

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., July 25, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

- ***Jessi Emmett**, Judicial Accountability Division Director, Court Administrator, Northeastern Judicial Circuit, Hall and Dawson County, jemmett@hallcounty.org
 - Shelby Ward**, Dean of Adult Education, North Georgia Technical College, sward@northgatech.edu
 - Shannon Cole**, Dean of Adult Education, Lanier Technical College, scole@laniertech.edu
 - Alisha Hontz**, Participant Specialist, SCSEP, Legacy Link, ahantz@legacylink.org
 - ***Yolanda Thomas**, GVRA, GA Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, yolanda.thomas@gvs.ga.gov
 - ***Dana Skelton**, Adult Supervisor, GVRA, GA Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, dana.skelton@gvs.ga.gov
 - Whitney Blair**, Director, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, wblair@gmrc.ga.gov
 - Danielle Avelar**, Adult/Dislocated Worker Program Supv. WorkSource Ga. Mountains, davelar@gmrc.ga.gov
 - Steven Nissley**, Assistant Director, Good News at Noon, snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org
 - Amarylin Neill**, Intake and Eligibility Specialist, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, aneill@gmrc.ga.gov
 - Alex Balla**, Case Manager, Goodwill of North Ga., aballa@ging.org
 - ***Christi Descoteaux**, Street Outreach, Ninth District Opportunity, christi.descoteaux@ndocsbg.org
 - ***Kelly Williams**, Case Management Specialist, Salvation Army, kelly.williams@uss.salvationarmy.org
 - Tara Hardwick**, Workforce and Education Mgr., The Place, (note: new name& email) tara@theplacega.org
 - Dr. Carroll Turner**, Development Authority, Dawson Co. and others, carrollturner@windstream.net
 - Ebony Tucker**, Youth Program Supervisor, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, etucker@gmrc.ga.gov
 - Catherine Allen**, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, callen@gmrc.ga.gov
 - Cindy Bryant**, Director of Advocacy, Gateway Domestic Violence Center, cbryantgateway@yahoo.com
 - Parhis Howard**, Compass Center Director, United Way of Hall Co., phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org
 - Natalie Smith**, Gainesville City Schools, natalie.smith@gcsk12.net
 - Steven Cornett**, Work Based Learning Coordinator, Gainesville High School Steven.Cornett@gcssk12.net
 - Kevin Hankinson**, Georgia Department of Labor, kevin.hankinson@gdol.ga.gov
 - ***Lore Godina**, Employment Services Specialist, Office of Workforce Development, Technical College System of Georgia, Lgodina@tcsg.edu
 - ***Kyndra R. Cohen**, Executive Director, Hall County Family Connection, kyndracohen@gmail.com
 - Deborah K. Mack**, Community Volunteer, Board Member, GMRC and WorkSource, dmack2344@att.net
 - Keo Copeland**, Social Worker, Emotional Health, Boys & Girls Club of Lanier, kcopeland@bgclanier.org
 - Greg Vitek**, Partner, Workforce Strategies Group greg@workforcestrategiesgroup.com
 - Madison Miller**, Marketing Assistant, Workforce Strategies Group, madison@workforcestrategiesgroup.com
 - Yury Carmona**, Outreach Director, Hall County Library System, ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org
 - Benjie Hopkins**, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com
 - Dr. Marsha Hopkins**, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com
- *New participant with One-Stop Partnership

Welcome and Introductions

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone and had each participant introduce themselves.

Minutes

Minutes from the May 30, 2023, Partners Meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted at www.onestopworkgamtns.org 'Our Partners' Contact Marsha Hopkins: hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Focus Topic: Court System Programs*Jessi Emmett, Judicial Accountability Division Director, Court Administration, Northeastern Judicial Circuit for Hall and Dawson County presented an informative program about the various programs and services available through the local court system. She discussed accountability courts, family treatment services, pretrial release, drug courts, and parental accountability courts. Drug screenings are conducted every day, with 40,000 to 60,000 every year as part of their programs. Meth is a huge

problem in this area. Also, fentanyl is being laced in many drugs, and it is often fatal. Trauma is often the root cause of the problems of individuals who become part of the court system. Individuals involved in the programs are required to be employed or be involved in job training. Community service is a component of the programs. Alpha Track is for multiple offenders*Bravo/Charlie Track is for first-time offenders*Also have tracks for Mental Health and for Veterans*Resources: Partnership for Drug Free Hall. Also, Friends of Recovery. For more information about court programs and services, contact Jessi Emmett at 770 532-1895 or jemmett@hallcounty.org

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

Partner Updates:

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

Whitney Blair: WorkSource is hiring a Receptionist and an Outreach Coordinator. Information available at <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> under NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS: JOB OPENINGS. Check WSGM Facebook site for program updates: <https://www.facebook.com/WorkSource.GM>

Ebony Tucker: Accepting applications for all services. New bootcamp starting Aug. 7th*Students have been participating in bootcamps through the summer, i.e., welding, electro-mechanical*Some students are in dual enrollment. The Youth Department is now fully staffed. **Catherine Allen** is Youth Intake Program Asst. and **Ginger Little** is Youth Case Mgr.

