

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tues., January 30, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

Whitney Blair, Director, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, wblair@gmrc.ga.gov

Danielle Avelar, Adult/Dislocated Worker Program Supv. WorkSource Ga. Mountains, davelar@gmrc.ga.gov

Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, etucker@gmrc.ga.gov

Catherine Allen, Youth Intake Program Assistant, WorkSource Ga. Mountains callen@gmrc.ga.gov

***Laura Brown**, Intake and Eligibility Specialist, WorkSource Ga. Mountains LBrown@gmrc.ga.gov

Tim McDonald, President, Lanier Technical College, tmcdonald@laniertech.edu

Shannon Cole, Dean of Adult Education, Lanier Technical College, scole@laniertech.edu

Jim Watson, Transition Coordinator, Lanier Technical College, jwatson@laniertech.edu

Shelby Ward, Dean of Adult Education, North Georgia Technical College, shelby.ward@northgatech.edu

***Lora Smothers**, Career Plus Manager, Athens Technical College, lsmothers@athenstech.edu

Christine Osasu, Program Director, SCSEP, The Legacy Link, Inc. cosasu@legacylink.org,

Kelly Williams, Case Management Specialist, Salvation Army, kelly.williams@uss.salvationarmy.org

Jennifer Childers, Case Worker, The Salvation Army, jennifer.childers@uss.salvationarmy.org

Tara Hardwick, Workforce and Education Mgr., The Place, tara@theplacega.org

Natalie Smith, Gainesville City Schools, Work Based Learning, GHS, natalie.smith@gcssk12.net

Cindy Bryant, Director of Advocacy, Gateway Domestic Violence Center, cbryantgateway@yahoo.com

Cassie Yanez, Transitional Housing Advocate, Gateway Domes. Viol. Center, cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org

Steve Nissley, Assistant Director, Good News at Noon, snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org

Griselda Enriquez, Resident Svs. Dir., Gainesville Housing Authority, genriquez@gainesvillehousing.org

***Daphne Teisier**, Resident Svs. Coordin., Gainesville Housing Authority, dteisier@gainesvillehousing.org

Shameka Harrison, Housing Navigator/Life Skills Coach Wellroot Family Services, sharrison@wellroot.org

Kyndra Cohen, Hall County Family Connections, hcfcn.director@gmail.com

***Angela Valencia**, Navigator, Goodwill Industries, avalencia@ging.org

Greg Vitek, Partner, Workforce Strategies Group greg@workforcestrategiesgroup.com

Beth Tyner, Client Relations Specialist, Workforce Strategies Group, beth@workforcestrategies.com

Andrew Davenport, Director, A New Veteran, ANewVeteran@gmail.com

***Candace Turner**, Case Manager, My Sister's Place, cturner@my-sisters-place.org

***Laura Sumner**, Family Advocate, Family Promise, Laura@familypromisehall.org

Ann Marie Sheppard, Case Manager, Ga. Mtn. Health & Healthy Kids, asheppard@gamtnhealth.org

Davis Palmour, The Palmour Group, LLC, Lumpkin Co. Family Connection (vol.) davispalmour@yahoo.com

Benjie Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, 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 November 28, 2023, Partners Meeting were emailed previously, and these are posted at www.onestopworkgamtns.org 'Our Partners' Contact Marsha Hopkins: hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Focus Topic: Partner Discussion about Resources, Challenges, and Collaboration Successes:

Danielle Avelar presented an overview of Workforce Development Funding. She described a series of federally funded programs beginning in the 1960s and including the current WIOA, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. She also explained the various parts of WIOA, and the types of training provided. See attachment to email to these minutes for link to her presentation. Link titled: 'Workforce Development'.

A group discussion followed covering various topics related to resources available, challenges encountered, and opportunities existing involving workforce development partners in the Georgia Mountains region.

