

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., Sept. 27, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room. Participants were:

Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, etucker@gmrc.ga.gov
Shelby Ward, Dean of Adult Education, North Georgia Technical College, sward@northgatech.edu
Catherine Allen, Asst. Outreach Coordinator, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, callen@gmrc.ga.gov
Judy Reynolds, Adult/Disl. Worker Case Mgr. WorkSource Georgia Mountains, jreynolds@gmrc.ga.gov
Amarylin D. Neill, Intake/Eligibility Specialist, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, aneill@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, Ga. Dept. of Labor, kevin.hankinson@gdol.ga.gov
Natalie Smith, CTAE, Gainesville City Schools, natalie.smith@gcsc12.net
Jessica Williams, Goodwill Industries, Reg. Dir., Workforce Development jrwilliams@ging.org
Janet Whittaker, Gateway Domestic Violence Center, jwhittaker@gatewaydvcenter.org
***Jennifer Bero**, Executive Director, My Sister's Place, jbero@my-sisters-place.org
***Amanda Ives**, My Sister's Place, aives@my-sisters-place.org
Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity, Michael.Fisher@ndocsb.org
***Abby Turner**, Director, The Compass Center, United Way of Hall Co., aturner@unitedwayhallcounty.org
Ken Gossage, Executive Director, Good News at Noon, kgossage@goodnewsatnoon.org
***Melissa Wiley**, Habitat for Humanity, melissa@habitathallcounty.org
***Griselda Saucedo**, Gainesville Housing, gsaucedo@gainesvillehousing.org
Kelley Johnson, Legacy Link, k.johnson@legacylink.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 July 26, 2022 Partners Meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted on www.onestopworkgamtns.org under 'Our Partners'. Contact Marsha Hopkins hopkins.marsha@gmail.com

Focus Topic: My Sister's Place <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/> Jennifer Bero, Executive Director and Amanda Ives offered information about their organization. They explained that My Sister's Place is a homeless shelter for women and children. Located in Gainesville, it is a 90 day program, a Christian ministry offering a hand up rather than a handout. The first step with clients is to complete an assessment to identify and eliminate barriers being faced. Then steps are identified to allow client to move forward with life. Goals to reach self-sufficiency are established by the clients, with assistance provided. An assessment of progress is conducted every thirty days. Resources for childcare, for food assistance, and for job readiness are shared with the client. All clients must first pass a drug screen. Must be able to work. If actively fleeing domestic violence, individuals are referred to Gateway. Services are for women and women with children. If there is a male child, he must be under age 13. Clients may not have a history of violent crimes or crimes against children. Administrative office, 770 532-5111, open Mon. – Fri. 8:30 – 4:30. If in need of shelter, call 770 503-1181. Resale Boutique: 130 John Morrow Parkway, Suite A, Gainesville, GA, open Mon. – Sat. 9:30 – 4:30.

Lunch and Conversations: Opportunities for collaboration and information exchange between Partners.

Partner Updates:

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

Check WSGM Facebook site for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/WorkSource.GM>

Ebony Tucker: Youth Have 16 new participants since last meeting. Still accepting new applications for all programs. Virtual WEX (work experience) starts Oct. 17 – Nov. 18. Starting to plan for spring bootcamps. Staff attending fairs, community events and facilitation workshops. Please let us know if there are additional opportunities to share information about WorkSource programs and services.

Catherine Allen: Outreach Funding available for training and temporary work. Welding bootcamps – Arrendale State Prison, 11 participants, North Ga. Technical College; Hall County Corrections - 8 with Lanier Technical College, Lumpkin Co. Schools, and Satellite Industries – LTC; 9th District Opportunity – shower days; DOL overview sessions resumed. Application assistance picking up. Rally for Recovery – 450+ attendees.

Judy Reynolds: Adult/Dislocated Worker Case Manager, Amarylin Neill: Intake & Eligibility Specialist

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

Have 8 short term training programs – I.E.T.s (Integrated Education & Training) Adding two more: phlebotomy and medical admin. Another record enrollment at Lanier Tech – over 5,000 students. Spring semester begins Jan. 9th. Highest GED rate among Georgia Colleges. Competing to be 2nd largest program in state. At recent GED graduation, approximately 100 students walked, and over 800 people attended. Collaborating with North Ga. Technical College and others in region to offer more I.E.T. programs. Have named a new EAGLE candidate – she was formerly in prison, now is in a welding program. Finishing a workplace literacy class. Local library has made presentation to LTC students. Also, have had presentations from Forsyth Co. Sheriff's office.

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward <https://northgatech.edu/> At our recent “Color Tours”, over 1,000 local eighth grade toured the Clarkesville Campus. NGTC is one of only two Technical Colleges in Georgia that offers dorms. Offering many I.E.T. (Integrated Education & Training) programs.

