

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on **Tues., July 28, 2026**, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Career Center Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

****Shannon Casas**, Wellroot Family Resiliency Manager, SCASAS@wellroot.org

Danielle Avelar, WorkSource Ga. Mountains, davelar@gmrc.ga.gov

Ginger Little, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, glittle@gmrc.ga.gov

Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College, scole@laniertech.edu

Tracey Sheppard, Lanier Technical College, tsheppard@laniertech.edu

Robin Kamara, Lanier Technical College, rkamara@laniertech.edu

***Jim Watson**, North Georgia Technical College, Jim.Watson@NorthGATech.edu

***Stacey Madden**, North Georgia Technical College, Stacey.Madden@NorthGATech.edu

***Shelby Ward**, Georgia Foothills United Way, shelby.ward@gafoothillsunitedway.org

***Lateefah Mathews**, Ninth District Opportunity, Lateefah.Mathews@ndocsbg.org

Tammy Rauch, WorkSource Georgia, trauch@worksourcega.org

Angela Mackey, Vocational Rehabilitation, Angela.Mackey@gvs.ga.gov

***Tia Davila**, Senior Community Services Employment Program, Legacy Link, tdavila@legacylink.org

Maria Ryder, Hall County DFCS, Maria Ryder@dhs.ga.gov

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

Rebekka Haley, My Sister's Place, rhaley@my-sisters-place.org

Ann Marie Young, 360 Love, Healing & Abundance annmarie@360LoveHealingandAbundance.org

Dr. Tammy Howard, Gainesville Housing Authority, Tthoward@gainesvillehousing.org

***Elizabeth Johnson**, Bridging Hope, elizabeth@bridginghopega.org

Vividiana Contreras-Torres, Bridging Hope, vividiana@bridginghopega.org

Kelly Williams, Youth Support Services, DFCS, Kelly.Williams@dhs.ga.gov

Jacob Buffington, Goodwill of North Georgia, jbuffington@ging.org

***Amarylin Adamson**, Goodwill of North Georgia, aadamson@ging.org

Andrew Davenport, A New Veteran, Andrew@ANewVeteran.org

***Andrew Bearden**, Do Good Gainesville, andrewb@dogoodgainesville.org

Alondra Hernandez, Family Promise of Hall County, alondra@familypromisehall.org

Liliana Robles, Family Promise, Liliana@familypromise.org

Mercedes Weaver, Habersham Family Connection, HFCCCoordinator@habershamschools.com

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

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

*New participant attending and/or person representing an agency for the first time at 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: Wellroot. <https://wellroot.org/> **Shannon Casas**, Wellroot Family Resiliency Manager, presented an informative program about the services of Wellroot. (See email attachment for copy of her presentation.)

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

Partner Information:

WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM), Danielle Avelar, Ginger Little,

<https://www.gmrc.ga.gov/wsgm>. Our goal is to build a world-class workforce that enables individuals to achieve their highest potential; ensures employers have the skilled workers they need to compete effectively in the global economy; and to capitalize on the untapped potential of underemployed and dislocated workers, youth, and other job seekers with special needs. **770 538-2727** for eligibility and intake information.

Lanier Technical College: Shannon Cole, Tracey Sheppard, Robin Kamara, <https://www.laniertech.edu/> Meeting the workforce development needs of the area by providing technical and adult education to support the economic development and well-being of the people, communities, and companies of Banks, Barrow, Dawson, Forsyth, Hall, Jackson, and Lumpkin counties. LTC prepares people for successful work.

North Georgia Technical College: Stacey Madden, Jim Watson, <https://northgatech.edu/> North Georgia Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, provides affordable, relevant education and technical training to support community workforce development. NGTC's vision is to elevate the quality of life for the individuals and communities served. Collaboration, integrity, respect, and success are valued. Campuses in Clarkesville, Blairsville, and Currahee.

Legacy Link: Tia Davila, <https://legacylink.org/> 770 538-2657 The Legacy Link Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a federally funded training initiative that helps limited-income adults aged 55 and older re-enter the workforce through paid community service assignments at local non-profit and government agencies.

Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG): Tammy Rauch <https://www.tcsg.edu/> Resource for jobs information: <https://www.worksourcegportal.com/> Staff available at One-Stop to assist with job searches. 770 538-2727

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA): Angela Mackey, <https://gvs.georgia.gov/locations/gainesville-vr-office> GVRA staffing available at One-Stop on Thursdays. 770 538-2727

Georgia Foothills United Way: Shelby Ward, <https://gafoothillsunitedway.org/> A non-profit serving Habersham, Stephens, and Rabun Counties. Organization raises and distributes funds to meet community needs and to advance the common good by creating opportunities for all. Focus is on education, income, and health.

Ninth District Opportunity: Lateefah Mathews, <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. 770 532-3191

Gainesville Housing Authority: Dr. Tammy Howard, <https://gainesvillehousing.org/> Opening doors to affordable housing.

Bridging Hope: Elizabeth Johnson, <https://www.bridginghopega.org/> Bridging Hope serves as a system of support, education, and advocacy, providing services to the community and to survivors of sexual assault, ages 13 and older, while safeguarding the dignity of each person served. 678 928-4209 or crisis line: 770 503-7273

Family Promise: Liliana Robles, Alejandra Luis-Cruz, <https://www.familypromisehall.org/> 770 535-0786, ext. 201 or Cell: 3910 920-8492. "Transforming the lives of families experiencing homelessness" Now enrolling for Daycare. (See attachment to email for daycare flyer) 678 928-4209 or crisis line: 770 503-727

My Sister's Place: Erica McCabe, Rebekka Haley, <https://my-sisters-place.org/> A ministry for single women and mothers with children who are experiencing homelessness in Northeast Georgia. 770 532-5111

Do Good Gainesville, Andrew Bearden, <https://www.dogoodgainesville.org/> Connecting people to purpose and to each other. Serving side by side and revealing how much we already have in common. A community that serves together is one where more people feel seen, valued, and known. 678 400-7366

Goodwill of North Georgia, Jacob Buffington, Amarylin Adamson, <https://goodwillng.org/> Our mission is to put people to work. How? We use dollars generated through our stores and monetary donations to operate 14 career centers that provide free job training and placement programs. Our donors, shoppers, and partners make this all possible. Join us in helping support local job seekers improve their lives. **770 538-4209 (Career Center, Oakwood)**

Hall County Department of Family and Children Services: Maria Ryder, <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/locations/hall-county> The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) investigates reports of child abuse; finds foster and adoptive homes for abused and neglected children; issues SNAP, Medicaid, and TANF; helps out-of-work parents get back on their feet; and provides numerous support services and innovative programs to help families in need. **770 532-5298**

Division of Family and children Services, Youth Support: Kelly Williams, GA Department of Human Services, <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/> Support services for foster youth. **404 693-6172**

A New Veteran: Andrew Davenport, <https://www.anewveteran.org/> Real Talk. Real Support. Redefining What It Means to Be a Veteran.

360 Love Healing & Abundance: Ann Marie Young, <https://360lovehealingandabundance.org/> 360 Love Offers A Healing Circle for Youth, Seniors & Animals Bridging generations and animals in relationships grounded in meaning to heal hearts, build resilience, and strengthen communities. **980 253-3136**

Habersham Family Connection, Mercedes Weaver: <https://habersham.gafcp.org/> Habersham County Family Connection endeavors to bring community partners together to develop, implement, and evaluate plans that address the serious challenges faced by our children and families. Working with community partners, we have tackled intractable problems that challenge our families like child abuse and neglect, school dropout, and physical and mental health disparities. **706 491-3541 (Text only, please)**

One-Stop Career Center: <http://onestopworkgamtns.org/> 1856 Thompson Br. Rd., Gainesville 8:00 am until 6:00 pm Mon-Fri, One-Stop Partners and Services, including WorkSource Ga Mtns., Lanier Tech. College, North Georgia Tech. College, Athens Tech. College, Technical College System of Georgia, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, The Legacy Link, plus other organizations in the region. **CENTRAL NUMBER FOR INTAKE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL ONE-STOP PARTNERS: 770 538-2727**

Hopkins Associated, One Stop Operator, Benjie or Marsha Hopkins, 470 577-0823 or hopkinsassociates77@gmail.com

Upcoming Meetings: Next meeting will be Tues., September 29th, 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

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