

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING – JAN. 31, 2023

### Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., Jan. 31 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

**Shelby Ward**, North Georgia Technical College, [sward@northgatech.edu](mailto:sward@northgatech.edu)

**Michelle Dockery**, Career Services Specialist, NGT College, [michelle.dockery@northgatech.edu](mailto:michelle.dockery@northgatech.edu)

**Shannon Cole**, Lanier Technical College, [scole@laniertech.edu](mailto:scole@laniertech.edu)

**Jim Watson**, Lanier Technical College, [jwatson@laniertech.edu](mailto:jwatson@laniertech.edu)

**Danielle Avelar**, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [davelar@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:davelar@gmrc.ga.gov)

**Catherine Allen**, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [callen@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:callen@gmrc.ga.gov)

**Dawn Bruce**, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [dbruce@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:dbruce@gmrc.ga.gov)

**Porsche Giboney**, Dept. Community Supervision, [porsche.giboney@dcs.ga.gov](mailto:porsche.giboney@dcs.ga.gov)

**Whitney Blair**, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [wblair@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:wblair@gmrc.ga.gov)

**Ebony Tucker**, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [etucker@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:etucker@gmrc.ga.gov)

**Kevin Hankinson**, Georgia Department of Labor, [kevin.hankinson@gdol.ga.gov](mailto:kevin.hankinson@gdol.ga.gov)

**Abby Turner**, Compass Center, United Way of Hall Co., [aturner@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:aturner@unitedwayhallcounty.org)

**Parhis Howard**, Case Manager, United Way of Hall Co., [phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org)

**Shelley Logan**, Workforce Strategies Group, [shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com](mailto:shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com)

**Melissa Wiley**, Habitat for Humanity, [melissa@habitatallcounty.org](mailto:melissa@habitatallcounty.org)

\***Lila Weaver**, Habitat for Humanity, [Lila@habitatallcounty.org](mailto:Lila@habitatallcounty.org)

**Michael Fisher**, Ninth District Opportunity, [Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org](mailto:Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org)

\***Christi Descoteaux**, Ninth District Opportunity, [christi.descoteaux@ndocsbg.org](mailto:christi.descoteaux@ndocsbg.org)

**Cindy Bryant**, Gateway, [cbryant@gatewaydvcenter.org](mailto:cbryant@gatewaydvcenter.org)

**Natalie Smith**, CTAE, Gainesville City Schools, [natalie.smith@gcssk12.net](mailto:natalie.smith@gcssk12.net)

**Steven Cornett**, Gainesville City Schools, [steven.cornett@gcssk12.net](mailto:steven.cornett@gcssk12.net)

\***Steven Nissley**, Good News at Noon, [snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org](mailto:snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org)

**Tammy Rauch**, Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), [trauch@tcsg.edu](mailto:trauch@tcsg.edu)

**Arlene Brock**, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) [arlene.brock@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:arlene.brock@gvs.ga.gov)

\***Kacy Simon**, Technical College System of Georgia, (TCSG) [kSimon@tcsg.edu](mailto:kSimon@tcsg.edu)

\***Mayda Santos**, Salvation Army, [mayda.santos@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:mayda.santos@uss.salvationarmy.org)

**Maria Calkins**, Gainesville Housing Authority, [MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org](mailto:MCalkins@gainesvillehousing.org)

\***Tara Hardwick**, The Place of Forsyth & Dawson, [Tara@theplaceofforsyth.org](mailto:Tara@theplaceofforsyth.org)

**Benjie Hopkins**, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

**Marsha Hopkins**, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

\*New participant with One-Stop Partnership

### Welcome and Introductions

Marsha Hopkins welcomed everyone. She and Benjie reminded the group that the purpose of these bi-monthly meetings is to encourage collaboration between Partners and to facilitate referrals for workforce development in the region. The core partners, designated through the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) are: WorkSource Georgia Mountains; Area Technical Colleges (Lanier Tech, North Georgia Tech, and Athens Tech); Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency; Georgia Department of Labor; and Legacy Link. Other participating partners are agencies and organizations in the region with an interest in workforce development. First time participants were recognized, and each person gave a brief introduction with their name and their organization.

### Minutes

Minutes from the Nov. 29, 2022 Partners Meeting were emailed previously. These and minutes from all other Partners Meetings are posted at [www.onestopworkgamtns.org](http://www.onestopworkgamtns.org) under the heading, 'Our Partners'. Contact Marsha Hopkins [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

**Focus Topic:** The Place of Forsyth and Dawson, <https://www.theplaceofforsyth.org>

**Tara Hardwick, Workforce Development and Education Manager** After developing the Goodwill Career Center in Dawson County for five years, in 2021, Tara Hardwick accepted her current position with The Place. She also had almost 28 years of experience as a flight attendant/instructor for American Airlines, where she learned a lot about excellence in customer service. She explained that The Place assists people of the Forsyth and Dawson County areas with essential needs and with their becoming self-sustaining. Through their many initiatives and services, they are changing lives.

