

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

### Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on **Tues., January 28, 2025**, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Career Center Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

**\*\*Toni Brown**, Region 2 Manager, Family Connection,

**Danielle Avelar**, Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor, [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)

**Catherine Allen**, Youth Program Assistant, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [callen@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:callen@gmrc.ga.gov)

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

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

**Jim Watson**, Transition Coordinator, Lanier Tech. College, [JWatson@laniertech.edu](mailto:JWatson@laniertech.edu)

**Tracey Sheppard**, IET/WPL Coord., Lanier Tech. College – Adult Education, [tsheppard@laniertech.edu](mailto:tsheppard@laniertech.edu)

**Shelby Ward**, Dean, North GA Technical College – Adult Education, [shelby.ward@northgatech.edu](mailto:shelby.ward@northgatech.edu)

**\*Dr. Kay Chitwood**, IET/Workplace L. Coord., North Ga. Tech. College [leora.Chitwood@northgatech.edu](mailto:leora.Chitwood@northgatech.edu)

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

**Tammy Rauch**, OWD, Technical College System of Georgia, [trauch@worksourcega.org](mailto:trauch@worksourcega.org)

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

**Brooke Samples**, Participant Specialist, SCSEP, Legacy Link, [bsamples@legacylink.org](mailto:bsamples@legacylink.org)

**Donnie Moyd**, Case Manager, GVRA- Ga. Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, [donnie.moyd@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:donnie.moyd@gvs.ga.gov)

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

**Paige Smith**, Hall County Government – Grants Specialist, [psmith@hallcounty.org](mailto:psmith@hallcounty.org)

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

**Michael Fisher**, Street Exit, Ninth District Opportunity, [Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org](mailto:Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org)

**Dr. Davis Palmour**, Parent Educator, The Palmour Group, LLC, [davis.palmour@yahoo.com](mailto:davis.palmour@yahoo.com)

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

**Cindy Bryant**, Advocacy Director, Gateway Domestic Violence Center, [cbryant@gatewaydvcenter.org](mailto:cbryant@gatewaydvcenter.org)

**Jami Singh**, Program Director, Grace Works, [jami.singh@mealsbygrace.org](mailto:jami.singh@mealsbygrace.org)

**Jennifer Reagan**, Content Creator, Low Dough Family, [jen@lowdoughfamily.com](mailto:jen@lowdoughfamily.com)

**Jasmin Cruz-Ruiz**, Case Manager, United Way, Hall County, [jcruz@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:jcruz@unitedwayhallcounty.org)

**Melissa Rulis**, Case Mgr., Compass Center, United Way of Hall Co, [mrulis@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:mrulis@unitedwayhallcounty.org)

**\*Joseph R. Robles**, Asst. Dir, Butler Center/Hall County Family Connection [joseph.robles@gcsskk12.net](mailto:joseph.robles@gcsskk12.net)

**Ann Marie Sheppard**, Case Manager, Georgia Mountains Health [asheppard@gamthealth.org](mailto:asheppard@gamthealth.org)

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

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

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

**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 attending One-Stop Partnership

\*\*Guest speaker

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Benjie Hopkins welcomed everyone, recognized first-time attendees, and had everyone introduce themselves.

**Minutes for all Partner meetings:** posted at website: <https://onestopworkgamtns.org/> under 'Our Partners'

**Focus: Family Connection:** Toni Brown, Region 2 Manager for Family Connection discussed the services and resources offered through Family Connection in our 13-county region. Each county office produces a list of resources. These are available online through

<https://sites.google.com/pioneerresa.org/wraparoundservicestoolkit/asset-maps/ga-family-connection-resources>

[See this link](#) for a copy of Toni Brown's PowerPoint presentation about Family Connection in Region 2

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

**Partner Updates:**

**WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM), Danielle Avelar, Ebony Tucker, Catherine Allen, Chris Highland, Angela Pugh** <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> Call 770 538-2727 for eligibility and intake information. Funding is currently available for training programs including short term bootcamps and other longer-term options.

**North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward, Dr. Kay Chitwood,** <https://northgatech.edu/> Shelby Ward serves as Chair for Habersham County Family Connection. North Georgia Tech has three campuses – Clarkesville, Blairsville, and Currahee. Enrollment remains strong.

**Lanier Technical College: Jim Watson, Tracey Sheppard,** <https://www.laniertech.edu/> Contact Tracey at [Tsheppard@laniertech.edu](mailto:Tsheppard@laniertech.edu) 2,847 students have been served since July 1, 2024. 147 students have received their GEDs since July 1<sup>st</sup> – Top in the State. 162 GED graduates are attending LTC for Spring Semester 2025. Continuing to work with North Georgia Tech and WorkSource Ga. Mtns. to simplify the enrollment process in both programs. Starting a low-level literacy class at the Butler Center, sponsored by the Gainesville Hall County Alliance for Literacy. A new “Volunteer to Career” training opportunity is available. It is designed explicitly for advanced-level English as a Second Language (ESL) learners who want to learn more about the local community and career opportunities. Students who complete the program will receive a Guest Services Gold Tourism Certification of the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute.

