GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING

Minutes

Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on **Tues., September 29, 2026**, at 11:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Career Center Training Room, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA 30501. Participants were:

****Kyndra Cohen**, Hall County Family Connection, hcfcn.director@gmail.com
Loretta Smith, Athens Technical College, losmith@athenstech.edu
Tammy Rauch, WorkSource Georgia, trauch@worksourcega.org
Angela Mackey, Vocational Rehabilitation, Angela.Mackey@gvs.ga.gov
Chris Highland, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, chighland@gmrc.ga.gov
Juston Kearby, WorkSource Georgia Mountains, jkearby@gmrc.ga.gov
Jim Watson, North Georgia Technical College, Jim.Watson@NorthGATech.edu
Lisa Hamby, The Legacy Link, LHamby@legacylink.org
Shannon Casas, Wellroot Family Resiliency Manager, SCASAS@wellroot.org
Dr. Davis Palmour, The Palmour Group, davispalmour@yahoo.com
***Cassie Yanez**, Rahab's Rope, cyanez@RahabsRope.com
***Carol Cheesman**, Coalition to Reduce Homelessness, ccheesman3@gmail.com
Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity, Street Exit, Michael.Fisher@ndocsbg.org
***Ansley Norman**, Hall County Library System, anorman@hallcountylibrary.org
Andrew Bearden, Do Good Gainesville, andrewb@dogoodgainesville.org
Natalie Smith, Gainesville City Schools, Natalie.smith@gcssk12.net
***Natalie Lunsford**, Bridging Hope, natalie@bridginghopega.org
Elizabeth Johnson, Bridging Hope, elizabeth@bridginghopega.org
Vividiana Contraras-Torres, Bridging Hope, vividiana@bridginghopega.org
Kelly Williams, Youth Support Services, DFCS, Kelly.Williams@dhs.ga.gov
Maria Ryder, Hall County Family and Children Services, MariaRyder@dhs.ga.gov
Alondra Hernandez, Family Promise of Hall County, alondra@familypromisehall.org
Liliana Robles, Family Promise of Hall County, Liliana@familypromise.org
Lateefah Mathews, Ninth District Opportunity, Lateefah.Mathews@ndocsbg.org
***Kerry Lowe**, Ninth District Opportunity, kerry.lowe@ndocbg.org
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: Hall County Family Connection Kyndra Cohen, Executive Director https://hall.gafcp.org/

Kyndra offered a PowerPoint presentation about the services and programs of Hall County Family Connection. Kyndra also serves as Director for the HUB, a centralized student success center on the Gainesville High School campus serving Gainesville City and Hall County families A copy of her presentation is attached to the email for these minutes. The email also includes a link to view a copy of "The Bridge", a monthly digital newsletter with valuable information about community organizations and their events.

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

Partner Information:

WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM), Chris Highland, Juston Kearby

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.

North Georgia Technical College: 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. Vision is to elevate the quality of life for those served. Collaboration, integrity, respect, and success are valued. Campuses in Clarkesville, Blairsville, and Currahee.

Athens Technical College: **Loretta Smith** https://www.athenstech.edu/ Adult Education, Hope Scholarship funded. GED/High School Equivalency, ESL/ELL classes, integrated Edu. Training, and Career Plus.

Legacy Link: Lisa Hamby, https://legacylink.org/ 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. **770 538-2657**

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

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

Ninth District Opportunity: Michael Fisher, Lateefah Mathews, Kerry Lowe, 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**

Bridging Hope: Elizabeth Johnson, **Vividiana Contraras-Torres**, **Natalie Lunsford**, 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**

Hall County Family Connection and The HUB: Kyndra Cohen, https://hall.gafcp.org/ hosts a bi-monthly collaborative meeting at which local agencies and nonprofits connect and collaborate to support children and families in Hall County**. 678 316-6467**

Wellroot Family Services: Shannon Casas. https://wellroot.org/ 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**

Gainesville City Schools: Natalie Smith, https://www.gcssk12.net/ **CTAE, Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education.** Providing elective courses in a specific career pathway to prepare students for post-secondary education (baccalaureate or associate degrees), industry-recognized credentials, apprenticeships, the military, or direct entry into the workforce. **770 536-4441**

Hall County Library: Ansley Norman, https://www.hallcountylibrary.org/ Multiple branch locations throughout the county **p**rovide a variety of public services such as loans of books, notebooks, assistance with copying IDs, reading programs for children, meeting rooms, digital learning, and job search resources. **770 532-3311**

Family Promise: Liliana Robles, Alondra Hernandez, https://www.familypromisehall.org/ "Transforming the lives of families experiencing homelessness"**770 535-0786**, **ext. 201**

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**

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**

The Palmour Group, LLC: Dr. Davis Palmour, https://www.thepalmourgroup.com/
Wide range of counseling services with focus on personal growth and development for clients. Includes programs for parent education. **706 455-8421**

Coalition to Reduce Homelessness: Carol Cheesman The coalition is a collaborative network in Gainesville and Hall County, Georgia, that unites local non-profits, faith-based groups, law enforcement, and city and county leaders to address homelessness. The organization seeks to coordinate care, triage resources, and avoid duplicate efforts related to homelessness. **770 845-6627**

Rahab's Rope: Cassie Yanez, https://rahabsrope.com/ Provides food, shelter, and protection; a place of education and training; and a place where the whole person is ministered to spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and financially. It is a place of hope, a place of transformed lives. Ultimate goal is to end human trafficking and restore hope, purpose, and dignity to the lives of women and children in South Asia.

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

Upcoming Meetings: Next meeting will be **Tues., November 17, 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.** (Please note, this date reflects an adjustment from our usual "last Tuesday of 'odd months' schedule to accommodate Thanksgiving Week)**.**

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