Danielle Avelar: <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> Accepting College/Technical applications*Internships are available for students to work for government agencies and non-profit organizations. Interns are paid \$14 per hour. This and Workers' Comp. is covered by WIOA funds. Employers can benefit from having these. Also, On the Job Training (OJT) is available to reimburse employers for a portion of training expenses when they hire eligible individuals. For more details about these programs, see <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/employers>

Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole <https://www.laniertech.edu/> Total enrollment for 2022 was 2,182. Total enrollment for 2023 is 3,018. High school equivalencies in 2022 were 279. In 2023 there are 367. IETs in 2022 – 19 enrolled, 15 earned credentials. In 2023, 54 enrolled, 43 earned credentials.

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward <https://northgatech.edu/> New ESL classes – Habersham- 3 days and 3 nights a week*Stephens- 3 nights*New IET cohorts- welding, July 28th, OSHA10/Forklift, Aug. 4th*Offer GED prep classes, dual enrollment, employability skills, English as a second language, and Integrated Technology Training*Serve Fannin, Franklin, Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White*Glad to bring flyers or come to talk with any agency in our eight-county area.

Compass Center, United Way of Hall County: Parhis Howard, 678 989-5336.

<https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/compasscenter> Parhis is serving as the new director for the Compass Center. Learning more about area resources in order to make appropriate referrals for individuals seeking social services in Hall County.

Boys and Girls Club of Lanier: Keo Copeland <https://www.boysgirlsclubs.com/>

Currently registering for after school youth members*Currently recruiting youth development professionals to assist with after school care*BGC Lanier has a new COO, Dr. Anastasia Legakes*September – start new construction at Downey Center*Will go from serving 100 to 300 members*Temporary location at Butler Center*BGC Habersham is having a community event to share resources*Partners encouraged to get a booth.

Legacy Link: Alisha Hontz <https://legacylink.org/> Need host agencies - 501c3 or government agencies*Need participants 55 and older – low income*participants may work up to 29 hrs. per wk.*Legacy Link serves 107 counties in Georgia.

Workforce Strategies Group: Greg Vitik <http://workforcestrategiesgroup.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/georgiamountainworks> (working with Madison Miller and Shelley Logan)
New grant awarded for July 2023 – June 2024*Leadership Training and Development*SAIL at Lanier
Technical College*Conducting a Regional Wage Survey*Apprenticeship Update-Industrial
Maintenance*Workforce Forum-August 17th focused on Work-Based Learning-Manufacturing-Go to
<https://georgiamountainworks.com> for details

Georgia Department of Labor: Kevin Hankinson <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> GDOL now handles
only Unemployment Claims. Employment Services handled by TCSG-Technical College System of GA.

The Place: Tara Hardwick: tara@theplacega.org *ESL Beginner Level – 5 pm to 6 pm*GED-all levels-6
pm to 8:30 pm. – Start back Wed., Sept. 6th – evenings – free childcare and supper for GED- Mondays and
Wednesdays. - East Forsyth High School, Gainesville*Parenting classes will resume, probably in October-
English and Spanish*All are welcome – documentation not a problem.

Goodwill Industries of North Georgia: Alex Balla <https://goodwillng.org/> 3715 Mundy Mill Rd. Oakwood,
GA 30566* Actively recruiting for welding and forklift certifications classes scheduled for this month. Serving
clients regionally. Contact Alex Balla at 678-863-1335 or aballa@ging.org.

Technical College System of Georgia: Lore Godina* <https://TCSG.edu> <https://WorkSourceGeorgia.com>
*Three staff members of TCSG will rotate to staff office five days per week at the One-Stop Center, 1856
Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville*Geographic Solutions will replace Employ Georgia- Will launch on August
21, 2023. Transitioning-Wagner-Peyser/Employment services*Learning the system and learning policies*
Additional information will be available soon*Contact TCSG staff at the One-Stop Center: Tel. 770-531-4051

Salvation Army: Kelly Williams <https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/gainesville-corps/>
Currently restructuring. Have new officers for Gainesville Corps. Continuing to provide food pantry and
financial assistance. Call 770 531-0135. Offer a free overnight camp in summer in Jasper, GA.

