

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room. Participants were:

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

Danielle Avelar, Outreach Coordinator, WorkSource Ga. Mountains davelar@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

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

Jim Watson, Transition Coordinator, Lanier Technical College jwatson@laniertech.edu

Kevin Hankinson, Georgia Department of Labor kevin.hankinson@gdol.ga.gov

Cindy Bryant, Transitional Hsing.Prog.Coord., Gateway Domestic Violence Ctr. cbryantgateway@yahoo.com

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

Steven Cornett, Work Based Learning Coordinator, Gainesville High School Steven.Cornett@gcssk12.net

Jackie Powers, Director, Good Samaritan Ministries, jackie@cbamissions.com

Jessica Williams, Reg. Dir. -Workforce Dev., Goodwill North GA jrwilliams@ging.org

Lupita Sosa-Smith, GDOL, Lupita.Smith@gdol.ga.gov

Shandra Spear, Transition Supervisor, GVR, Shandra.Spear@gvs.ga.gov

Annaliza Thomas, Director, Hall County Family Connection Network hcfcn.director@gmail.com

Shelley Logan, Workforce Strategies Group, LLC shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com

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

Carroll Turner, Dawson County Chamber of Commerce/ Community Carrollturner@windstream.net

Stacey Reece, Spherion Staffing and Recruiting, Gainesville, GA staceyreece@spherion.com

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

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

Welcome and Introductions

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 offered a special welcome to first time participants in the Partnership:

Minutes

Minutes from the January 25, 2022 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 Topic: Barriers to Employment – Mr. Stacey Reece, Owner, Spherion Staffing, Gainesville, GA

Mr. Reece shared tips concerning employment and recruitment from his 25 years owning and operating a local franchise of Spherion Staffing. He gave examples of 'subtle' ageism in the workplace. These can include comments about graduation dates; whether person has grandchildren; whether person is considering retirement sometime soon; and references to skills in technology. He mentioned that employers are aware that older workers often have excellent work ethics, and are dependable, skilled workers. The EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) identifies the class of workers who are considered in the group who may face ageism as those who are age 40 or older. Job postings now have algorithms that detect age factors on resumes. The recommendation for resumes is one page, presenting 'a fresh picture of who you are'. Encouraging job seekers to take jobs paying at least \$15 per hour.

Lunch: Opportunities for collaboration and information exchange between Partners

Partner Updates:

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

Whitney Williams wwilliams@gmrc.ga.gov and **Danielle Avelar** davelar@gmrc.ga.gov re: Outreach

- WorkSource Georgia Mountains can pay for Employment documents: ID, Social Security Card, and Birth Certificate – must complete an application for services
- Upcoming Bootcamps – Electro-mechanical, Welding & North Georgia Technical College possible
- W.I.O.A. Talks - available soon
- Small mobile unit is available for business use and job fairs

Ebony Tucker: re: Youth: etucker@gmrc.ga.gov

The GED position for the One-Stop Center has been filled. Students have been working with Angela Pugh, Independent Living Mentor on soft skills.

Summer Bootcamps: Forsyth County, welding, in June; Hall County, welding, in August

Virtual WEX Pilot – 2 successful completions from the past cohort – opening to more students at end of May
Students log in for session M-W, 90 minutes, and complete soft skill modules/journals to earn stipends up to \$200 per week. Working on new policy for stipends/ ability to change programs

<https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/youth>

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

Spring semester GED grads enrolled – 102, increase from 86 last spring

Summer semester GED grads enrolled – 50 so far, last year had 44

Eagle Award Winner – Ashlee Adams – Finalist, top 8 in the state

IETs (Integrated Education and Training) – Nurse Aide-3; Elementary Education-2; Auto Elect-1

Programs to earn a Technical College Certificate prior to earning a GED include:

Auto Elect/Electronic Service tech, Nurse aide; Elementary Ed; Childcare Basics; Welding; Industrial; Elect Tech; and Industrial Fluid Maintenance Tech

***Vocational Rehabilitation: Shandra Spear** Shandra.Spear@gvs.ga.gov 404 780-6661

On web Announcements for two new client orientations -- a parent forum for transition, and general one for VR cases. Preparing for summer programs (GROW and internships). New Virtual Job Shadow (VJS) initiative focused on signing 9th graders up for services. Many job postings listed, and three new hires for our district have just started. Counselor positions have had pay increases. <https://gvs.georgia.gov/>

Beth Williams will be staffing the Vocational Rehabilitation office on Tuesdays. Beth.Williams@gvs.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Labor: Stephanie Ponce: <https://dol.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville> Local GDOL offices are now open to the public. GDOL is working on assisting employers with referrals for job candidates listed in our system. It would be helpful if employers would report “no shows, or job refusals”. This would help the agency investigate these matters.

