

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room. Participants were:

Danielle Avelar, Outreach Coordinator, WorkSource Ga. Mountains davelar@gmrc.ga.gov

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

Niki McPherson, OJT Program Coordinator, WorkSource Ga. Mountains nmcpherson@gmrc.ga.gov

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

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, GDOL, kevin.hankinson@gdol.ga.gov

Alfredia Wilson, GDOL, Alfredia.Wilson@gdol.ga.gov

Meg Minelli, Compass Center Dir., United Way of Hall County mminelli@unitedwayhallcounty.org

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

Natalie Smith, CTAE, Gainesville High School natalie.smith@gcssk12.net

Shandra Spear, Transition Supervisor, Ga. Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Shandra.Spear@gvs.ga.gov

***Alison McElvery**, Exec. Director, Habitat for Humanity, Hall Co. executivedirector@habitatthallcounty.org

***Hannah Homiller**, Director of Programs, Habitat for Humanity, Hall Co. family@habitatthallcounty.org

***Bryson Davis**, Habitat for Humanity, bryson@habitatthallcounty.org

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

Jessica Williams, Goodwill Industries, Reg. Dir., Workforce Development jrwilliams@ging.org

Cindy Bryant, Gateway Domes. Viol. Ctr, Transitional Housing Prog. Mgr. cbryant@gatewaydvcenter.org

Ken Gossage, Executive Director, Good News at Noon kgossage@goodnewsatnoon.org

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

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

*New participant with One-Stop Partnership

Welcome and Introductions

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone. He reminded the group of the purpose of these meetings – that is: to encourage collaboration between Partners and to facilitate referrals for workforce development in region.

Minutes

Minutes from the May 31, 2022 Partners Meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted on www.onestopworkgamtns.org under the heading “Our Partners”. Contact hopkins.marsha@gmail.com

Discussion: Future Topics for Partnership Meetings:

- Include representatives from: accountability courts
- Get details concerning intake for Domestic Violence Centers in regional counties
- Hear success stories from Vocational Rehabilitation
- Get representative from Family and Children’s Services
- Include agencies such as RING (Rehabilitation Industries of Northeast Georgia), Just People, etc.
- Contact youth counseling centers such as Center Point in Gainesville
- Update on local data base for digital referrals and follow-up being developed through United Way
- Invite Hall County and other county school representatives to participate in Partnership

Focus Topic: Habitat for Humanity – Hall County – Alison McElvery, Hannah Homiller, Bryson Davis

Habitat for Humanity – ReStore located at 2380 Murphy Boulevard, Gainesville, GA 30504. Phone: 770 718-1070. ReStore open Tuesday through Saturday. Offers surplus building supplies, used furniture, housewares, etc. Sales from ReStore help fund building projects. Potential homeowners take a financial education course with Regions Bank. Currently have an open waiting list for applicants. Habitat receives donations and grants from various sources including individuals, foundations, and civic organizations. Volunteers are welcome and

needed to assist with building projects and with fundraising efforts. Habitat Homes being built locally in Copper Glen – 30 year mortgage with 0% interest. Homeowners must provide a specific number of volunteer hours in the construction of their home. Family members and friends may assist with these volunteer hours. Building takes place on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Excellent partnership with Georgia Mountain Food Bank to stock pantries of new homes for move-in. Accept gifts in-kind to defray building costs.

Lunch: Opportunities for collaboration and information exchange between Partners.

Partner Updates:

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

Danielle Avelar davelar@gmrc.ga.gov re: Outreach

The Lee Arrendale Welding Cohort Graduating at NGTC – 12 students who currently work through Kubota will transition to their welding program. Be Pro Be Proud, a virtual career exploration trailer & the Career Coach will be at the Dawson Family Connections event- Family Fair- Friday, July 29th from 6-8. Rain/shine free food, games, and movie. Increasing in-person events: NGTC has a new initiative called the Tech Express. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, offer application and financial aid assistance to new students. WSGM staff will have a table to reach new students, telling them about WIOA funding. Application assistance available every Friday 10:30-12:30 at One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Br. Rd. Also offering overview and application assistance at **DOL Locations:** Gainesville- 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm, Stephens - 3rd Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm. Habersham- 3rd Wednesday 10-12:30 pm starting in September. Check WSGM Facebook site for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/WorkSource.GM>

Niki McPherson nmcpherson@gmrc.ga.gov re: Business Services

Assistance is available for businesses training new and existing employees through OJT (On the Job Training), Incumbent Worker and Internship Programs. OJT can reimburse an employer 75% of a new hire's wages while they are being trained. Internships are great for employers wanting to try out a new employee without having to commit to hiring them. Pay the intern while they get experience in a new field. IWT (Incumbent Worker Training) is designed to supply funding for training of current full-time employees. Examples are training on new equipment, LEAN Six Sigma training or help ensure permanency of the business through layoff aversion

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

Since the last meeting, have had 52 new participants, 10 of those have completed their certifications through a welding bootcamp held at North Forsyth High School. 9 of those 10 are employed and/or transitioning to college. Also 12 of the 52 earned their GED and 3 transitioning to college. Planning for a Fall Welding Bootcamp in partnership with LCCA and MEC. Have 3 students participating in a manufacturing boot camp in partnership with Lanier Tech and Satellite Industries, Inc. Have already been hired and will complete their certifications in a few weeks. Had 2 youth successfully complete the Virtual Work Experience summer cohort and will be offering it to participants again in the fall. Accepting applications for all programs and services and working to get back on the college campuses and in schools for the upcoming school year. Dates scheduled for September to take applications for GED at all NGTC campuses.

