

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

### Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on **Tues., March 25, 2025**, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Career Center Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

**\*\*Jay Parrish**, Police Chief, Gainesville Police Department, [jparrish@gainesvillega.gov](mailto:jparrish@gainesvillega.gov)  
**Diane Jackson**, Intake Supervisor, Admin. Asst., WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [djackson@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:djackson@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)  
**Laura Brown**, Intake & Eligibility Specialist, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [lbrown@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:lbrown@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)  
**Levi Koebel**, Regional Operations Mgr., Technical College System of Georgia, [LKoebel@worksourcega.org](mailto:LKoebel@worksourcega.org)  
**Christine Osasu**, Director, SCSEP, Legacy Link, [cosasu@legacylink.org](mailto:cosasu@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)  
**Kathy Amos**, Clean Start & Greater Together Fund, [bantryb@gmail.com](mailto:bantryb@gmail.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)  
**Donna Barrett**, Director, Habersham Co. Family Connection, [dbarrett@habershamschools.com](mailto:dbarrett@habershamschools.com)  
**Angela Middleton**, TBird's Touch, [AngelaMiddleton@tbirdstouch.com](mailto:AngelaMiddleton@tbirdstouch.com)  
**Steven Nissley**, Good News at Noon, [snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org](mailto:snissley@goodnewsatnoon.org)  
**Jennifer Reagan**, Content Creator, Low Dough Family, [jen@lowdoughfamily.com](mailto:jen@lowdoughfamily.com)  
**Melissa Rulis**, Case Mgr., Compass Center, United Way of Hall Co, [mrulis@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:mrulis@unitedwayhallcounty.org)  
**Cassie Yanez**, Gateway, [cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org](mailto:cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org)  
**\*Katie Jordan**, Bridging Hope, [kalia@bridginghopega.org](mailto:kalia@bridginghopega.org)  
**\*Kelly Williams**, DFCS – GA CREW, [Kelly.Williams1@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:Kelly.Williams1@dhs.ga.gov)  
**Yury Carmona**, Outreach Director, Hall County Library System, [ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org](mailto:ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org)  
**\*Amy Ritch**, Library Assistant, Hall County Library, [aritch@hallcountylibrary.org](mailto:aritch@hallcountylibrary.org)  
**Angela Valencia**, Navigator/Recruiter, Goodwill Industries, [avalencia@ging.org](mailto:avalencia@ging.org)  
**Parhis Howard**, United Way of Hall County, [phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:phoward@unitedwayhallcounty.org)  
**Heather Webb**, RING, Rehabilitation Industries of Northeast Georgia, [Heather@Rehabindustries.org](mailto:Heather@Rehabindustries.org)  
**Christina Sannino**, Avita Community Partners, [christina.sannino@avitapartners.org](mailto:christina.sannino@avitapartners.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 attending One-Stop Partnership or person representing a different agency

\*\*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:** Collaboration with the Gainesville Police Department and other law enforcement agencies – working with individuals who are unhoused. Chief Parrish offered his perspective from his 25 years with the Gainesville Police Department concerning the importance of collaboration among groups seeking to assist individuals experiencing homelessness. He talked about the three licensed mental health technicians and the three graduate students from Brenau who work with the city officers. He also discussed the need for low barrier shelters.

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

**Partner Updates:**

**WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM), Diane Jackson, Catherine Allen, Chris Highland, Angela Pugh** <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> Call 770 538-2727 for eligibility and information. Funding available. Open slots in SHIFT (in-house GED). Recruiting for Electro-Mechanical, Refrigeration Academy in June.

**North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward** <https://northgatech.edu/> Adult ed program continues to grow. Building new student activities building and new medical building. ESL is growing in White County.

**Lanier Technical College: Jim Watson, Tracey Sheppard,** <https://www.laniertech.edu/>  
Contact Tracey at [Tsheppard@laniertech.edu](mailto:Tsheppard@laniertech.edu) Renovation of the Forsyth Campus – Building B is progressing on schedule. A multi-use training building is planned for the Hall Campus. This building will be utilized for training by the Fire Science program and the Gainesville Police Department. An Esthetics Lab is being added to the Hall Campus – Kubota Hall. Graduation ceremony was held recently at the Forsyth Conference Center for the IET Volunteer to Career Pathway. Dementia Simulation event 4/8/2025 at Gainesville Campus.

