

**MIDDLE GEORGIA
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ONE-STOP COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

MINUTES

A virtual meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board One-Stop Committee was held on January 26, 2021, at Noon. The following members were present:

Aundrea Simmons
Brenda Brown
Tishua Green
Chris Carr
Saleemah Sabree

The following members were not present:

Wade Yoder
Ethel Wynn
Jeff Scruggs

The following MGCI Staff members were present:

Darrell Stillings
Ashlee Simmons
Vann Davis

The following guest were in attendance:

Janie Reid and Paul Allen, In-the-Door, One-Stop Operator

WELCOME

Chair Aundrea Simmons chaired and called the meeting to order at 12:10PM. She thanked everyone for participating. Ashlee Simmons called roll to verify who was present. There was a quorum present.

MINUTES

- 1.** Chair Aundrea Simmons asked for approval for the minutes of the September 29, 2020, meeting of the Middle Georgia WDB One-Stop committee. Motion to approve was made by Tishua Green and a second by Saleemah Sabree. There were no opposing votes and motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. One-Stop Community Resource Directory Update by Paul Allen. Both Paul Allen and Janie Reid, One-Stop Operator, reviewed WorkSource Macon-Bibbs Resource Directory and liked their layout. Paul discussed merging their information with WorkSource Macon/Bibb's Resource Directory with WorkSource Middle Georgia to have a regional resource directory and wanted the committee's approval to proceed regionally. The committee agreed that this

was a great idea. It was noted however, that there are still several updates that will need to be made, in particular Legacy Links information and Saleemah Sabree, Legacy Links, concurred. Tishua Green, Georgia Department of Labor, inquired if they would be splitting the information up because although both areas are in the same region, they are not in the same WIOA Area. Paul Allen, One-Stop Operator, stated that in the table of contents there will be clear guidance on the different centers and different regions that each area helps. There was talk of adding a map to better define the areas served by each location. Chair Aundrea Simmons stated that they could probably pull a map off of Georgia Department of Labor's website. Ashlee Simmons, MGCI Program Services Specialist, stated that TCGS OWD's website has an area map on their website as well. Chair Aundrea Simmons reiterated that this resource directory will be for partners to utilize.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Strategic Populations Policy Update**—Ashlee Simmons, MGCI Program Services Specialist, discussed a new TEGL that was released back in November, TEGL 7-20. Based on the TEGL that was released, The One-Stop Committee needed to incorporate that information into a Strategic Populations Policy. In the TEGL, it outlined that the major function of the Public workforce system is to ensure that All Americans can participate in the local economy through meaningful employment and a sustainable income. When there are increased number of customers coming to the One-Stop seeking WIOA services (because of an economic crisis) we have to ensure that we are providing services to the people that are most in need and when less customers are coming to the One-Stop because unemployment rates are low we should be proactive to improve our services to people who can benefit the most from the workforce system. The new TEGL is making it clearer on that we serve people that are actually in need of our services. TEGL 7-20 also set a benchmark to ensure priority of service is in effect by establishing that at a minimum, 50.1 % of any state's participants will be in priority of service. U.S. DOL did envision that at least 75% of the participants would meet Adult priority. This means that they expect that at minimum, 50.1% or more of the individuals receiving WIOA Adult-funded individualized career or training services must be in a priority population (low income, receiving public assistance, or basic skills deficient.). They want to ensure that we are targeting people that are actually in the need of services by either being low income, on public assistance, or basic assistance.

WorkSource Middle Georgia will try to ensure that at least 75% of participants receiving individualized career and training services in Adult program are from at least one of the priority groups mentioned but WorkSource Middle Georgia *will ensure* that it meets the minimum 51 % of our local area's participants receiving individualized career and training services in the Adult program are from at least one of the priority groups mentioned above.

The changes on pages 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are incorporating the updated information that was provided in one of the attachments for TEGL 7-20. On page 20, we added a new partner called Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). HUD provides ESG funds to: (1) meet the immediate needs of individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents; (5) rapidly re-house individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and (6) prevent families and individuals from experiencing homelessness. Ashlee Simmons stated that during COVID, this partner may be a vital partner and to ask if the Housing Authority has this program there.

The final change was on page 22 were based on our most recent monitoring by TCSG OWD where they wanted to know when we refer veterans with significant barriers to employment to the Disable Veterans Outreach Program. Ashlee Simmons stated most of the time, those individuals know where to go but in the event that we don't, we refer them to that agency.

Chair Aundrea Simmons stated that the Housing Authority is needed and that we may have a representative from that agency to speak to the Committee at the next meeting.

