

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on **Tues., July 29, 2025**, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Career Center Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

****Levi Koebel**, Regional Operations Mgr., Technical College System of Georgia, LKoebel@worksourcega.org

**** Tammy Rauch**, Reg. Coord., Business Services Office of Workforce Dev. trauch@worksourcega.org

Danielle Avelar, Adult/DW Program Supervisor, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, davelar@gmrc.ga.gov

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

Sonia Magana, Receptionist, WorkSource GA Mountains, smagana@ga.gov

Shelby Ward, Dean, North GA Technical College – Adult Education, shelby.ward@northgatech.edu

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

Donnie Moyd, Case Manager, GVRA- Ga. Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, donnie.moyd@gvs.ga.gov

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

Shelley Logan, Partner, Ga. Mtns. Works, Workforce Strat. Grp shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com

Michael Fisher, Street Exit, Ninth District Opportunity, Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org

Erica McCabe, Shelter Manager, My Sister's Place, emccabe@my-sisters-place.org

Melissa Rulis, Case Mgr., Compass Center, United Way of Hall Co, mrulis@unitedwayhallcounty.org

Jasmin Cruz, Case Mgr., United Way of Hall County, jcruz@unitedwayhallcounty.org

Cassie Yanez, Gateway, cyanez@gatewaydvcenter.org

Paige Smith, Grants Specialist, Hall County Board of Commissioners, psmith@hallcounty.org

Kathy Amos, Greater Together, bantryb@gmail.com

Lydia Johnson, Agency Services Coordinator., Georgia Mountain Food Bank, Lydia@gmfb.org

Kalia Jordan, Advocacy Manager, Bridging Hope, kalia@bridginghopega.org

Natalie Smith, CTAE & Workforce Development, Gainesville City Schools, natalie.smith@gcssk12.net

***Larry Cheesman**, Coalition to Reduce Homelessness in Gainesville, Lcheesman3@gmail.com

***Ann Marie Young**, Founder/Exec. Dir., 360 Love, Healing & Abundance, annmarieyoung26@gmail.com

Angela Middleton, North GA Black Business Alliance, atmiddleton32@gmail.com

Cheryl Taylor, Housing Navigator, Wellroot Family Services, ctaylor@wellroot.org

Shameka Harrison, Housing Case Manager, Wellroot Family Services, sharrison@wellroot.org

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

Ally De LaCruz, Community Resource Coord. District Opportunity, ally.delacruz@ndocsbg.org

Morgan Southers, Community Resource Coord, Ninth District Opportunity, morgan.southers@ndocsbg.org

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

Marsha Hopkins, One-Stop Operator, Hopkins Associates, 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: TCSG – Technical College System of Georgia – Employment Services

Speakers: Levi Koebel, Regional Operations Mgr, Technical College System of Georgia and Tammy Rauch, Regional Coordinator, Business Services Office of Workforce Development, TCSG

Levi and Tammy discussed a wide range of employment services and resources available through TCSG. Levi presented a PowerPoint on the topic. See this link for copy of PowerPoint:

<https://tinyurl.com/32yh23t>

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

Partner Updates:

WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM), Danielle Avelar, Sonia Magana, Ebony Tucker
<https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm> Call 770 538-2727 for eligibility and information. Use www.worksourcegaportal.com for access to employment. **Youth update** - Currently on hold for applications. Only taking in a small amount of GED applicants for SHIFT – inhouse GED program. At beginning of summer, we partnered with TCSG, Stephens Co. High School, NGTC, Stephens Co. Development Authority, and local employers for a Manufacturing Training program. Four students completed and gained employment. New worksite with Newtown Florist Club and North GA Black Business Alliance.

North Georgia Technical College: Shelby Ward <https://northgatech.edu/> Adult Ed program continues to grow. Fall enrollment is strong.

Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole, <https://www.laniertech.edu/> 770 538-2657. GED Graduation is Tuesday, August 26th at the Ramsey Conference Center at the Hall Campus. Come early to find parking! Classes have resumed at Goodwill and the Butler Center. Working on a partnership with Boys and Girls Club of Lanier to offer some onsite classes. Will probably hire an instructor to teach the Spanish GED prep class.