Unemployment Rate (Statewide): In February 2022, Georgia's unemployment rate held steady to 3.2 percent over the month. Rate was 4.6 percent in February a year ago.

Jobs: In February 2022, total nonfarm employment in Georgia was up 24,700 over the month and employment is up 232,000 over the year.

Claims: In February 2022, Georgians filed 22,077 initial claims for unemployment benefits; down 6,180 over the month and down 89,231 over the year.

For personalized assistance, employers can reach Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) at <https://dol.georgia.gov/employer-email-us-form>. Additionally, by visiting [Employ Georgia](#), employers can manage job openings and access the state's talent pool.

GDOL's Career Centers are providing in-person employment services by appointment. Job seekers can reach out to their local [Career Center](#) for assistance.

Kevin Hankinson: Labor office is now open to the public. kevin.hankinson@gdol.ga.gov

Lupita Sosa-Smith is again staffing the GDOL office at the One-Stop. Lupita.Smith@gdol.ga.gov

***Gainesville High School: Steven Cornett, WBL (Work Based Learning) Coordinator**

(Filling in for Natalie Smith, GHS. Interested in being part of the Partnership. Steven.Cornett@gcssk12.net
<https://ghsweb.gcssk12.net/advanced-studies/work-based-learning-new>

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

One Hall Financial Stability Committee: Danielle Avelar and Cat Allen are heading the new Jobs/Job Training subgroup. We invite you to join us for these monthly meetings at the United Way office. If anyone would like to present to the committee, please contact Teigha Snowden – tsnowden@unitedwayhallcounty.org
Partnering with Wellroot to provide resiliency skills training for individuals and community organizations.

Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Cindy Bryant cbryantgateway@yahoo.com

<https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> Gateway will be moving to new shelter in June! The new building doubles capacity from 18 beds to 35, including 5 transitional housing apartments. **Gateway Crisis Hotline: 770 536-5860**

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> Google Document for Hall County Housing Resources is also available through the Gainesville Housing site: <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org/>
Transportation funding available for those residing in Gainesville Housing.

Many people who live in Gainesville Housing properties are working. Some who are not working are young mothers who were bumped from employment during the pandemic. They could not work from home, and childcare became unavailable or cost prohibitive. One of the largest barriers to employment is the presence of mental/behavioral health issues. There is a lot of depression and anxiety for individuals living with a low income. It is very difficult for individuals who are working at low income jobs to take days off for short-term training, even if that training could lead to a higher paying job. This is a challenge for all concerned.

Family Connection Network: Annaliza Thomas, Director hcfcn.director@gmail.com

<https://hall.gafcp.org/> Focusing on the K-12 Initiative. Next meeting for the Hall County Family Connection Network will be on May 12, 2022 – location to be determined.

Goodwill Workforce, Jessica Williams jrwilliams@ging.org <https://goodwillng.org/>

Working with many partners and agencies. Good Biz programs offered in Atlanta and Athens – a program to promote entrepreneurship. Several training programs for forklift. Also, digital, and financial literacy programs. Watch for flyers on available training programs.

***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. Offering food, furniture, clothing. One of the largest hands-on food pantries in the NE Georgia area. Served over 86,000 in 2021 – over 35,000 children and over 6,000 senior citizens. Seeing brand new clients every day.

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

Newsletter: [Regional MFG Sector/Workforce Strategies Group Monthly Newsletters](#).

Email shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com to subscribe. Employability skills being taught. Videos – Lesson Plans - writing by University of North Georgia. Apprenticeships – 2 year USDOL APP101 in technical positions leads to full-time employment with OJL and part-time with Lanier Technical College/North Georgia Technical College.

The Salvation Army, Sondra Rogers, Director of Social Services sondra.rogers@uss.salvationarmy.org
Currently have some female beds available. Also have one family apartment open. Need a volunteer to cook for residents. Individuals are welcome to call to schedule a tour of the Center for Hope and other local service facilities. <https://salvationarmygeorgia.org/gainesville/>

Dawson County Chamber of Commerce/ Community Consultant, Dr. Carroll Turner
Carrollturner@windstream.net

The population of people age 65+ has increased four times over the past five years. When these individuals retire, many years of experience are being lost. Their skills are difficult for employers to replace. Most recent Dawson County unemployment rate was 2.7%. Employer needs are great for the county.

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., May 31, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

*New participant with One-Stop Partnership