Chair Aundrea Simmons also inquired about the Strategic Populations Survey and how it was being administered. Ashlee Simmons stated that for it to be confidential, it needed to be done in person but because of the One-Stops being closed to the public, it makes it difficult to administer. Ashlee Simmons suggested to develop a way to have it done virtually.

Paul Allen, One-Stop Operator, stated that he uses the form and they try to do their best with it. Paul also stated that the software that they have is one the kiosk and it has to be done in person. They use the kiosk when on the phone with a participant and they ask the customer the questions over the phone and based on the response, the One-Stop Operator answers the questions for them on the kiosk. Chair Aundrea Simmons suggested to think of ways to enhance the process and both Ashlee Simmons and Paul Allen agreed.

Tishua Green, Georgia Department of Labor, inquired to Paul Allen how hard it is to update the kiosk when they customer comes in to request services. Paul Allen stated that it was updated on their kiosk but the customer is not there to use it. It was discussed that maybe there needs to be a link for ease of use. Paul Allen will look into maybe using Survey Monkey. The information on the form is not required but used to see who is being serviced.

A motion was made by Brenda Brown and a seconded by Saleemah Sabree to approve the updated Strategic Population Policy as presented. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried.

- 2. Update from One Stop Operator** –Janie Reid, One-Stop Operator, apologized for the delay she had due to technical difficulties. However, Janie Reid indicated that they have been working with Unite Us and Paul Allen will brief the committee on it, as he was appointed by Darrell Stilling, MGCI Executive Director. Paul Allen, One-Stop Operator, gave an overview Unite Us. He stated that they are a care network that is online and connects service providers across different industries from healthcare to employment to education services to housing services. He also indicated that it's free, the VECTR Center has purchased what was needed in order to make it free for anyone in our area. It is a referral database that can be used like Google Maps. You can type in the search area *HOUSING* and what pops up is who provides these services in your area. The VECTR Center and United Way are already using this database. It is scheduled to roll out the end of February 2021. This database can be used for referrals and tracking. The link to more information is: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7014662> and <https://uniteus.com/spread-the-word/>

Janie Reid mentioned that we are in the early stages with UNITE US and that in February they will be doing a demo with the partners.

Chair Aundrea Simmons inquired if the customer uses it or the partner uses it. Paul Allen stated that partners use it and it also tracks the outcomes. You will be able to see who helped then and what type of services they received, Ashlee Simmons, , MGCI Program Services Specialist, also stated that the customer can write their story on their and it records it for other partners to see. Paul Allen also confirmed that it is being incorporated in Georgia. Janie Reid added that at the next partner meeting on February 17, 2021 at 10:00AM there will be a formal presentation for United Us.

Paul Allen mentioned a possible drive thru Job fair and a possible in person job fair. The problem with an in person job fair is, it is hard to social distance like it would be in doing a drive thru one. It is in the infancy stages. Chair Aundrea Simmons inquired if they had a virtual tool to do a virtual job fair. Paul said that it is tricky because of insuring each employer had a breakout room.

Janie Reid stated that there were two job fairs that was held in Eatonton over the weekend. One was for Blue Stem (hosted by CGTC) and Alto Scientific. Both employers are in need of employees.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

UNITE US was discussed by Paul Allen and Janie Reid, One-Stop Operators. Janie Reid asked the committee to approve of them partnering with WorkSource Macon-Bibb with a regional approach.

Chair Aundrea Simmons agreed and asked go back to Old Business for a motion to approve the merge our partnership information with WorkSource Macon-Bibbs Community Resource Directory. A motion was made by Saleemah Sabree and seconded by Brenda Brown. To consolidate the WorkSource Middle Georgia Resource Directory with WorkSource Macon-Bibbs Resource Directory. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried.

Paul Allen mentioned Disabilities Awareness Sensitivity virtual training will be taking place on Friday February 5 at 10 AM. If you would like to join he can send you the link. He hopes everyone can attend.

Join Zoom Meeting February 5, 2021, 10 am until 11 am
<https://zoom.us/j/96267064156?pwd=U3gzZjBuc2V0WUpSdFlQOGJBcGU0UT09>

Meeting ID: 962 6706 4156
Passcode: 908373

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

1. Chair Aundrea Simmons suggested that the committee move the meeting from March 30, 2021 to April 27, 2021 so the committee can start meeting quarterly.

Meeting Schedule – Next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021, at Noon, at the Houston County Career Center (Comprehensive One-Stop) unless the Governor extends the state of emergency in which case it will be held virtual again.

A motion was made from Brenda Brown and a seconded by Tishua Green to approve the meeting schedule for the next being to be on April 27, 2021 at Noon. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Aundrea Simmons thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 12:55 PM