



CAREERSOURCE CITRUS LEVY MARION Business and Economic Development Committee

MINUTES

DATE: February 4, 2026
PLACE: CareerSource CLM
2703 NE 14th Street, Ocala, FL 34470
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Whitehouse
Deb Stanley
Edward Suor
Mark Paugh
Matt McCormick
MJ Toscano
Pete Beasley, Chair
Phillip Geist
Steven Baham

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Smallridge
Jeff Chang
Kevin Cunningham

OTHER ATTENDEES

Rusty Skinner, CSCLM
Dale French, CSCLM
Cory Weaver, CSCLM
Melissa Saco, CSCLM

Chris Wilkinson, CSCLM
Sandra Crawford, CSCLM
Cira Schnettler, CSCLM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pete Beasley, Chair, at 9:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Cira Schnettler called roll and a quorum was declared present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mark Paugh made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2025, meeting. Deb Stanley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Update

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- TEN 10-23, Change 1 delays requirements that Wagner Peyser specific services be managed by State staff only. This would be a monumental change to how we currently handle our business outreach through our business services team. We will

be looking at beginning to implement the upcoming requirement as we begin planning for the upcoming program year. This committee will be kept updated as changes are implemented by the State and how we will propose implementation.

- CareerSource Florida will continue to move toward performance driven letter grade metrics with a focus on apprenticeship and enrollment. We will be discussing different approaches to hiring events and job fairs.
- At the end of this program year, we will be negotiating with the State on the performance metrics for the upcoming program year. We anticipate apprenticeship goals will be a major factor.

Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community

No issues were presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

PROJECT UPDATES

Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

Steven Baham shared:

- Citrus County is partnering with the Inverness Airport and WTC to help recruit businesses to the park by adding an aviation maintenance professional school.
- There is an investment company looking to rezone and expand approximately 1300 acres of land for the Holder Industrial Park.
- The Citrus EDC has a new website, citrusadvantage.com. He welcomed everyone to review the website and provide feedback or partnership information that may be included on the website.

Levy:

- Levy County is looking for a replacement representative for the committee.

Marion

- Matt McCormick shared that there are several projects in development:
 - There are four confidential projects gaining momentum.
 - The Classroom to Careers program is an internal project in partnership with the Marion County School District. The program will focus on emergent careers for middle and high schoolers. He welcomed other agencies to reach out if they would like to partner.

MRMA

MJ Toscano highlighted the new board leadership for MRMA and explained the benefits succession planning will have for the organization. She shared that the Annual Bowling Tournament preparations have started and it is scheduled for May 14, 2026.

Talent Center

Chris Wilkinson reviewed the report provided in the packet.

Event Report

Melissa Saco highlighted items from the Event Report. There has been an increase in attendees at events. The business services team will be adjusting their methods to better track performance metrics. She shared a success story from a recent Veterans job fair.

Experiential Learning Contracts

Cory Weaver summarized each section of the report. Noting the successful completions that lead to employment. She is in the process of creating a report that will focus entirely on apprenticeship activities.

Metrix Users

Cory Weaver shared details from the report, noting the most popular pathways and courses. Program usage continues to grow. The link to the Metrix program can be found on the CLM website.

Grant Update

Sandra Crawford provided an overview of the success of the Broadband grant.

YouthBuild

Sandra Crawford reviewed the report.

Contract Reports

Sandra Crawford reviewed the performance report for Citrus and Marion counties and the youth report. Levy and Marion are meeting their goals. Citrus has not provided updated data. Eckerd continues to be successful with their goals.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

APPROVED:
