

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNER MEETING

Georgia Mountains One-Stop
Chattahoochee Center
1856 Thompson Bridge Rd.
Gainesville, GA 30501

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on August 24, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held at the One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA. The following were present:

Rhonda McLean, Freudenberg-NOK
Pat Freeman, Legacy Link, Inc.
Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity
Deborah Morris, GVRA
Scott Crain, Hall County Schools
Diana Eddins-Wiggin, Ga. Mtns. Regional Commission, WorkSource Georgia Mountains,
Sonia Zavala, GMRC – GMRC, WorkSource
Shameka Harrison – GMRC, WorkSource, Youth
Tim McDonald, Lanier Technical College
Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College
Brenda Thomas, Lanier Technical College
Jessica Williams, WIOA
Angela Pugh, WIOA
Ebony Tucker, WIOA
Maria Calkins, Gainesville Housing Authority
Mark A. Winters, GDOL, Gainesville Career Center
Greg Pitts, GDOL, Toccoa Career Center
Beth Williams, Service Area Manager, Vocational Rehabilitation
Becky Waters, GDOL, Habersham Career Center
Heather Feldman, GMRC
Billy Boyd, Habersham Co. United Way
Rita Holmes, Mountain Education Charter High School
Beth Williams, GVRA/VR Program
Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Dr. Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates

Welcome and Introductions

Benjie Hopkins, Operator for the Georgia Mountains One-Stop Center, welcomed everyone, and had each person give a brief introduction. He explained that this meeting was being held jointly with the Youth Committee of the Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Board. He then asked Jessica Williams, Youth Program Supervisor, to proceed with the Youth Committee Meeting.

Youth Committee

New Business:

High Demand Career Initiative

Jessica announced that a grant is being sought from the Georgia Department of Economic Development for funding a High Demand Career Initiative in the Georgia Mountains area. Diana Eddins-Wiggin requested support from all in attendance. She distributed letters asking for pledges for a period of two years for one hour per month of donated time from each organization. This designated time would be used to develop career pathways and to advance partnerships with local industry in the Georgia Mountains region. The donated time would be used as in-kind support for the WorkSource Georgia Mountains HDCI Grant. Diana asked that the letters of support be completed and returned to her as soon as possible.

New Out of School Initiative

(Based on Frankenstein Project)

Shameka Harrison, Program Assistant, provided a description of a youth program involving training youth in marine-related repairs and maintenance using donated boats. The training will be conducted by a shop instructor from Lanier Technical College.

Transition to Community

Angela Pugh, ILM, described a program for youth and young adults who are currently on probation or under court supervision. This program provides services to assist these individuals as they transition back into community life. It is proving to be successful.

Program Updates

Danielle Avelar, Case Manager, reported that, to date, 61 program participants have a completed GEDs, and one participant has successfully completed a Commercial Truck Driving course.

Shameka Harrison and Sonia Zavala, Intake Assistant, described Success Programs provided to qualified applicants in certificate programs. Participants receive full tuition assistance, paid travel expenses and childcare costs, paid internships with local employers, job placement assistance, and Georgia Best certification.

Old Business

Ebony Tucker, Senior Case Manager, described a Youth Conference held in July. The conference included sessions on: character building, development of resumes, interviewing skills, and personal safety. Sponsors provided door prizes for recipients.

Rhonda McLean, Freudenberg-NOK, noted the importance of matching job application language with that of job descriptions. She said this is essential with the prevalence of the use of computers in scanning and selecting resumes for review for specific jobs.

Minutes

The minutes of the Youth Committee meeting of May 2017 were approved as presented.

Future Meetings

The next Youth Committee meeting will be held on October 19, 2017 at Freudenberg-NOK (Cleveland, GA)

Adjournment of Youth Committee Meeting

Although the Youth Committee was formally adjourned, most members chose to stay for the One-Stop Partner Meeting.

Benjie Hopkins resumed the One-Stop Partner Meeting.

Old Business

Benjie gave an update on the office space. He reported that several partners are now in place, and they have a regular work schedule at the One-Stop Center. The Department of Labor has had their furniture delivered, and they will have staff present soon. A comprehensive chart is being developed to indicate the work schedule for all partners.

The front lobby has been equipped with furniture and computers. Monitors run announcements and information related to available services. North Georgia Technical College and Lanier Technical College are preparing photographs, partner logo signage, and other items to use around the One-Stop building.

Benjie reported that a customer navigation questionnaire is being refined to reflect input from all partners.

This is the form drafted by Ebony Tucker from one being used for youth program intake. It was distributed and discussed at the last partner meeting. Benjie expressed appreciation to Ebony for her work on this document.

Additional cross-training opportunities involving all partners are being planned for future meetings. Each will involve a focus on the services of one partner or on a specific aspect of service.

An Open House for the One-Stop Center will be held in the next few weeks.

Minutes

Minutes from the One-Stop Partner Meeting on July 25, 2017 were approved as presented.

Next Meeting

The next One-Stop Partner Meeting will be announced.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.