**Legacy Link:** <https://legacylink.org/> Alisha Hontz, Brooke Samples. New program offering free tablet for seniors use for home-based training. If an individual becomes employed within six months, that person is allowed to keep the tablet. Also, Legacy Link is seeking seniors, 55+, who want to return to work. Offering paid job training. Seeking non-profits and government agencies to host job trainees for up to 29 hours per week. 770 538-2657.

**Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG): Levi Koebel** <https://www.tcsg.edu/> Resource for jobs information: <https://www.worksourcegaportal.com/> Staff available at One-Stop to assist with job searches Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 404 982-7985.

**WorkSource Georgia (TCSG): Tammy Rauch** [trauch@worksourcega.org](mailto:trauch@worksourcega.org) 404 548-5312. Job Fair scheduled at North Georgia Technical College, 1500 GA-197, Clarkesville, GA 30523 on March 12, 2025, from 1–5 PM

**Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA): Donnie Moyd** 678 887-8718. <https://gvs.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville-vr-office> GVRA staffing available at One-Stop on Thursdays, and by phone other days, 404 780-6777. Also, NPHC, Greek Org.- contact Donnie Moyd.

**Ninth District Opportunity: Mike Fisher** <https://www.ndo.org/web/housing.html> 770 532-3191. Regional assistance for resources for those experiencing homelessness. On Fridays, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., at the corner of Davis and Dorsey Streets in Gainesville, mobile showers and hot meals are provided for people who are unsheltered. Laptop hotspots available for assistance obtaining and protecting documents.

**Gracework: Jami Singh** <https://mealsbygrace.org/> 404 426-4055 “We feed hungry children and their families”. Based in Forsyth and Dawson Counties

**Hall County Library System: Yury Carmona,** <https://www.hallcountylibrary.org/> Many free programs available for people of all ages. Offer newsletters and many outreach services. Have over 50 new hot spots available for check out.

**Hall County Government: Paige Smith** <https://www.hallcounty.org/Directory.aspx?DID=170>  
770 535-8274

**Georgia Mountains Health: Ann Marie Sheppard,** <https://gamtnhealth.org/> Discounted lab days and health talks available periodically. Additional health resources and services provided.

**Low Dough Family: Jennifer Reagan** <https://lowdoughfamily.com/> Weekly low budget meal plans. Creative ideas for meal planning and teaching ways to save money at the grocery store. Contact [Jen@lowdoughfamily.com](mailto:Jen@lowdoughfamily.com) for more information.

**United Way of Hall County, Compass Center: Jasmin Cruz-Ruiz, Melissa Rulis**  
<https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> 770 536-1121 Will be hosting a 5K on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Chicopee Baptist Church. \$30 entry fee. Please email for more information. Have a small supply of baby diapers, wipes, and supplies for incontinence. Interested in information about SSI/SSDI benefits and applications.

**Goodwill North Georgia - Oakwood: Angela Valencia.** <https://goodwilling.org/> Welding class will start February 17<sup>th</sup>. Job Fair and Resource Fair on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – noon. Skills information session every Friday at 11:00 a.m. Call Career Center for more information: 770 538-4209.

**My Sister's Place: Candace Turner** <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/> Shelter for women and children located in Hall County. 770 532-5111.

**Gateway: Cindy Bryant, 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 Samaritan Food Ministry: Jackie Powers,** [jackie@cbmissions.com](mailto:jackie@cbmissions.com) Opportunities to get food: Mondays 5 – 7 p.m., Wednesdays 9 – 11 a.m., Fridays 9 – 11 a.m. Note: Lanier Technical College dental hygiene student is available to take appointments for cleaning and x-rays, a requirement for training program. Call 706 455-9419. For more information concerning this opportunity, contact Jackie Powers.

**Hall County Family Connection: Joseph Robles,** <https://hall.gafcp.org/>. 678 316-6467 Sponsoring many community activities to strengthen families. Examples include – Father and Son Day, Internet Safety, outreach efforts to share resource information with residents throughout the county, and monthly electronic newsletter.

**Center Point: Elaine Hortman** <https://centerpointga.org/> Seeking adult volunteers to become mentors for students in Hall County schools. Training provided. Call 770 535-1050.

**The Palmour Group, LLC: Dr. Davis Palmour,** [davis.palmour@yahoo.com](mailto:davis.palmour@yahoo.com) Parent Educator. Free parenting classes are available throughout the region. Contact Wellroot - 404 836-3492.

**One-Stop Career Center: Benjie and Marsha Hopkins,** <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 Ga Mtns., Lanier Tech. College, North Georgia Tech. College, Athens Tech. College, Technical College System of Georgia, Ga. Voc. Rehabilitation Agency, The Legacy Link, plus other organizations in the region. Benjie or Marsha Hopkins, 470 577-0823 or [hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com](mailto:hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com)

**Announcements: Dates for Upcoming Meetings:** Our next meeting will be Tues., March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

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