

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
WORKSOURCE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS
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October 30, 2025

Minutes

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, Workforce Development Board (WDB) met on October 30, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Pinetree Recreation Center, 215 Pinetree Way, Dahlonega GA 30533. The following were present:

Members Present

Tim Bennett
Ricky Carter
Shannon Cole
Amanda Edmondson
Vicki Boling Jones
Deborah Mack
Timothy McDonald
Amy Poole
Tammy Rauch
Dana Skelton
Shelby Ward

Staff

Heather Feldman
Alicia Page
Whitney Blair
Diane Jackson
Danielle Avelar
Gina Kessler
Chris Highland

Guest

Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates
Cole Kaminski, attended for board member, Mary Overholt
David Cagle

Members Absent

Lee Aurand-Hosey, Amber Gaddis, Mike McGraw, Terri Partain, Rhonda McLean, Michelle Murray, Beth Truelove, Christine Osasu, Tonya Powers, and Mary Overholt were absent.

Call to Order/Welcome

Vicki Boling Jones, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. A quorum was established.

Old Business

Vice Chair Boling Jones asked for consideration and a motion on the minutes of July 31, 2025, Workforce Development Board (WDB) meeting. Shelby Ward made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Deborah Mack seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

New Provider Applications

Danielle Avelar, Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor, informed the Board that WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) received an application from Advanced Medical Academy located in Commerce, GA. Advanced Medical Academy is currently on the state's eligible training provider list. The programs submitted were the Certified Medical Assistant program and the Phlebotomy Certification program. The Certified Medical Assistant program cost \$4,300 and is 256 classroom hours with 160 internship hours in 16 weeks. The completion rate is 100%. The training related employment rate is 92% and the average pay is \$17.5 per hour. WSGM staff reviewed and based on information, approved the program.

The Phlebotomy program cost \$750 and is 96 classroom hours with 40 internship hours in eight weeks. The completion rate is 73%. The training related employment rate is 42% and the average pay is \$16.50 per hour. WSGM staff reviewed and based on the completion and training related employment rates being under WSGM performance rates of 82.5% and 85%, recommended denying this program. Vice Chair Jones requested a motion to deny the Phlebotomy program based on WSGM staff's recommendation. Amy Poole made a motion to deny the program. Dana Skelton seconded. After discussion, Timothy McDonald, Shannon Cole, and Shelby Ward abstained and the motion to deny passed.

Mrs. Avelar explained that WSGM received an application from Roadmaster's Drivers School of Georgia, Inc. located at 4272 Transport City Drive, Conely, GA. The school is on the states's approved provider list. The CDL-A program costs \$7,965 and is 180 classroom hours in 5 weeks. The completion rate is 97.6%. The training related employment rate is 72.43% and the average pay is \$27.89. WSGM Staff reviewed and based on their training related employment rate being under WIOA performance rates of 85% and distance of the school to our region, recommend denying this provider. Vice Chair Boling Jones requested a motion to deny based on staff's recommendation. Ricky Carter made a motion to deny. Dana Skelton seconded the motion. Timothy McDonald, Shelby Ward, and Shannon Cole abstained and the motion passed.

Growth and Demand Occupation List

Whitney Blair, WSGM Director, informed the Board that they received the Growth and Demand Occupation list in their packet. WSGM updates the list to make sure the demands of the WSGM region are met. The list was previously emailed to the WDB, Georgia Department of Labor, Economic Development, and to the Technical College System of Georgia. WSGM did not receive any feedback to add or remove any of the occupations on the current list. The occupation list is not intended to be a program specific list. Director Blair stated that Hospitality and Tourism has been mentioned as an occupation that could be added to the list. Vice Chair Boling Jones requested a motion to approve list as is or to approve list and add Hospitality and Tourism. Timothy McDonald made a motion to approve the Growth and Demand Occupation List with the included Hospitality and Tourism occupation. Amanda Edmondson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports/Announcements

Adult/Dislocated Worker Policy Update

Director Blair informed the Board that WSGM had updated policies to reflect the required TCSG policy updates in which WSGM was notified of on August 21, 2025. The changes included the citizenship affidavit, work experience, and the individual training account policies. Director Blair will be attending GARC next week with the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission's department heads. Director Blair is excited that TCSG Leadership will be attending as well. WSGM has monitoring scheduled for the week of November 17, 2025. WSGM has had clean audits for the past several years and is hopeful that this one will be clean as well. WSGM is no longer contracted with Shelley Logan and Greg Vitek with WorkSource Strategies Group. TCSG has decided to end the Sector funding. WSGM will use Incumbent Worker Training funds for Quality Tech Apprenticeships, the SAIL and LEAD programs at Lanier Tech and North Georgia Tech, which are programs that came from the sector work. Director Blair informed the Board of the recent NADO Award for Empowering Employers Through Apprenticeships: A Georgia Mountains Works Webinar Initiative.

One-Stop Update

Marsha Hopkins with Hopkins Associates gave an update on the WorkSource Georgia Mountains One-Stop. During the period, July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, the One-Stop Career Center had 202 customers. In addition, there were 108 visits by individuals participating in GED classes.

Hopkins Associates continue to plan and host bi-monthly Partner Meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to learn about services available, to share updates from each partner organization, and to promote referrals. For over 8 years, these meetings have expanded to include a wide range of community programs and resources related to workforce development in the WSGM region. Each meeting has a focus topic.

At the most recent meeting on September 30th, the speaker was Lisa Thomas, Transitional Housing Program Manager for Gateway Domestic Violence Center. She provided an informative presentation about the programs and support services offered. Gateway continues to be a strong partner of the One-Stop.

The next Partner Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18th at the One-Stop Center at 11:00 a.m. Workforce Board members and staff are always welcome to attend, and their input is appreciated. Minutes of all One-Stop Partner meetings are available online at the One-Stop website: <http://onestopworkgamtms.org/>

Hopkins Associates continue to reach out to organizations and individuals to share information about workforce programs and services available. This morning, Mrs. Hopkins met at the local food bank with their staff and with the local Salvation Army officers regarding collaboration for food distribution. Both organizations share information about available regional workforce services with their clients.

Mrs. Hopkins informed the Board if there were any questions or suggestions regarding the One-Stop operation to please contact Hopkins Associates at (470)- 577-0823.

Budget

Alicia Page, GMRC Finance Director, explained the budget report was for the period ending September 30, 2025. As of September 30, 2025, the Adult Program had an available balance of \$1,030,632 with \$907,157 in obligations which left a remainder balance of \$513,567 to be spent on Adult Programs. The Dislocated

Worker Program had available funds of \$618,961 with \$115,272 in obligations and projected expenses. Additionally, \$390,092 to be transferred to Adult Program leaves a remaining balance of \$113,596 to be spent on Dislocated Worker Programs. The Youth Program had available funds of \$671,772 with \$378,050 in obligations which leaves a balance of \$303,721 to be spent on Youth Programs. The Quest funding has been fully expensed and expired on September 30, 2025.

Performance

Danielle Avelar, Adult/Dislocated Worker Supervisor, explained the final performance for fourth quarter of program year 2024. WSGM met or exceeded all program performance for PY24.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Boling Jones asked for a motion to adjourn. Ricky Carter made a motion to adjourn. Deborah Mack seconded and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Board Chair, Tonya Powers

Secretary, Deborah Mack