

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

### Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on **Tues., May 27, 2025**, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Career Center Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

**\*\*Maria Ryder**, Director, Hall Co. Department of Family and Children Services, [Maria.Ryder@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:Maria.Ryder@dhs.ga.gov)  
**Diane Jackson**, Intake Supervisor, Admin. Asst., WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [djackson@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:djackson@gmrc.ga.gov)  
**Danielle Avelar**, Adult/DW Program Supervisor, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, [davelar@gmrc.ga.gov](mailto:davelar@gmrc.ga.gov)  
**Jim Watson**, Transition Coordinator, Lanier Tech. College, [JWatson@laniertech.edu](mailto:JWatson@laniertech.edu)  
**Shelby Ward**, Dean, North GA Technical College – Adult Education, [shelby.ward@northgatech.edu](mailto:shelby.ward@northgatech.edu)  
**\*Sheryl Meskin**, IET/WPL Manager, Adult Ed, Athens Technical College, [smeskin@athenstech.edu](mailto:smeskin@athenstech.edu)  
**Levi Koebel**, Regional Operations Mgr., Technical College System of Georgia, [LKoebel@worksourcega.org](mailto:LKoebel@worksourcega.org)  
**Donnie Moyd**, Case Manager, GVRA- Ga. Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, [donnie.moyd@gvs.ga.gov](mailto:donnie.moyd@gvs.ga.gov)  
**Michael Fisher**, Street Exit, Ninth District Opportunity, [Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org](mailto:Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org)  
**Candace Turner**, Case Manager My Sister's Place, [cturner@my-sisters-place.org](mailto:cturner@my-sisters-place.org)  
**\*Erica McCabe**, Shelter Manager, My Sister's Place, [emccabe@my-sisters-place.org](mailto:emccabe@my-sisters-place.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)  
**Alisha Hontz**, Asst. Dir., SCSEP, Sr. Comm. Svcs. Employment Prog., Legacy Link, [ahontz@legacylink.org](mailto:ahontz@legacylink.org)  
**Jasmin Cruz**, Case Mgr., United Way of Hall County, [jacruz@unitedwayhallcounty.org](mailto:jacruz@unitedwayhallcounty.org)  
**Mayda Santos**, Social Services Director, The Salvation Army, [mayda.santos@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:mayda.santos@uss.salvationarmy.org)  
**Jami Singh**, Director, GraceWorks, [jami.singh@mealsbygrace.org](mailto:jami.singh@mealsbygrace.org)  
**Tammy Rauch**, Business Services Recruiter, WorkSource Georgia, [trauch@worksourcega.org](mailto:trauch@worksourcega.org)  
**\*Lydia Johnson**, Agency Services Dept., Georgia Mountain Food Bank, [Lydia@gmfb.org](mailto:Lydia@gmfb.org)  
**Kyndra Cohen**, Director, The Butler Center and Hall Co. Family Connection, [hccn.director@gmail.com](mailto:hccn.director@gmail.com)  
**Kalia 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)  
**Dr. Davis Palmour**, Owner, The Palmour Group, LLC, [davispalmour@yahoo.com](mailto:davispalmour@yahoo.com)  
**Yury Carmona**, Outreach Director, Hall County Library System, [ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org](mailto:ycarmona@hallcountylibrary.org)  
**Janine Cline**, Hall County Library Sys., Adult Prog. Dir. Hall Co. Library Sys. [jcline@hallcountylibrary.org](mailto:jcline@hallcountylibrary.org)  
**\*Cheryl Taylor**, Housing Navigator, Wellroot Family Services, [ctaylor@wellroot.org](mailto:ctaylor@wellroot.org)  
**Shameka Harrison**, Housing Case Manager, Wellroot Family Services, [sharrison@wellroot.org](mailto:sharrison@wellroot.org)  
**Jacob Buffington**, Regional Mgr. Workforce Services, Goodwill Industries, [JBuffington@ging.org](mailto:JBuffington@ging.org)  
**Ann Marie Sheppard**, Case Manager, Georgia Mountains Health, [asheppar@gamtnhealth.org](mailto:asheppar@gamtnhealth.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 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:** **Marie Ryder**, Director, Hall County Family and Children Services presented a program about the Agency's services. Link for PowerPoint Presentation:



DFCS- CW and OFI  
Presentation.pptx

Ms. Ryder explained several common misconceptions concerning DFCS and its services. The website for information is <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/services> Programs of SNAP, TANF, Child Support Services and Medicaid are handled through their offices.