Gainesville High School: Steven Cornett <https://ghsweb.gcssk12.net/> Advanced Placement (AP) – 472
students, 887 exams taken, 90 AP scholars* Dual Enrollment – 271 students, 2,485 college hours taken, 27
industry certifications*303 students completed pathways in 17 different career industries*250+ students
participated in Mock Interviews with 60+ Industry Leaders, 3 students offered jobs on the spot* Work Based
Learning – 282 students participated, 117,067 hours worked, \$1,418,362 earned. Third WBL coordinator has
been hired. Appreciate local partners. **Natalie Smith:** First day for students is Aug. 8th* Construction and
additions will be completed this Aug.*Final new building is completed*Many big new labs and programs are
available*These include a mechatronics program, an audio-video studio, and two new marketing programs.
Looking for a marketing teacher and a construction teacher.

Hall County Library: Yury Carmona, <https://www.hallcountylibrary.org/> Summer Reading is coming to
an end – Increase in participation*Hiring part-time Youth Services Clerk and part-time Maintenance
Assistant*Will be at East Hall Community Center on Aug. 2nd, 16th, and 30th to check out computers, hotspots,
launchpads, and books.

Hall County Family Connection Network and Butler Center: Kyndra R. Cohen <https://hall.gafcp.org/>
“Social Entrepreneur” *Collaborate with non-profit organizations and bring together other agencies in Hall
County to help children and families*Butler Center – One stop shop. September 16th at 10:00 a.m.- opening.
Contact Kyndra: hcfcn.director@gmail.com 404 783-7464.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Dana Skelton <https://gvs.georgia.gov/> **Yolanda Thomas** has recently joined the GVRA staff. She and Dana will share staffing for the One-Stop office on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.* GVRA assists individuals with disabilities to go to work* Accept referrals online*Can assist with obtaining diagnoses through psychological or medical evaluations*provide services - training, work experience, job search, job placement or supportive employment*Also pay vendors to provide services*Dana also works at Gateway as a House Manager and Night Staff*Also teaches DUI-Risk Reduction Classes*Dana Skelton: 706 200-8988.

Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Cindy Bryant, <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> Serving survivors of domestic violence*Support groups – Monday and Thursday 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 – dinner included*Offered in English and Spanish. Childcare for kids up to age four – Then have children and teen groups – ages 5-17*To start group, call 770 536-5860*Although Gateway is a shelter, the majority of clients are non-residents who participate in support groups and who continue to live at home.

Dawson, White, Lumpkin, and Forsyth – Joint County Development Authority: Dr. Carroll Turner <https://www.developdawson.org/development-authority> Business consultant*Concerned about rising rates of drug use*Appreciates workforce development efforts and their effect on economic development in region.

Good News at Noon: Steven Nissley <https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> GNN is a 3 Phase Transformation Program* Phase 1- 90 day focus on self-growth and building a strong spiritual foundation*Phase 2- find work, continue growth classes in the evening* Phase 3 – move to affordable housing with continual accountability.

Deborah K. Mack: Community Advocate and member of Georgia Mountains Workforce Board and Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Council. <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/gmrccouncil1> Especially interested in finding housing opportunities for those working and those seeking work in the region.

Ninth District Opportunity, Street Outreach: Christi Descoteaux <https://hall.gafcp.org/> **Note: New office number directly to Street Outreach: 706 894-1222***Continue to expand to other counties*Now have an office in Habersham County*Rural homelessness different from urban – tackle these differently*Resources more scarce, but doing what we can*Facebook, Street Exit: <https://www.facebook.com/StreetExitNGA>

One-Stop Center <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/> 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Gainesville*8:00 am until 6:00 pm Mon.- Fri., call: **770 538-2727*** Connections/referrals for Partner services including: WorkSource Georgia Mountains, Lanier Tech. College, North Georgia Tech. College, Athens Tech. College, Technical College System of Georgia (now offering employment assistance formerly under GDOL), Ga. Voc. Rehabilitation Agency, The Legacy Link, plus other organizations in the region*GED classes on site *Contact Benjie or Marsha Hopkins, **470 577-0823** or hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Announcements:

Date for Next Meeting

Next One-Stop Partners Meeting - Tues, Sept. 26, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room

Adjournment

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