**Legacy Link:** <https://legacylink.org/> Christine Osasu, Brooke Samples. Seeking non-profits and government agencies to host paid job trainees (age 55+) 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.

**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 weekdays, 404 780-6777.

**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 - 1 at the corner of Davis & Dorsey Streets in Gainesville. Mike reported that the one-day count for 2024 of homeless individuals (not counting those living in motels) was 712. This count was up from 67 in 2019 and 367 in 2022.

**Hall County Library System: Yury Carmona, Amy Ritch** <https://www.hallcountylibrary.org/> Summer lunch will be available for youth under 18 on Thurs. during summer at Gainesville downtown library.

**Clean Start & Greater Together Fund: Kathy Amos** Non-profits can make a request for up to \$5,000 for specific needs through the North Georgia Community Foundation <https://www.ngcf.org/>

**North Georgia Black Business Association & TBird's Touch: Angela Middleton.** Programs- Black Women in Leadership Roles & Junior Conservation Ambassador. [AngelaMiddleton@TBirdsTouch.com](mailto:AngelaMiddleton@TBirdsTouch.com)

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

**Low Dough Family: Jennifer Reagan** <https://lowdoughfamily.com/> Weekly low budget meal plans available on Facebook and YouTube. Contact [Jen@lowdoughfamily.com](mailto:Jen@lowdoughfamily.com) for more information.

**United Way of Hall County, Compass Center: Parhis Howard, Melissa Rulis**  
<https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> 770 536-1121 Hosting a 5K on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Chicopee Baptist Church. \$30 entry fee. Fieldale Chicken Spring Sale to benefit United Way. Order by 4/11/2025. Cash only. Call 770 536-3858. Campaign Kickoff – 4/22/2025.

**Goodwill North Georgia - Oakwood:** Angela Valencia. <https://goodwillng.org/> Skills information session every Friday at 11:00 a.m. Call Career Center for more information: **770 538-4209**.

**Good News at Noon:** Steve Nissley. <https://www.goodnewsatnoon.org/> Pathway to Life Program – Commit, Connect, Grow, and Go. Providing food, shelter, and relationship and skill building programs.

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

**Bridging Hope (Formerly Rape Response):** Kalia Jordan <https://www.raperesponse.com/> Fundraiser - Bingo & Bubbly on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gainesville Civic Center. Contact Kalia, [kalia@bridginghopega.org](mailto:kalia@bridginghopega.org) to have an advocate speak at an event or support group. Bridging Hope operations now include the counties of Lumpkin, Hall, Forsyth, Dawson, Habersham, and White. **770 502-7273**

**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@cbamissions.com](mailto:jackie@cbamissions.com) Food Distribution: Mondays 5 – 7 p.m., Wednesdays 9 – 11 a.m., Fridays 9 – 11 a.m. See link below listing local food banks:

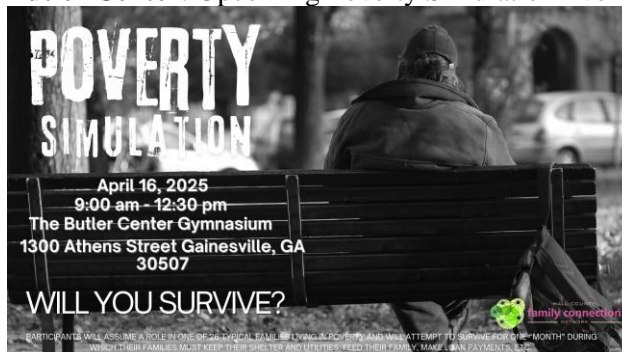


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**Center Point:** Elaine Hortman <https://centerpointga.org/> Seeking adult volunteers to become mentors for students in Hall County schools. Training provided. Call **770 535-1050**.

**Georgia Department of Human Services, Div. of Family and Children Services:** Kelly Williams [Kelly.Williams1@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:Kelly.Williams1@dhs.ga.gov) 404 693-6172. Working with foster youth. Providing skill workshops and on-site work experiences. Individuals who have been in foster care for 6 months may get housing vouchers.

**Butler Center:** Upcoming Poverty Simulation Event – Butler Center, April 16, 2025.



Poverty Simulation  
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**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., May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

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