

## **GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING**

### Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., September 26, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

**Alisha Hontz**, Asst. Director, SCSEP, Legacy Link, [ahantz@legacylink.org](mailto:ahantz@legacylink.org)

**\*Glenn Mulero**, Participant Specialist, SCSEP, Legacy Link, [gmulero@legacylink.org](mailto:gmulero@legacylink.org)

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

**Danielle Avelar**, Adult/Dislocated Worker Program Supv. WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [davelar@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:davelar@gmrc.ga.gov)

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

**Diane Jackson**, Intake Supervisor, Administrative Assistant, WorkSource Ga. Mtns., [djackson@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:djackson@gmrc.ga.gov)

**Dana Skelton**, Agency Supervisor, Dist. 4, GVRA, GA Vocational Rehabilitation [dana.skelton@gv.ga.gov](mailto:dana.skelton@gv.ga.gov)

**Yolanda Thomas**, GVRA, [yolanda.thomas@gv.ga.gov](mailto:yolanda.thomas@gv.ga.gov)

**Alex Balla**, Case Manager, Goodwill of North Ga., [aballa@ging.org](mailto:aballa@ging.org)

**\*Jacob Buffington**, Goodwill of North Ga., [jbuffington@ging.org](mailto:jbuffington@ging.org)

**Kelly Williams**, Case Management Specialist, Salvation Army, [kelly.williams@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:kelly.williams@uss.salvationarmy.org)

**\*Jennifer Childers**, The Salvation Army, [jennifer.childers@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jennifer.childers@uss.salvationarmy.org)

**Tara Hardwick**, Workforce and Education Mgr., The Place, [tara@theplacega.org](mailto:tara@theplacega.org)

**Cindy Bryant**, Director of Advocacy, Gateway Domestic Violence Center, [cbryantgateway@yahoo.com](mailto:cbryantgateway@yahoo.com)

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

**\*Dr. Jay Daniels**, Compass Center, United Way of Hall Co., [jdaniels@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:jdaniels@unitedwayhallcounty.org)

**Steven Cornett**, Work Based Learning Coordinator, GHS, [steven.cornett@gcस्क12.net](mailto:steven.cornett@gcस्क12.net)

**\*Brett Dillen**, Work Based Learning, Gainesville City Schools, [james.dillin@gcस्क12.net](mailto:james.dillin@gcस्क12.net)

**\*Monica Jackson**, Work Based Learning, Gainesville City Schools, [monica.jackson@gcस्क12.net](mailto:monica.jackson@gcस्क12.net)

**Griselda Enriquez**, Resident Svs. Coordinator, Gainesville Housing Auth., [genriquez@gainesvillehousing.org](mailto:genriquez@gainesvillehousing.org)

**Keo Copeland**, Boys and Girls Clubs of Lanier, [kcopeland@bgclanier.org](mailto:kcopeland@bgclanier.org)

**Jonathan Henson**, Boys and Girls Clubs of Lanier, [jhenson@bgclanier.org](mailto:jhenson@bgclanier.org)

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

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

**\*Levi Koebel**, TCSG Reg. Operations Mgr. Technical College System of Georgia, [lkoebel@TCSG.edu](mailto:lkoebel@TCSG.edu)

**Ken Gossage**, Executive Dir, Good News at Noon, [kgossage@goodnewsatnoon.org](mailto:kgossage@goodnewsatnoon.org)

**Deborah K. Mack**, Community Volunteer, Board Member, GMRC and WorkSource, [dmack2344@att.net](mailto:dmack2344@att.net)

**Keo Copeland**, Social Worker, Emotional Health, Boys & Girls Club of Lanier, [kcopeland@bgclanier.org](mailto:kcopeland@bgclanier.org)

**Greg Vitek**, Partner, Workforce Strategies Group [greg@workforcestrategiesgroup.com](mailto:greg@workforcestrategiesgroup.com)

**Davis Palmour**, The Palmour Group, LLC, Lumpkin Co. Family Connection (vol.) [davispalmour@yahoo.com](mailto:davispalmour@yahoo.com)

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

**Dr. Marsha Hopkins**, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto: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 July 25, 2023, Partners Meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted at

[www.onestopworkgamtns.org](http://www.onestopworkgamtns.org) 'Our Partners' Contact Marsha Hopkins: [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

**Focus Topic:** Tammy Rauch, Business Services Recruiter for the Office of Workforce Development, TCSG (Technical College System of Georgia), provided an informative presentation about the intake and tracking system currently in use for job seekers and for employers throughout Georgia. She mentioned that Georgia has just been named the Best State for Business for the tenth consecutive year.

In her role, Ms. Rauch works with new business as well as with existing businesses. She provides data for businesses that are expanding or relocating. She noted the effectiveness of the GA BEST program for teaching Soft Skills.

She emphasized the importance promoting the use of the website: [www.worksourcegaportal.com](http://www.worksourcegaportal.com)  
This site provides useful information and links to workforce information. Users have the option to access the site as a guest to explore various programs and services. Registration provides additional information and links. There are 40 Career Centers and 19 One-Stop Centers in Georgia.