The Place of Forsyth County was founded in 1975 by four Dominican Nuns. The sisters offered the residents assistance with financial needs, clothing, shelter, food, grocery shopping, and tutoring. The Place has been the catalyst for several other agencies throughout its history. In 2015, a workforce development initiative was launched to help the under-employed and unemployed prepare for and to secure jobs. The Place merged with the Dawson County's RIC-Rack thrift store in 2021, becoming The Place of Dawson. They are currently offering technical skills and life skills counseling. The organization is whole-person centered. Services are offered to anyone who needs them. Parenting Classes called 'Love and Logic' are available. GED classes and ESL classes are provided. Childcare and meals are made available to those taking classes. The staff for The Place is small. There are approximately 30 employees, with only 8 of those who are full-time. They rely on many volunteers to deliver their wide range of services. The Place does not accept direct government funding. They rely on generous donors and on private grants for operational funds. They do not require documentation. They also partner with other organizations such as Lanier Technical College and Literacy Forsyth to provide needed services. For more information, contact **Tara Hardwick:** [Tara@theplaceofforsyth.org](mailto:Tara@theplaceofforsyth.org) 770 8887-1098, ext. 224

**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>

**Whitney Blair: Director:** Funding is available through WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) for workforce development in the Georgia Mountains region. This includes funding for Adults, for Youth, and for Dislocated Workers. Thanks to all the partners for your role in delivering programs and services needed by individuals and employers in this area. Please continue to share information about available resources.

**Ebony Tucker: Youth Program Supervisor:** Youth Department is actively accepting applications for all programs. One-Stop GED is at capacity – looking for someone with the appropriate employment background to work one day per week to support special Education/IEP students. Recruiting has started for Summer Bootcamps. 2 new in addition to welding HVAC/Automotive. Work Experiences available for WIOA participants; Virtual WEX starts Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, WIOA students can earn \$1,000 – attend sessions 3 days/wk. and complete modules; TCSG focus on mental health – We will start having workshops in Youth Center once per month starting Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Also looking to contract or partner with someone to provide support for students we refer; Purchasing 5 VR (Virtual Reality) headsets loaded with over 200 training modules in different areas. Will be brainstorming how to incorporate into workshops, bringing to career fairs and workshops. Will use to help WIOA students obtain MSGs.

**Danielle Avelar: Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor** Accepting applications; Application assistance every Friday 10:30 – 12:30 at WSGM office; Arrendale Cohort/ Lanier Technical College and Hall Co. Corrections. Will be increasing allowance for individual's supportive services to: gas-\$10/day; childcare - \$25/day; Eligibility guidelines have changed some. Instructions on eligibility/income were distributed. Staff requesting feedback on these instructions; Career Exploration Event at Gainesville GDOL on Mon. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – Need assistance sharing information with the community.

**Lanier Technical College: Jim Watson & Shannon Cole, Dean of Adult Education**

<https://www.laniertech.edu/> Description of programs of study- LTC catalog

<https://laniertech.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2022-2023/catalog/>

Spring Semester – 134 former LTC GED grads in college; 11 IET (Integrated Education Training; 9 taking college classes for credit; 2 are taking training classes with Goodwill EAGLE (Excellent Adult Georgian in Literacy Education) 2023 is Ms. Kayla Hill. She is competing statewide in Atlanta, March 1-2. She is currently a welding student at Lanier Tech. Lanier Tech is the top in GEDs in the state. Also, TC is in top two in state in making enrollment.

**North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward, Dean of Adult Education & Michelle Dockery, Career Services Specialist** <https://northgatech.edu/> <https://northgatech.edu/about-us/college-catalog/> These programs and other programs of study included in the NGTC catalog <https://northgatech.edu/about-us/college-catalog/> 81 GEDs since July 1, 2022; EAGLE representing NGTC is Bria Wells; Working on Youth and Adult WIOA applications; 16 GED students that started college. Two students completed Joint Enrollment. One enrolled in Joint Enrollment this semester; Lee Arrendale prison will be closing. It will be a Transitional Center. Have GED classes in all counties. Will have an open house on March 15<sup>th</sup> for prospective students to see the dormitories and to review programs. NGTC is one of only a few residential Technical Colleges in Georgia.

**Georgia Department of Labor: Kevin Hankinson, Director, Gainesville Office, GDOL,** <https://dol.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville> GDOL offices are 100% open. Job Postings and Job Fairs are available through GDOL. Bruce Thompson is the new Commissioner of Labor for Georgia. Gainesville GDOL location: 2756 Atlanta Hwy. Gainesville, GA 30504.

**Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Kacy Simon, Local Veteran Employment Rep.** Veteran Employment/Retention; Last quarter – revelations (11 counties); Have list of confirmed employers for event at GDOL on 2/13/2023. Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist. **Tammy Rauch: https://www.tcsg.edu/ Business Services.** Program formerly with GDOL, moved to Technical College System of Georgia. Continuing to provide customer service. Collaborating with providers. Aligning with Title 3 resources. Want to become the “go to” solution.

