

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

### Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., Nov. 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

\***Crystal Isaac**, Network Success Manager, Unite Us, [crystal.isaac@uniteus.com](mailto:crystal.isaac@uniteus.com)  
\***Lacey Resch**, Community Engagement Manager, Unite Us, [Lacey.resch@uniteus.com](mailto:Lacey.resch@uniteus.com)  
**Shannon Cole**, Dean of Adult Education, Lanier Technical College, [scole@laniertech.edu](mailto:scole@laniertech.edu)  
\***Christine Osasu**, Program Director, SCSEP, Legacy Link, [cosasu@legacylink.org](mailto:cosasu@legacylink.org)  
**Alisha Hontz**, Asst. Director, SCSEP, Legacy Link, [ahontz@legacylink.org](mailto:ahontz@legacylink.org)  
**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)  
\***Angie Flores**, Intake & Eligibility Specialist, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [aflores@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:aflores@gmrc.ga.gov)  
**Catherine Allen**, Youth Intake Program Assistant, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [callen@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:callen@gmrc.ga.gov)  
**Andrew Davenport**, Director, A New Veteran, [ANewVeteran@gmail.com](mailto:ANewVeteran@gmail.com)  
**Yolanda Thomas**, Rehabilitation Counselor, GVRA, GA Voc. Rehab. Agency, [yolanda.thomas@gv.ga.gov](mailto:yolanda.thomas@gv.ga.gov)  
**Michael Fisher**, Street Outreach Director, Ninth District Opportunity, [Michael.Fisher@ndo.csb.org](mailto:Michael.Fisher@ndo.csb.org)  
**Kelly Williams**, Director, Center of Hope, Salvation Army, [kelly.williams@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:kelly.williams@uss.salvationarmy.org)  
\***Elisa Valsecchi**, FES Caseworker, The Salvation Army, [elisa.valsecchi@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:elisa.valsecchi@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)  
\***Cassie Yanez**, Transitional Housing Advocate, Gateway, [cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org](mailto:cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org)  
**Parhis Howard**, Compass Center Director, United Way of Hall Co., [phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org)  
**Natalie Smith**, Gainesville City Schools, Work Based Learning, GHS, [natalie.smith@gcsc12.net](mailto:natalie.smith@gcsc12.net)  
**Keo Copeland**, Social Worker, Emotional Health, Boys and Girls Clubs of Lanier, [kcopeland@bgclanier.org](mailto:kcopeland@bgclanier.org)  
**Jonathan Henson**, Workforce Dev. Specialist, Boys and Girls Clubs of Lanier, [jhenson@bgclanier.org](mailto:jhenson@bgclanier.org)  
**Tammy Rauch**, Business Svcs. Recruiter, Technical College System of Georgia, TCSG, [trauch@tcs.edu](mailto:trauch@tcs.edu)  
**Levi Koebel**, Regional Operations Mgr., Technical College System of Georgia, TCSG, [lkoebel@TCSG.edu](mailto:lkoebel@TCSG.edu)  
**Porsche Giboney**, Community Coord. for NE Dist., Dept. of Community Supv. [porsche.giboney@dcs.gov](mailto:porsche.giboney@dcs.gov)  
\***Nicole Hardin**, Employment Specialist, Goodwill, [nhardin@ging.org](mailto:nhardin@ging.org)  
\***Anna Grace T. Spyers**, Safety Net Housing Case Manager, Wellroot, [aspyers@wellroot.org](mailto:aspyers@wellroot.org)  
\***Shameka Harrison**, Housing Navigator/Life Skills Coach, Wellroot, [sharrison@wellroot.org](mailto:sharrison@wellroot.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:

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone and had each participant introduce themselves. Marsha recognized individuals and/or organizations participating in the partnership for the first time.

### Minutes

Minutes from the September 26, 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:** Unite Us Crystal Isaac and Lacey Resch presented information about Unite Us, a software system to facilitate cross-section collaboration\*They explained various aspects of the system and provided examples of ways it has been used to assist in coordinating services between organizations. Service is available at no cost to many non-profit, governmental, and religious organizations. See website for additional information: <https://uniteus.com/>

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

## **Partner Updates:**

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

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

**Danielle Avelar, Adult Program** Update on Arrendale cohort - starting a new cohort - Most recent cohort had 55 graduates with 23 retained by Kubota\*Quest money is available for anyone affected by COVID-19, Funding also available for long-term unemployed – contact WorkSource Georgia Mountains office to determine eligibility - **770 538-2727**\*Internships and training money available-contact Niki McPherson – **770 538-2734**\*WorkSource Georgia Mountains is seeking a full-time Intake and Eligibility Specialist\*  
**Ebony Tucker, Youth Program** In house GED program continues to grow with waitlist from community referrals and Hall County Courts\*Gearing up for Bootcamps. Several other schools interested – East Hall, Franklin Co., Stephens Co, White MEC(Mtn. Ed. Charter), and Hall MEC\*Youth Center has started offering monthly workshops, both virtual and in person\*New partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier and with Horizon Academy\*Looking for volunteer tutors to increase class size for One-Stop GED for Spring Semester.