Ms. Rauch explained that Federal Bonding is still administered by GDOL. She recommended that individuals with a record of theft, forgery, larceny, or embezzlement obtain a federal bond through GDOL prior to applying for a job. This can provide \$5,000 of insurance for an employer hiring that individual. Flyers from TCSG with information about programs related to workforce development are included in a separate email.

**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:** Check WSGM Facebook site for program updates\***Ebony Tucker:** Still accepting applications – all programs\*One-Stop GED now has support teacher from UNG\*Can increase from 10-15 students-waitlist currently as students graduate, we bring in one community referral and one court system referral\*Had 8 graduates walk in recent Lanier Tech graduation\***Danielle Avelar:** For details concerning Quest Grant, see [www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm](http://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm)

**Compass Center, United Way of Hall County: Parhis Howard, 678 989-5336.**  
<https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/compasscenter>. New case manager is Dr. Jay Daniels\*We are interested in making connections with local staffing agencies-Please let us know of any existing relationships\*Having a clothing drive – 9/18 through 10/18.

**Boys and Girls Club of Lanier: Keo Copeland** <https://www.boysgirlclubs.com/> Looking to partner with local business on October 18<sup>th</sup> to participate in Job Exposure Fair for Middle/High students\*Please contact **Jonathan Henson** at 706 973-1029.

**Legacy Link: Glenn Muleno and Alisha Hontz** <https://legacylink.org/> Seeking new participants – 55 and older, low income, no job\*Also looking for new host agencies – government agencies or 501c3.

**Workforce Strategies Group: Greg Vitik** <http://workforcestrategiesgroup.com/>  
Go to <https://georgiamountainworks.com> for details\* MFG Sector Strategy\*Apprenticeships/Leadership Development\*Work-Based Learning/CTAE growth\*Employer support with workforce development tactics\* Wage survey\*Industrial maintenance focus\*Expanding ER offerings, North GA Tech Zone\*Seeking partners – Manufacturers and related services

**Georgia Department of Labor: Kevin Hankinson** <https://dol.georgia.gov/> GDOL now handles only Unemployment Claims. Employment Services are handled by TCSG-Technical College System of GA. Staff members of both GDOL and TCSG are available at the office, 2756 Atlanta Highway, Gainesville, GA\* Unemployment rate – GA 3.3, US 3.8.

**The Place: Tara Hardwick:** <https://theplacega.org/> The Place is continuing to offer classes for ESL, GED, and Financial Literacy\*Flyers with current information about these are included as an attachment to this email.

**Goodwill Industries of North Georgia: Jacob Buffington,** Events: On 10/25, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. -Diaper Day Resource Fair\*On 10/26 from 10:00 a.m. until noon\*<https://goodwillng.org/> 3715 Mundy Mill Rd. Oakwood, GA 30566\*Contact **Alex Balla** at 678-863-1335 or [aballa@ging.org](mailto:aballa@ging.org).

**The Palmour Group, LLC: Davis Palmour** [davispalmour@yahoo.com](mailto:davispalmour@yahoo.com) Wellroot offering Parenting Classes, starting soon. <https://wellroot.org/>

**Technical College System of Georgia: Levi Koebel\***. SGA Portal launched on 8/2\*This is ideal for job seekers looking for a job and for employers hiring. <https://TCSG.edu> <https://WorkSourceGeorgia.com>  
\*Three staff members of TCSG rotate to staff office in person five days per week at the One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville\*Geographic Solutions is new system\*Contact TCSG staff at the One-Stop Center: Tel. **770-531-4051**

**Salvation Army: Kelly Williams and Jennifer Childers\*** Call 770 531-0135  
<https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/gainesville-corps/> \*Tentative Reopening of the Center of Hope residential shelter is November 3<sup>rd</sup>\*Plan to begin accepting participants on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>\*New beds delivered.

**Gainesville Housing Authority: Griselda Enriques** <https://gainesvillehousingauthority.org/>  
\*We help our Gainesville Housing residents reach self-sufficiency\*GH has 2 community centers that welcome community partners to come educate our residents about their services\*1-2 bedrooms portal still closed\*Programs include: Year-round out of school time, Shine: After-School Program\*In June, offer a summer learning loss program.

**Gainesville City Schools: Steven Cornett, Brett Dillin, and Monica Jackson,** <https://ghsweb.gcssk12.net/>  
School is off to a good start\*Multiple workforce development tours/speakers\*Construction is finally done\*Looking for a Communications and Promotions Pathway teacher for next school year\*

**Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: Yolanda Thomas and Dana Skelton** <https://gvs.georgia.gov/>  
706 200-8988\*2756 Atlanta Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30504\*Counselors at One-Stop office on Thurs. afternoons

**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 **Crisis line: 770 536-5860**  
October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and purple is the color\*Look for our purple signs around town and our scarecrows at the Gainesville Botanical Gardens.

**Good News at Noon: Ken Gossage** <https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> Continuing ministry of meals, shelter, and counseling in expanded facilities. Welcome contributions of paper goods. Need volunteers.

**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.

**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](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

#### **Announcements:**

#### **Date for Next Meeting**

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

#### **Adjournment**

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