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward <https://northgatech.edu/> Tech Express is scheduled for July 11 – August 17, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. 14 TCCs are available for students to enroll in while working on their GEDs. On-the-Go Training is scheduled for August 8 - 28 for OSHA 10/ forklift training; Working with manufacturers in Rabun County on developing training cohorts; Met all FY22 goals; Enrolling now; Seeking an ESL (English as a Second Language) evening teacher in Habersham Co.

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

GED Graduation scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on 9/1/2022 at Hall Campus. IETs offered: Manufacturing; Welding; CAN, Early Childhood Care Education; Auto Electrical; Auto Refinishing; Auto Collision; Industrial Systems CDL (Commercial Driver's License) and Industrial Fluids in process. Met 1,415 goal last year. Enrolling now – including early a.m. classes, online Sunday – support available. Need a six-hour teacher in Banks Co. 97 Adult Education students attending Lanier Tech. College for Fall Semester. 10 Workforce Certificate students. Dual enrolled – Adult Ed/College in subjects like Nurse Aide; Welding; Auto Collision Repair; Early Childhood Care and Education Basics. Also, Welding and Forklift training offered through Goodwill. Lanier Tech. College is #1 in State with 279 GEDs completed during the year.

GVRA – Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Shandra Spear contact number: 404 780-6661
<https://gvs.georgia.gov/> GVRA ramping up for the school year. Conducting planning meetings for high schools. Hiring a lot of new staff. New Transition Supervisor for Gainesville/Cleveland offices:
Arlene Brock 404-430-7841arlene.rock@gvs.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Labor: Kevin Hankinson and Fredia Wilson
<https://dol.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville> State of Georgia – unemployment rate 3.1%. Career Center open
Traffic picking up; people filing unemployment claims; not many seeking jobs; 14wks. cap for unemployment

Gainesville High School: Steven Cornett, WBL (Work Based Learning) Coordinator
Natalie Smith, CTAE (Career, Technical, Agricultural Education) Program Coordinator, GHS:
<https://ghsweb.gcssk12.net/advanced-studies/work-based-learning-new>
Welding Bootcamp – 6 graduates - all were offered full-time employment upon completion. All teachers back on 8/1/2022; students return 8/9/2022. Ramping up workforce development; looking for potential business partners for internships/employment or as guest speakers, and/or to offer industry tours, mock interviews, etc.

Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Cindy Bryant <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> **Local Crisis number: 770 536-5860.** Each county has a Domestic Violence Program provider. The newly built facility is near public transportation and employment opportunities. Will increase capacity in emergency shelter from eight bedrooms to 12 bedrooms and will increase its transitional housing program from 10 apartments to 12.

Compass Center, United Way of Hall County: Meg Minelli <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/>
United Way of Hall County now has an ID project– assisting homeless and low income individuals who need a replacement birth certificate, ID, or Social Security card. For appointment for ID project assistance, call Meg at United Way: **678 989-5336**. Working with individuals who may have potential to become self-sufficient – housing, jobs, budgeting, etc. Hall County rental assistance no longer available; now referring to State for help

Good News at Noon: Ken Gossage <https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> 770 503-1366, 979 Davis St. Gainesville, GA. Building project in process. Currently serving hundreds of homeless individuals. Seeking volunteers to assist with mentoring, etc. to expose individuals to a better life. Should be in new building sometime in Sept. Will house 40 individual men and 20 individual women. Currently feeding about 120 daily.

Workforce Strategies Group, LLC: Shelley Logan www.workforcestrategiesgroup.com
Sector Strategy Grant – manufacturing continues as focus. Newsletter: [Regional MFG Sector/Workforce Strategies Group Monthly Newsletters](#). Manufacturing Sector – Ph 4 Grant approval; adding Influencers Work Group; increased special populations activity (i.e., Accountability Court participants) for training and career opportunities; local employability skill videos available <http://workforcestrategiesgroup.com/wbl/> year end and new year report provided.

Goodwill Industries: Jessica Williams <https://goodwillng.org/> Held big back-to-school event at Oakwood Career Center, offering school supplies. In Aug., starting Forklift and Welding training with Lanier Tech. College. Working with SNAP program and with GVRA. Doing work evaluations.

One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Gainesville. 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Mon.- Fri. For appointments/information, call: **770 538-2727**. Connections/referrals for Partner services including: WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Lanier Tech. College, North Georgia Tech. College, Athens Tech. College, Ga. Dept. of Labor, Georgia Voc. Rehabilitation Agency, The Legacy Link, plus others. <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/>

Date for Next Meeting

Next One-Stop Partners Meeting scheduled for Tues, Sept 27, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room

Adjournment

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