Georgia Department of Labor: Kevin Hankinson <https://dol.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville> State of Georgia. Job Fair: Oct. 4, 2022 from 10:00 until 2:00. TOPPSTEP, The Offender Parolee Probationer State Training Employment Program. A federal bonding program providing financial incentives for employers to encourage them to hire rehabilitated ex-offenders. That encouragement often leads to the employment of good, productive employees who need a second chance. Offices 100% open now.

Gainesville High School: Natalie Smith, CTAE (Career, Technical, Agricultural Education) Program Coordinator, GHS: <https://ghsweb.gcस्क12.net/advanced-studies/work-based-learning-new>

Currently a strong focus on student attendance. Industry tours monthly. 16 career pathways. WBL (Work based learning) – all students placed. Steel is now up on the new CTAE/Academic building. Tours available. Manufacturing Day is Oct. 7th. College and Career Extravaganza to be held in November.

Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Janet Whittaker <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> **Local Crisis number: 770 536-5860.** Administration: (770) 539-9080 October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Community Breakfast and Seminar scheduled for Oct. 5th concerning domestic violence and the workplace. Thrift Store and Donation Center – 1642 Park Hill Dr. Gainesville, GA. Open - Mon – Sat. 10 am - 5:30 pm - 770-536-6789 *Donations accepted 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mon., Wed. & Fri. Hope to be in new location by the end of the year.

Habitat for Humanity: Melissa Wiley: <https://habitathallcounty.org> Building takes place on Tues., Thurs., and Sat. Volunteers are needed to assist with building. The ReStore is open Tues.—Sat., 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. ReStore is accepting donations. Open to the public for sales. <https://habitathallcounty.org/the-restore/>

Gainesville Housing: Griselda Saucedo <https://www.gainesvillehousing.org> Partner with area food banks, United Way. Afterschool program – Shine. English classes on Tues. and Thurs. Zumba classes. Distribution of

hygiene bags. Welcome volunteers to assist with ages K-3 afterschool and other programs for Gainesville Housing residents. Need donations of non-perishable food for giving boxes. Applications for 1 & 2 bedroom apartments are closed for now, but applications for other sizes are being accepted.

Ninth District Opportunity: Michael Fisher <https://www.ndo.org/web/> Currently, there is no money available for hotel vouchers locally, although there is a tremendous need. A new grant cycle begins in October, so funds may be available again. Mobile shower events take place on Thursdays and Fridays. A dozen churches rotate to assist with meals. Offering ID recovery, food stamp assistance, nursing care, WorkSource employment and training assistance. Starting a painting class with the homeless in their camps. Large candles needed to help warm tents for homeless individuals. Sleeping bags are also needed. Can be donated at office at 615 Oak St., Suite C. Phone: 770 534-8826.

Compass Center, United Way of Hall County: Abby Turner <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> **678 989-5336** Looking to address ambiguity of Compass Center's role in the community. Utilize community relationships to advocate for clients to receive the best of what each organization has to offer. Specific/updated target population TBA soon (looking for brainstorming support). Referrals from United Way and from community partners are assessed for needs. Then a plan is made with and for that individual. Tremendous need for assistance for those who have been incarcerated and who are reentering the work world.

Good News at Noon: Ken Gossage <https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> 770 503-1366, New building at 844 Dorsey St., Gainesville ready for occupancy. Ribbon cutting on Oct. 8th. Facility will house 40 individual men and 20 individual women. Provide showers, clothes, and assistance with securing IDs. Seeking volunteers to assist with mentoring, etc. to expose individuals to a better life. Currently feeding over 100 people daily.

Goodwill Industries: Jessica Williams <https://goodwillng.org/> Welding class begins the end of Sept. Forklift program with Lanier Tech begins in Nov. Please support the 'round up' purchases in the Goodwill stores as it helps support our skills training programs in getting people trained and putting people to work. Continuing to house a GED class at the Oakwood Career Center in partnership with Lanier Tech Adult Ed., and working on housing an ESL class as well. Working toward beginning citizen classes to begin probably in January, 2023.

Legacy Link: Kelley Johnson <https://legacylink.org/> Now actively recruiting host sites at non-profit locations for age 55+ trainees to work in the SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) to gain employment skills and work experience. An individual may participate in the program for up to four years. Trainees may work up to 21 hours per week. Pay is \$7.25 per hour. Individual may rotate from one worksite to another after six months. Some individuals are hired after their training experience.

One-Stop Center <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/> 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, Ga. Voc. Rehabilitation Agency, The Legacy Link, plus other organizations.

Announcements:

- **Community Collaboration for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week -Nov. 12th – 20th. Memorial Event – Nov. 14th – time TBD – Proclamation from Mayor of Gainesville – proposed location – Gainesville City Square. Contacts: Jennifer Bero: My Sister's Place, Mike Fisher: Ninth District, and Abby Turner or Teigha Snowden: United Way of Hall County**

- **GDOL Employer Webinar on better job postings scheduled for Oct. 20, 2022: <https://bit.ly/3DrcGKG>**

Date for Next Meeting

Next One-Stop Partners Meeting scheduled for Tues, Nov. 29, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.