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

**Partner Updates:**

**WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM), Danielle Avelar, Diane Jackson,** <https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> Call 770 538-2727 for eligibility and information. Applications are open for training. Digitizing the application process. Use [www.worksourcegaportal.com](http://www.worksourcegaportal.com) for access to employment

**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,** <https://www.laniertech.edu/> #2 overall enrollment 3612 students, #1 in State of GA - 265 GEDs, #1 in State of GA- 185 IETs, Summer Semester- 3,000 students - began 5/19

**Athens Technical College: Sheryl Meskine** <https://www.athenstech.edu/> Adult Education, Hope Scholarship funded. GED/High School Equivalency, ESL/ELL classes, integrated Edu. Trainings, Career Plus

**Legacy Link:** <https://legacylink.org/> Alisha Hontz. Staff position open. 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. Also, **Tammy Rauch**, Business Services Recruiter, Business Services Unit (Title III) Office of Workforce Development C: 404.548.5312 [trauch@tcsg.edu](mailto:trauch@tcsg.edu)

**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. 770 538-2727 (One-Stop Intake Line)

**Ninth District Opportunity: Mike Fisher** <https://www.ndo.org/web/housing.html> 770 532-3191. Fridays, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at 881 Dorsey Street in Gainesville, volunteers assist with offering services for those experiencing homelessness. A building will now shelter those involved.

**Hall County Library System: Yury Carmona, Janine Cline** <https://www.hallcountylibrary.org/> Summer lunch will be available for youth under 18 on Thurs. during summer at Gainesville downtown library through July 11<sup>th</sup>. Blackshear – Wed. 11 a.m., Murrayville Fri. 11 a.m. Free Summer Reading program – all ages.

**\*Georgia Mountain Food Bank: Lydia Johnson** <https://www.gamountainfoodbank.org/> (GMFB's) mission is to address hunger, health and quality of life by serving those in need.

**The Salvation Army: Mayda Santos,** <https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/gainesville-corps> Residential camp opportunities are available July 7-12 for ages 7-12 for The Salvation Army camp in Jasper, GA. assistance available for past due power, gas, and water. Food assistance – Tuesday – 9-11 a.m., Wednesday – 9-11 a.m., and Thursday – 1-3 p.m. Hiring for two Housing Monitors/Security Guards. Overnight shelter w/ separate dorms for men and women, and several apartments for families. 770 534-7589.

**Habersham Family Connection, Jennifer Reagan** <https://habersham.gafcp.org/> HCFC brings community partners together to develop, implement, and evaluate plans that address the serious challenges faced by our children and families. Donna Barrett, Exec. Dir. Of HCFC 706 778-0823 <https://lowdoughfamily.com/> Eat Well, Spend Less: Family Focused Money-Saving and Reducing Food Waste.

**United Way of Hall County, Compass Center:** Melissa Rulis, Jasmin Cruz Walk-in hours every Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Check-in time ends at 11:00 a.m. <https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> 770 536-1121

**Goodwill North Georgia - Oakwood:** Jacob Buffington <https://goodwillng.org/> Skills information session every Friday at 11:00 a.m. Job Fair Wednesdays – 10 a.m. – noon and 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. 770 538-4209.

**My Sister's Place:** Candace Turner, Erica McCabe <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/> [kalia@bridginghopega.org](mailto:kalia@bridginghopega.org) to have an advocate speak at an event or support group. Bridging Hope now includes the counties of Lumpkin, Hall, Forsyth, Dawson, Habersham, and White. 770 502-7273

**Georgia Mountains Health:** Ann Marie Sheppard <https://gamtnhealth.org/> Clinic to prevent blindness held in June. Back to School Bash on 7/12/2025. 706 973-3217.

**Georgia Department of Human Services, Div. of Family and Children Services:** Kelly Williams 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. 404 693-6172

**Wellroot Family Services:** Shameka Harrison, Cheryl Taylor <https://wellroot.org/> 604 Washington Street NW, A-6 Gainesville, GA 30501 Programs to keep families together when possible, provide short-term foster families, and offer housing and wrap-around support to families and transition-age youth. (770) 531-3063

**Graceworks:** Jami Singh <https://ministriesofgrace.com/graceworks/> Transforming lives with community resources, job training, and financial literacy courses so those in need can become self-sufficient. Invitation for Grand Opening for Graceworks on **June 24<sup>th</sup>** from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at 1248 Hwy. 29, Cumming, GA 30041.

**Hall County Family Connection, Butler Center:** Kyndra Cohen <https://hall.gafcp.org/> HCFC collaborates with individuals and organizations to ensure children and families in our community reach their full potential. On **July 12<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00 -2:00 at Butler Center, holding special event for students and families offering food, bookbags, gift cards. Donations requested. Also, hosting Poverty Simulation at Butler Center on **July 16<sup>th</sup>** 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Volunteers needed. 678 316-6467

**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 on **Tues., July 29<sup>h</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at One-Stop Training Room, 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Suite 3, Gainesville, GA**

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

**Please note: Additional meetings scheduled for 2025 are: Tues., Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, and Tues., Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.**