**Arlene Brock – GVRA, (Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency) https://gvs.georgia.gov/** Agency is short staffed. Hiring for staff now. Need Transition Supervisor. This position assists in transitions from school to work.

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

Recently conducted a big career exploration event with tours of campus including labs. This offered opportunities for students to learn about the many, varied career paths available to them at GHS.

GHS Construction update – Goal is for construction to be complete this summer. Campus has several new buildings. Individuals are welcome to request tours of campus. Continue to be successful in CTSOs such as FBLA, DECA, Skills USA. WBL (Work-Based Learning) continues to grow. Currently have 285 in program, and will be adding more. Always looking for more business partners for this program.

**Compass Center, United Way of Hall County: Abby Turner, Director & Parhis Howard, Social Worker** <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> 678 989-5336 The Compass Center is a program for people who are experiencing poverty in Hall County. Through care management services we help clients identify resources in their community that are best suited to their needs. We connect the right people with the right resources.

**Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Cindy Bryant, Director of Advocacy** <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> Very pleased to announce that Gateway is operating in its new shelter! From 8 – 12 family rooms. New features available: a quiet room, a library, a computer lab, and an

area dedicated to support groups. Many people are served who are not residents, but who come for meetings in the facility. **Crisis hotline: (770) 536-5860 • Administration: (770) 539-9080**

**Habitat for Humanity: Lila Weaver (new Executive Director) and Melissa Wiley**

<https://habitatallcounty.org/>

Lila had previously worked with Brenau University for 13 years. She is passionate about helping others make generational changes. Now getting settled; task – working with Board to do Strategic Planning; working with team to align job descriptions; adding team members where needed; plan to grow ReStore. Construction and partnership opportunities - i. e. Redbud Project for landscaping new homes, Legacy Link, Habitat High, Work Based Learning, Georgia Gwinnett, UNG, and corporate partnerships.

**Ninth District Opportunity: Michael Fisher, Executive Director and Christi Descoteaux (new Marketing Director)**

<https://www.ndo.org/web/> Michael introduced Christi as a new staff member of NDO. He oversees street outreach and works with the homeless community in Hall County. Three days a week, churches bring food. A laundry day is offered once per month. Programs are offered working through the school systems in Hall, Habersham, Lumpkin, White, Stephens, Dawson, and Forsyth Counties. There is a clothing closet. Backpacks with supplies are made available. A new program is being started with area churches. There will be a specific Sunday when area religious leaders will be speaking on the topic, “These Are Our Neighbors”. Teaching videos will be made available to help people gain a better understanding of those individuals who are experiencing homelessness in our community.

**Good News at Noon: Ken Gossage, Executive Director and Steven Nissley (new Assistant Director)**

<https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> Good News moved into their new building at 884 Dorsey St. in December. Getting settled in. Welcoming Steven as new assistant director. Offering classes to residents and offering outreach services to people in the streets. Need volunteers to teach some activity or skill to help bring individuals out of their shells. A wide variety of teaching topics would be welcomed. For example: gardening, computer skills, crafts, carpentry, etc.

**Salvation Army: Mayda Santos, (new Program Manager)**

<https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/gainesville-corps/home> Mayda manages the Social Services/Shelter programs for Gainesville. Services offered locally: Financial assistance – rent, power, natural gas, water; Food Pantry – M-F 1:00 –3:00 p.m.; Shelter – house men/women/families; also, Rental assistance is available. Need partner agencies to help residents with employment, transportation, and other opportunities. Located at 681 Dorsey St. Gainesville, GA 30501 call **770 534-7589, extension 1**

**Workforce Strategies Group LLC: Shelley Logan, [shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com](mailto:shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com),**

**678-316-0792 <http://workforcestrategiesgroup.com/>**

“Collaborate to realize a skilled workforce” and specifically in the MFG Sector, 17% of employed are employed in manufacturing, \$28/hour average. Career Exploration Event - Click to participate in the [Career Path Fair 2023](#), 2400 middle school students 4 dates in March at three college locations; 3/7, 3/9, 3/16, 3/17 - need career representation for A/V, Graphics, Marketing. GeorgiaMountainsWorks – [facebook](#), [Instagram](#), website under construction. *Businesses – Participate in the Hall County Career Path Fair 2023. Click to view monthly Workforce Development Newsletter*

**Department of Community Supervision, Porsche Giboney <https://dcs.georgia.gov/reentry-services/community-resources>** Pending expungement Event (April) with Georgia Justice Project.

**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 related to workforce development 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  
[hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

**Announcements:**

**Date for Next Meeting**

Next One-Stop Partners Meeting will be **Tues, Mar. 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room**

**Other**

**Legacy Link: Alisha Hontz** <https://legacylink.org/> [ahontz@legacylink.org](mailto:ahontz@legacylink.org)

Recruiting non-profit agencies and government entities as sites for low-income, age 55+ trainees to work in the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Seniors are paid while they train at host sites.

**Adjournment**

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