

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

### Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., March 26, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

**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)

**Niki McPherson**, OJT Program Coordinator, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [nmcpherson@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:nmcpherson@gmrc.ga.gov)

\***Chris Highland**, Outreach Coordinator, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [chighland@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:chighland@gmrc.ga.gov)

\***Libby Irvin**, Receptionist, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [LIrvin@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:LIrvin@gmrc.ga.gov)

**Levi Koebel**, Regional Operations Mgr., Technical College System of Georgia, [LKoebel@worksourcega.org](mailto:LKoebel@worksourcega.org)

**Angela Pugh**, Youth Mentor, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [APugh@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:APugh@gmrc.ga.gov)

\***Loretta Smith**, Athens Technical College, Career Services Specialist, [losmith@athenstech.edu](mailto:losmith@athenstech.edu)

**Christine Osasu**, Program Director, SCSEP, The Legacy Link, Inc. [cosasu@legacylink.org](mailto:cosasu@legacylink.org),

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

**Jennifer Childers**, Case Worker, 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)

**Andrew Davenport**, Founder, A New Veteran, [ANewVeteran@gmail.com](mailto:ANewVeteran@gmail.com)

**Steve Nissley**, Assistant Director, Good News at Noon, [snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org](mailto:snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org)

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

**Daphne Teisier**, Resident Svs. Coordin., Gainesville Housing Authority, [dteisier@gainesvillehousing.org](mailto:dteisier@gainesvillehousing.org)

**Shameka Harrison**, Housing Navigator/Life Skills Coach Wellroot Family Services, [sharrison@wellroot.org](mailto:sharrison@wellroot.org)

**Kyndra Cohen**, Executive Director, Hall County Family Connections, [hfcfn.director@gmail.com](mailto:hfcfn.director@gmail.com)

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

**Angela Valencia**, Navigator, Goodwill Industries, [avalencia@ging.org](mailto:avalencia@ging.org)

**Andrew Davenport**, Director, A New Veteran, [ANewVeteran@gmail.com](mailto:ANewVeteran@gmail.com)

**Candace Turner**, Case Manager, My Sister's Place, [cturner@my-sisters-place.org](mailto:cturner@my-sisters-place.org)

**Yury Carmona**, Outreach Director, Hall County Library System, [ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org](mailto:ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org)

**Elaine Hortman**, Mentoring Coordinator, Center Point, [elaine@centerpointga.org](mailto:elaine@centerpointga.org)

**Cassie Yanez**, Gateway Domestic Violence Center, [cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org](mailto:cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org)

\***Angela Middleton**, Community Advocate, and Owner, TBird's Touch, [atmiddleton32@gmail.com](mailto:atmiddleton32@gmail.com)

**Jackie Powers**, Executive Director, Good Samaritan Ministries, [Jackie@cbamissions.com](mailto:Jackie@cbamissions.com)

**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, recognized first time attendees, and had everyone introduce themselves.

**Minutes** from the January 30, 2024, 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)

### **Group Discussion concerning common challenges in workforce development, and resources available to meet them.**

- **Transportation:** availability, funding\*Need more routes\*Need weekend services\*Desire for a regional transportation service\*

- **Outreach:** Letting individuals, agencies and organizations know about resources and services available related to workforce development in the region\*Many people are unaware of what is available to them

- **Finding and/or posting jobs in Georgia:** <https://www.worksourcegaportal.com/>

**- Childcare information and training – DECAL Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**  
<https://www.decalscholars.com/> Not enough trained providers available\*Pay scale for childcare workers is low\*Need for care during night shifts\*Difficulty in getting paperwork approved for funding through CAPS\* Will be focusing on this issue at a future meeting.

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

**Partner Updates:**

**WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM)** <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> **Danielle Avelar, Nicki McPherson, Ebony Tucker, Chris Highland, and Libby Irvin** Bootcamp season has begun. Welding in Forsyth and Hall County, Chestatee High School\*Will have an additional teacher in our in-house GED May— August so can bring in more students\*Looking for tutors – especially math– email Ebony Tucker: [etucker@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:etucker@gmrc.ga.gov). \* Niki described opportunities for OJT (On the Job Training) It is an “earn as you learn” program designed to assist individuals in gaining employment, for which they are not yet fully qualified, by providing wage reimbursements to employers who help train new employees. <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/ojt>

**Athens Technical College: Loretta Smith,** <https://www.athenstech.edu/> Has had thirty years of experience with the Department of Labor. Workshops related to employment are available.