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

<https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/compass>\*Having a cold weather drive for donations of coats, gloves, hats, blankets, etc.- November-December – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.- drop off at Compass Center/United Way 5277 Oak St., Gainesville, GA 30501\*United Way building will be undergoing renovations soon.

**Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole** <https://www.laniertech.edu/> 128 GEDs, top of the state\* Summer Barnhart named as EAGLE candidate\*Teacher of the Year in Adult Ed. is Terri Greene\*1,300 enrolled, but more are wanted – Actively recruiting more students!

**Boys and Girls Club of Lanier: Keo Copeland** <https://www.boysgirlsclubs.com/> \*Looking for community partners to come teach our teen members soft skills, interview skills, career goal setting, public speaking. Requesting commitment from Jan. through May\*Contact **Jonathan Henson** at **706 973-1029**.

**The Legacy Link: Christine Osasu and Alisha Hontz** <https://legacylink.org/> \*Non-profits and government agencies can add mature workers, at no cost to the agency, through Legacy Link's SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) - Seeking new participants - 55 and older, job-seeking seniors to refresh their skills and find better employment. Call **770 538-2657** for more information.

**The Place: Tara Hardwick** <https://theplacega.org/> \*The Place is continuing to offer classes for ESL, GED, and Financial Literacy\*Also, Love and Logic Parenting Classes available\*Check website under 'Need Help' – 'Workforce Development and Education' for more information about current classes. Call **770 887-1098**.

**Wellroot: Shameka Harrison and Anna Grace Spyers** Wellroot Family Services – New Program: Safety Net. Program will serve youth ages 18-24 who are homeless by HUD's definition. Will begin accepting referrals through Ninth District COC around Jan., 024. Will have ability to assist up to 16 youth with rapid rehousing and transitional rehousing opportunities among Hall, Dawson, and Forsyth Counties. For more information, call **770 531-3063**. Office located at 604 Washington St. Gainesville, GA 30501.

**Technical College System of Georgia, TCSG: Levi Koebel** SGA Portal is in full swing, linking job seekers with employers looking to hire - <https://www.worksourcegaportal.com/> \*Three staff members of TCSG are rotating to staff office in person five days per week at the One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville\*Contact TCSG staff at the One-Stop office, (direct line): **770-531-4051**

**Tammy Rauch 404 548-5312** Business Services Recruiter for the Office of Workforce Development, TCSG (Technical College System of Georgia) Encouraging everyone to utilize new Portal website.

**Salvation Army: Kelly Williams and Elisa Valsecchi** Call **770 531-0135**

<https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/gainesville-corps/> The Center of Hope has reopened after extensive renovations. This facility offers shelter and food for those in need. Also, it will provide additional shelter as a warming center during very cold weather.

**Gainesville City Schools: Natalie Smith** <https://ghsweb.gcssk12.net/> High School – Comprehensive Local Needs process – We are gathering input on all our career and technical programs for Perkins V funding – Meeting on 12/6/2023 at the HUB, Gainesville High School. Will be adding a Mental Health Pathway next year and are looking for partners\*Middle Schools – Fairs for all local middle schools are scheduled for 2/27-28/2024, 3/5-6/2024, and 3/14-15/2024. We are looking for business partners to present and to sponsor the annual middle school career fair for Gainesville City & Hall County Schools. Students get interested in careers they know more about.\*Elementary Schools – Have hosted career days at our elementary levels with lots of interactive equipment and volunteers.

**Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA): Yolanda Thomas** <https://gvs.georgia.gov/> 706 200-8988\*2756 Atlanta Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30504\*Counselors in person at One-Stop office on Thurs. afternoons\*Contact to determine eligibility for variety of services for individuals with disabilities.

**Gateway Domestic Violence Center: Cindy Bryant and Cassie Yanez** <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> Serving survivors of domestic violence\*Support groups, Mon & Thurs. 5:00 p.m.- 7:30\*  
**Crisis line: 770 536-5860:**

**Goodwill: Nicole Hardin** <https://goodwillng.org/> Multi-Employer Job Fair on December 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Goodwill Career Center in Oakwood hosts hiring and job fair events – Tues., Wed., and Thur. – Various employers – positions include custodial, forklift, and warehouse workers\*Go to [careerconnector.org](http://careerconnector.org) to view our calendar of events and free computer workshops\*Oakwood Career Center offers free skills training in forklift and welding.

**Ninth District Opportunity: Michael Fisher** <https://www.ndo.org/> Continuing outreach to those experiencing homelessness. This can involve advocacy in seeking legal assistance\*Michael shared a success story about an individual who, because of legal advocacy, has finally received payments owed to him. He and another person from Gainesville's homeless community have since found housing and employment in another area and they are now able to live more independently. **770 532-3191**

**A New Veteran: Andrew Davenport** [ANewVeteran@gmail.com](mailto:ANewVeteran@gmail.com) \*A New Veteran has an education / self-reflection framework to help veterans understand entitlements\*Funding for non-profit organizations is available through Walmart.

**Department of Community Supervision: Porsche Gibony** <https://dcs.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville> 770 519-1227 As community coordinator for The Department of Community Supervision, working in the community to expand capacity with services such as housing, employment, substance abuse, mental health, transportation to ensure identified needs of program participants are met and the risks of committing a new crime are mitigated.

**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, January 30, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room**

##### **Adjournment**

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