. Heather suggested development of an online instrument in a central data base portal to enable Partners to share contact information and updates concerning their respective organizations. This could serve to enhance collaboration efforts. This project will be explored prior to the next meeting.

Vocational Rehabilitation: Beth Williams <https://gvs.georgia.gov/>

GVRA is seeing clients in-person at DOL offices by appointment. For offices that are not in a DOL center, clients are seen by appointment or, if a counselor is available, client walk-ins are seen. Also meeting with clients virtually. Meetings, whether in-person or virtual, are at the client's discretion and availability of the counselor. Many people are seeking remote jobs. There is still concern about Covid, especially for some individuals with disabilities. Limited assistance with transportation for clients is available. GVRA continues to have our "Is VR right for Me?" sessions each Wednesday at 12 noon and 6:30 pm. Sessions are for potential clients who may want more information before considering an application with VR. Also have a parent forum once a month on the third Tuesday of the month from 6 to 7 pm. These forums are for transition aged students and to give parents more opportunities to hear about how to access services and types of available services, as well as time to ask questions directly. More information on either of these sessions - <https://gvs.georgia.gov/>

Georgia Department of Labor: Mark Winters <https://dol.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville>

Career Center is open to the public with limited capacity. Assisting customers with their employment needs, job search, resumes, registering on Employ GA, and also providing wage print-outs. All customers required to bring ID (driver's license, etc.) for provision of services. Unemployment issues still handled remotely either by phone or e-mail. Individuals are advised to file for UI as soon as possible as the claim is effective the week it is filed. All claims are filed on-line at the GDOL website (dol.georgia.gov). Applicants need to have ID ready (driver's license etc.) Now using <https://www.id.me/> to verify identity when claims are filed.

Stephanie Ponce mentioned several possible reasons why so many available jobs are not being filled. Those are: childcare incentives; upswing in Covid; many older individuals choosing to retire; schools being virtual, causing parents to need to be at home; individuals not trained to enter available jobs; and people changing jobs and changing companies because the current job market offers them better pay.

United Way of Hall County: Teigha Snowden <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/>,

tsnowden@unitedwayhallcounty.org Excited to have Danielle Avelar (along with Whitney Williams and Catherine Allen) join our One Hall Financial Stability Committee. Danielle has graciously agreed to co-lead the committee to provide leadership related to jobs and job training. Teigha confirmed the need for funding assistance to pay for identification. Construction trainees may be able to go to work for a housing contractor, Walton Construction. May plan a local job fair in the spring to share information about job training options.

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

Annual fundraiser announced: Gateway to Hope is Friday, March 25th. link with specifics: [Gateway to Hope 2022 - Gateway Domestic Violence Center](#) Gateway has two Family Advocate positions open. Details on the website - special consideration for bilingual candidates. **Gateway Crisis Hotline: 770 536-5860**

Ninth District Opportunity, Michael Fisher, <https://www.ndo.org/web/>

Michael.fisher@ndocsbg.org Michael discussed the need for funding for obtaining documentation for some individuals. The lack of a birth certificate can prevent someone become employed. Michael stated that he is approached by six to twelve individuals every day who are limited to day labor jobs because they are not able to obtain required identification documents. Funding for transportation for job training and for jobs is needed. Some employers provide transportation, but they charge the employee up to 20% of their earnings to pay for it. Some employers hire individuals, but they keep them working for several weeks before paying them because they do not have the proper identification. Michael said there is a workforce available, but help is needed for those individuals to be able to access existing services so they can become employed.

Ga. Dept of Community Supervision. Reentry Services Division: <https://dcs.georgia.gov/reentry-services>
Emergency Appeal initiative – currently requesting camping tents, sleeping bags, blankets, hoods & hats, scarves, gloves, and socks to distribute to individuals in need. Socks should be new, but other items can be gently used. To donate, please contact: **Tonya White 470 728-6940**

Gainesville Housing: Maria Calkins <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org/> contact Maria at: MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org To subscribe to the Jobs and Job Training Newsletter, use link: <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org/newsletters/subscribe> Housing Newsletter available: <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org/newsletters>. Google Document for Hall County Housing Resources is also available through the Gainesville Housing site: <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org/> Transportation funding available those residing in Gainesville Housing. Eventually will have 280 units of affordable housing available in Gainesville. Affordable housing also badly needed in Hall County. Be sure housing applicants have a dependable mailing address. This is crucial.

Family Connection Network: Annaliza Thomas <https://hall.gafcp.org/>
Resilient Georgia has chosen Northeast Georgia as a project site for 2022. They are investing in a two year initiative to provide information and community awareness of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences while helping communities build resiliency. Wellroot Family Services is administering this grant in partnership with county Family Connections offices and other local providers. Purpose of grant is to bolster work already being done, and to provide additional resources and trainings where needed. (More about the funder, Resilient Georgia <https://www.resilientga.org/>) Please fill out this survey: [Resilient Northeast Georgia](#)

***Good Samaritan Food Ministries: Jackie Powers, Executive Director** www.gsfoodministries.com
jackie@cbamissions.com Good Samaritan Food Ministries serves people in Gainesville/Hall County and surrounding counties. Individuals present an ID to receive a large box of food once a month, which includes non-perishables, bread, desserts, fresh produce, meats, dairy, fruits, and drinks. Encourage clients to visit the food pantry as often as needed during the 30-day period to receive breads, sweets, and extra items available. Our food pantry ministers to almost 100,000 people each year and everyone is welcome. Partner with Feed America Program, Atlanta Community Food Bank, and Georgia Mountain Food Bank. Local grocery stores also provide overstocked, servable foods. Others in the community have food drives as needed. Good Samaritan Ministry created over 50 years ago. Purpose is to assist and minister to those in need. Offer a variety of services including distribution of food, toiletries, furniture, counseling, job placement training, health screenings, and more for individuals and their families. **Our Goal:** Love and serve people in our community so they may reach their full potential physically, emotionally, and spiritually. **Our Core Values:** Compassion, Integrity, Respect, Security, Stewardship. Meeting needs of families guides our operations and services.

Workforce Strategies Group, LLC: Shelley Logan 678-316-0792 shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com
www.workforcestrategiesgroup.com

Be Pro, Be Proud **BPBP100 3-year member** WorkSource Georgia Mountains Funded Career Trailer Visits at 6 High Schools: **Union** County High School 1/24-1/25; **Dawson** County College & Career Academy 1/26-1/27; **Banks** County High School 1/28; **Lumpkin, Franklin, Stephens** scheduled for May 2022. QT APP101 – Quality Tech 2-year USDOL Apprenticeship approved for a 2nd start. 1st Cohort – 5 apprentices 1/2 way through; 2nd Cohort – 8 apprentices starting next month. Newsletter: [Regional MFG Sector/Workforce Strategies Group Monthly Newsletters](#). Email shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com to subscribe.

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., March 29, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. – details will be issued when available. Hoping to be able to resume in person meetings soon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 noon.

*New participant with One-Stop Partnership