**Legacy Link: Christine Osasu** <https://legacylink.org/> Trainees are available for assignment at non-profits and at government agencies for up to 29 hours per week\*For details, please call Christine Osasu at 678-677-8428.

**Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG): Levi Koebel.** <https://www.tcsg.edu/> Please see flyers attached to email concerning upcoming opportunities\*Also, reminder about availability of resource for job search and job posting information online: <https://www.worksourcegaportal.com/> Also, TCSG staff members are on site and/or available by telephone Monday through Friday at the One-Stop office to assist individuals with their job searches.

**My Sister’s Place: Candace Turner,** <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/> Shelter located in Hall County for women and children.

**The Place: Tara Hardwick,** <https://theplacega.org/> The Place continues to offer classes for ESL, GED, and Financial Literacy\*Love & Logic Parenting Classes – Offered in Dawson and in Forsyth County, but open to residents of any area\*Summer Study Halls will be offered in June & July for ESL and GED\*ESL Summer Study Hall will be for the entire family – all ages.

**Salvation Army: Kelly Williams, Jennifer Childers,** <https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/gainesville-corps/> Shelter, food, counseling provided to those in need\*Call 770 531-0135\*Please see flyer attached to this email concerning Gainesville Housing Festival on April 20<sup>th</sup> and participate if possible.

**Gainesville Housing Authority: Griselda Enriguez and Daphne Teisier,** <https://gainesvillehousingauthority.org/> Needs: Snacks for Shine Afterschool program. Drop off at 854 Davis St., Bldg. B, Gainesville, GA 30501\*Resource: Community Centers – available for your programming.

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

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

**Goodwill North Georgia (Oakwood): Angela Valencia and Alex Balla, <https://goodwillng.org/>**Hiring events are held weekly\*Information session about Skills Training Program are held every Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Good Samaritan Ministries: Jackie Powers, <https://www.gsfoodministries.com/>**

Need donations for hygiene/cleaning supplies such as shampoo, shaving cream, razors, Q-tips, toilet paper, diapers (newborn – 5), soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. Also offering Summer Serve Program in June and July with opportunities for students to volunteer during part of their summer vacation.

**Hall County Family Connections: Kyndra Cohen, <https://hall.gafcp.org/>** Mission: To collaborate with individuals and organizations to ensure children and families in our community reach their full potential. Encouraging everyone to participate in the Housing Festival on Sat., April 20<sup>th</sup> at Longwood Park.

**Hall County Library System: Yury Carmona, <https://www.hallcountylibrary.org/>**

The Hall County Library will be offering free lunch this summer for children and teens up to 18 years old on Wednesdays at Blackshear Place in Oakwood and on Thursdays in downtown Gainesville\*Have hotspots, laptops, and launchpads available for two-week checkout with 2 renewals (6 weeks total).

**A New Veteran: Andrew Davenport, [ANewVeteran@gmail.com](mailto:ANewVeteran@gmail.com)** Linking veterans to available resources\*For information about various funding sources for non-profit organizations, contact Andrew.

**Wellroot Family Services: Shameka Harrison, <https://wellroot.org/>** Individuals between the ages of 18-24 who are currently employed but are having issues with housing may be eligible to receive assistance with rent for up to a year\*Contact [sharrison@wellroot.org](mailto:sharrison@wellroot.org) 470 403-3376 or [aspyers@wellroot.org](mailto:aspyers@wellroot.org) to make referrals.

**Angela Middleton: [atmiddleton32@gmail.com](mailto:atmiddleton32@gmail.com)** Community volunteer and local business owner\*Assists and promotes entrepreneurs and new business owners\*Contact Angela for more information: 770 654-1179

**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, May 28, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room**

##### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Please mark your calendars for additional meeting dates for 2024: **Tuesday, July 30, 2024, Tuesday, September 24, 2024, and Tuesday, November 26, 2024.**

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