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. **Tammy Rauch** www.worksourcegaportal.com and www.worksourcegeorgia.com (All resources) Technical Colleges, Economic Development, Customized Trainings, Diploma Degree – High Demand Jobs

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

Legacy Link: <https://legacylink.org/> **Christine Osasu.** Seeking non-profits and government agencies to host paid job trainees (age 55+) for up to 29 hours per week. 770 538-2657.

Wellroot Family Services: Shameka Harrison, Cheryl Taylor <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

Ninth District Opportunity: Mike Fisher, Ally De La Cruz, Morgan Southers, 770 532-3191
<https://www.ndo.org/web/housing.html> <https://www.ndo.org/> Providing a broad range of services designed to assist low-income families to establish self-sufficiency and economic stability. All services are outcome orientated based on local community needs.

***Georgia Mountain Food Bank: Lydia Johnson. 770 534-4111** <https://Georgiamountainfoodbank.org>
The annual Empty Bowl luncheon will be held on Sept. 19, 2025 at Lanier Technical College in Gainesville.

Workforce Strategies Group: Shelley Logan. Georgia Mountains Works completed a 6-part Apprenticeship Navigator Webinar Series to help manufacturers implement Registered Apprenticeships into their workforce development pipeline. It is on YouTube in 15-minute segments. Workforce Strategies Group offers training. Shelley is offering to facilitate a “Wheel of Life” workshop for an hour or less for non-profits or other groups, free of charge. For information, contact Shelley: shelley@workforcestrategiesgroup.com

United Way of Hall County, Compass Center: Melissa Rulis, Jasmin Cruz, 770 536-1121.
<https://www.unitedwayhallcounty.org/> Walk-in hours every Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Check-in time ends at 11:00 a.m. Ebank are very 1st and 3rd Thursday, during walk-in hours, two bankers from Pinnacle onsite offering free financial education to clients. Clients do not have to have an account with Pinnacle to receive assistance. Compass Center is still offering free diapers (for children and adults) to those in need.

Gainesville City Schools: Natalie Smith, <https://ghsweb.gcscsk12.net/> Linking students to career paths and work based learning.

North Georgia Black Business Alliance: Angela Middleton. Atmiddleton32@gmail.com Provides business support, networking opportunities, economic empowerment program for the people of North Georgia.

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: Erica McCabe, <https://www.my-sisters-place.org/> Shelter for women and children located in Hall County. 770 532-5111.

Gateway: Cassie Yanez: <https://www.gatewaydvcenter.org/> Serving survivors of domestic violence. Support groups – Mon.& Thurs. 5:00 - 7:30. Crisis line: 770 536-5860

Bridging Hope (Formerly Rape Response): Kalia Jordan <https://www.raperesponse.com/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

360 Love, Healing & Abundance: Ann Marie Young. Annmarieyoung21@gmail.com A new, locally based, non-profit organization. “Transforming lives and strengthening communities by uniting seniors, at risk youth, and animals to create healing connections”

Coalition to Reduce Homelessness in Gainesville: Larry Cheesman, Lcheesman3@gmail.com New organization with goal of coordinating and improving services to reduce homelessness locally.

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

Discussion: The group discussed ideas for topics for future Partner Meetings. Please continue to offer input regarding topics relevant to workforce development that could be useful to our members.

Announcements:

Congratulations to Michael Fisher, Ninth District! For his many years of tireless efforts working with individuals experiencing homelessness, Michael recently received the Mattie Jackson Advocacy Award from the Ga. Community Action Association – A statewide coalition agencies working to fight poverty.

Congratulations to Donnie Moyd, GVRA, on her retirement on July 31st. Thank you, Donnie, for your years of faithful service to Vocational Rehabilitation clients. We will miss you!

Congratulations to Cindy Bryant, Gateway on her upcoming retirement on September 30, 2025. Thank you to Cindy for her dedication in serving so many women and their families through the years. We wish you well!

Family Promise of Hall Co. has a full-time opening for a Family Advocate position. Mon.-Fri. 11-7. Contact Lindsey McCamy. Lindsey@familypromisehall.org

Our next meeting will be Tues., September 30th at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Training Room.

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

Please note: Our last meeting for 2025 is scheduled for: Tues., Nov. 18th. (Please note, this is one week prior to Thanksgiving week.)