- **Tracking customer referrals and service delivery:** Unite Us <https://uniteus.com/> Note: If combining with an existing CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system, may incur a cost
- **Transportation:** Ticket to Work (through Ga. Vocational Rehabilitation Agency: <https://gvs.georgia.gov/vocational-rehabilitation/ticket-work> Consider alternate options for transportation: vouchers, utilizing school buses, volunteers, students
- **Finding and/or posting jobs in Georgia:** <https://www.worksourcegaportal.com/>
- **Listing of available services:** <https://www.findhelp.org>
- **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
- **Work options for individuals with special needs***Issue of losing benefits if money is earned*Training funds linked to performance requirements for full time employment following training – Resources: <https://gvs.georgia.gov/> Example of a project in Gainesville – restaurant business operated by individuals with autism: <https://www.puzzlepiecepastries.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, Danielle Avelar, Ebony Tucker, Catherine Allen, and Laura Brown,

Youth Update: Still accepting applications – All programs*One-Stop GED now has support teacher from UNG – Can increase from 10-15 students-Have waitlist currently-As students graduate, we bring in one community referral and one court system referral-Have had 8 graduates walk in Lanier Technical College graduation.

Lanier Technical College: Tim McDonald, Shannon Cole, and Jim Watson, <https://www.laniertech.edu/>
New at Lanier Tech: 5-week CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) Program – 4 days/week M-Th for 4 ½ hrs./day
- Begins Summer Semester*Terri Greene, Hall Campus of LTC was nominated as TCSG Adult Ed Outstanding Teacher of the Year and was selected as a regional finalist*Over 171 GEDs since July 1, 2023.
Looking for an organization to provide a site for 8 volunteers to help with an ESL class (documented and undocumented).

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward, <https://northgatech.edu/>

Athens Technical College: Lora Smothers, <https://www.athenstech.edu/>

Legacy Link: Christine Osasu <https://legacylink.org/> The Legacy Link is seeking limited income seniors, 55 and older, for paid job training assignments at non-profits and government agencies. Interested seniors-call the Intake Line at **770-538-2657***Non-profits and government agencies interested in hosting a senior trainee for up to 29 hours per week-at no cost to the agency- call Christine Osasu at **678-677-8428**.

Workforce Strategies Group: Greg Vitik and Beth Tyner, <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

My Sister's Place: Candace Turner, <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/> Shelter 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/Dawson Co. Feb. 24*Money Masters Financial Literacy Classes start 3/12/2024*Flyers with current information are included as an attachment to this email.

The Palmour Group, LLC: Davis Palmour, <https://wellroot.org/> Offering Parenting Classes.

Salvation Army: Kelly Williams, Jennifer Childers, <https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/gainesville-corps/> Shelter, food, counseling provided to those in need. **Call 770 531-0135.**

Gainesville Housing Authority: Griselda Enriguez and Daphne Teisier, <https://gainesvillehousingauthority.org/> 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*Programs include: Year-round out of school time, Shine: After-School Program*In June, offer a summer learning loss program.

Gainesville City Schools: Natalie Smith, <https://ghsweb.gcssk12.net/> Hiring Fair will be held 2/15 for seniors/juniors*Mock Interviews on 2/21-22-Please let us know if you want to help*Middle School Career Fair on 2/27-28, 3/5-6, and 3/14-15.

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, <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.

Hall County Family Connections: Kyndra Cohen, <https://hall.gafcp.org/> Saturday Mile program – Tutorial program k-8th grade; math and literacy, 2nd & 4th Saturdays*Resiliency Conference – March 23, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Butler Center

A New Veteran: Andrew Davenport, ANewVeteran@gmail.com Partnering with North GA Black Business Alliance to show a documentary about the six triple eight. All female, multi-ethnic military unit that served in WWII. Showing on **March 14th** at North Georgia Community Foundation

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 470 403-3376 or aspwers@wellroot.org to make referrals.

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, March 26, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. One-Stop Training Room

Adjournment

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