

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., Nov. 29, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

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

***Michelle Dockery**, Career Services Specialist, NGT College, michelle.dockery@northgatech.edu

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

Natalie Smith, CTAE, Gainesville City Schools, natalie.smith@gcssk12.net

***Alisha Hontz**, Legacy Link, SCSEP, ahantz@legacylink.org

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

Ginger Little, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, glittle@gmrc.ga.gov

Diane Jackson, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, djackson@gmrc.ga.gov

***Shannon Eades**, Avita Community Partners, Shannon.Eades@avitapartners.org

***Porsche Giboney**, Dept. Community Supervision, porsche.giboney@dcs.ga.gov

Whitney Blair, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, wblair@gmrc.ga.gov

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

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

Amanda Ives, My Sister's Place, aives@my-sisters-place.org

Abby Turner, Director, The Compass Center, United Way of Hall Co., aturner@unitedwayhallcounty.org

***Parhis Howard**, Case Manager, United Way of Hall Co., phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org

***Jonathan Henson**, Boys and Girls Club Lanier, jhenson@bgclanier.org

***Keo Copeland**, Boys and Girls Club of Lanier, kcopeland@bgclanier.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 Sept. 27, 2022 Partners Meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted at

www.onestopworkgamtns.org 'Our Partners' Contact Marsha Hopkins: hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Focus Topic: Good News at Noon <https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> 770 503-32667 Executive Director, **Ken Gossage** shared information about the history of the organization. In 1987, following a 37-year career as a schoolteacher and administrator, Gene Beckstein reached out to those in need in Gainesville. He and his wife, Margie placed a sign in their front yard inviting all who were hungry into their home for lunch. The word of their hospitality spread quickly and from this daily display of concern, "Good News at Noon" was born. The overflow crowd in their kitchen soon relocated to a seldom-used community center at Melrose Apartments, a government-subsidized low-income housing project. Churches, civic groups, families, and individuals from across Gainesville's diverse community began to align themselves with Mr. & Mrs. B in meeting immediate needs of those around them. Multiple side ministries began to sprout out of the original free lunch program. A homeless shelter was constructed, a food pantry ministry blossomed, summer school programs reached out to children of the area, and a free medical/dental clinic began and was later able to move out on their own. Today hundreds of people are fed, clothed, housed, and ministered to each year.

Ken stated that Good News at Noon will be moving into a new building as soon as all permits are secured. Hopefully, this will be by Christmas. The new address is 884 Dorsey St. The new facility will offer shelter for 40 men and for 20 women. A transitional program will offer assistance for individuals to gain skills training, employment, and more permanent housing. Partners and volunteers are needed to assist with programs.

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 Program Supervisor: Youth Department is accepting applications for all programs. Will be gearing up for bootcamps in January – adding HVAC and possible automotive to types of bootcamps offered.

Danielle Avelar: Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor Accepting applications; Application assistance every Friday 10:30 – 12:30 at WSGM office; Overviews/Application Assistance at DOLs – monthly events noted on Facebook; Third Arrendale Cohort (Correctional Facility) has graduated; Homeless Shower Events- 3 applications; One person from this event now applying for Daly's Truck Driver Training program. Working with Salvation Army and 9th District Opportunity; Be Pro, Be Proud- Union, Dawson Counties & Gainesville City; also, targeting veterans.

Diane Jackson, Intake Supervisor/Administrative Assistant: The 11 ladies who recently completed the welding cohort at Arrendale earned a total of 57 certificates. Diane commented about attending their graduation ceremony, and about its great significance to everyone who was there.

Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole <https://www.laniertech.edu/> Have met 60% of enrollment target for year. We welcome enrollments. IET participation is strong. Seeking additional funding sources to support IET students. EAGLE nominee is Kaylen Hill from Barrow Co. Teacher of the Year nominee is Laura Sanabria, an ESL instructor in Forsyth Co. WIOA – 15 applicants, 10 approved so far; Fiscal year 2021 – after Fall Semester, 18 transitioned into college; Of 48 GEDs for Fiscal 2022, 16 completed applications and FASFA for Spring Semester. Dual Enrolled for past semester-4 students, 2 to begin Joint Enrollment in spring. Description of programs of study- LTC catalog <https://laniertech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2022-2023/catalog/>

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward & Michelle Dockery <https://northgatech.edu/> Are almost at 70% of enrollment goal. Many students who complete their GEDs are transitioning into college classes. Eagle nominee is Bria Wells. Teacher of the Year nominee – Dr. Kay Chitwood. Tech Express offering complete enrollment services – a walk through process in one day – offered Tuesday and Thursday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Certificate programs continue to be successful. 14 have been approved. These programs and other programs of study included in the NGTC catalog <https://northgatech.edu/about-us/college-catalog/>

Georgia Department of Labor: Kevin Hankinson <https://dol.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville> The veterans' staff will be transferring from GDOL to the Technical College System of Georgia as of Dec. 1, 2022. GDOL offices are 100% open. Many applications for unemployment are being processed. October unemployment rate for Georgia was 2.9%; October unemployment rate for Ga. Mtns. Region was 2.7%. GDOL can assist with obtaining DD214 forms.

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

GHS has changed to a 7 period day. College and Career Extravaganza-talking to juniors and seniors about career options. New buildings opening. Individuals welcome to schedule tour of facilities at GHS. Career tech; labs at Gainesville Middle School.

Compass Center, United Way of Hall County: Abby Turner & Parhis Howard,

<https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> 678 989-5336 Continuing to define mission of Compass Center in making effective referrals to local agencies and services. Parhis Howard is new Case Manager. Implementing Gainesville to Hometown Program, offering funds for individuals to get back to friends and family in another location. Continuing to help in getting birth certificates and Social Security cards.

My Sister's Place: Amanda Ives <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/> January 26th – fundraising event; need interns in case management; boutique continues to be successful – donations and shoppers are welcome - <https://www.mysistersresaleboutique.com/> Shelter currently housing a large family; 100% success recently for residents finding employment.

Boys and Girls Club of Lanier: Keo Copeland & Jonathan Henson <https://www.boysgirlsclubs.com/> Member Emotional and Social Learning (MESH); Working on identifying emotions, interpersonal skills, conflict resolution, emotion regulation, etc.; Self-care and Mental Health awareness – what is anxiety/depression, etc. After school and summer programs offered in Hall, Habersham, and Forsyth Counties, Also located in Buford.

Avita Community Partners: Shannon Eades, <https://www.avitapartners.org/> Working with housing part of Avita. Use Georgia housing voucher and Section 8 Housing. Offer transitional apartments in Demorest. Must be receiving Avita services to qualify for housing. Work with individuals who have been hospitalized multiple times, or who have been homeless for a set period, or who were recently released from jail. Offer supported employment.

Department of Community Supervision, Porsche Giboney <https://dcs.georgia.gov/reentry-services/community-resources> Department moved to new building at 1606 MLK, Jr. Blvd. Gainesville. Assisting individuals who have recently been released from incarceration in securing housing and employment.

Legacy Link: Alisha Hontz <https://legacylink.org/> Alisha is new to the organization. Legacy Link is actively recruiting host sites at non-profit locations for age 55+ trainees to work in the SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program). Seeking low income seniors to refresh skills at training sites so they can then gain employment. Always looking for new participants. Funding is provided to pay seniors while they are training at host sites.

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 many other organizations in the region. GED classes on site. Computers available for use by individuals seeking training and employment opportunities. For information about One-Stop Center, contact Benjie or Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operators. **470 577-0823** or hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Announcements:

Date for Next Meeting

Next One-Stop Partners Meeting scheduled for Tues, Jan. 31, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.