



**CAREERSOURCE CITRUS LEVY MARION
Business and Economic Development Committee**

MINUTES

DATE: November 5, 2025
PLACE: CareerSource CLM
2703 NE 14th Street, Ocala, FL 34470
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Whitehouse
Deb Stanley
Edward Suor
Jeff Chang
Mark Paugh
MJ Toscano
Pete Beasley, Chair
Phillip Geist
Steven Baham
Tisha Whitehurst

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Smallridge
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
Erin Jones, Ocala CEP

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

Jeff Chang made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2025, meeting.
Phil Geist seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Update

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- CareerSource Florida and Florida Commerce sent a letter to the Chair informing the Board that our region has been placed on a performance improvement plan. Commissioner Zalak and Board Chair Carl Flanagan, along with CLM leadership will

be attending a conference call on November 14 with the State representatives to identify the metrics that need improvement, so that a corrective action plan can be developed.

Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community

No issues were presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

WRA Grant

Rusty Skinner explained the State has allocated \$5 million to be used for rural workforce initiatives throughout the State. A need for aviation career paths in Levy County has been identified as a potential project. We are joining a variety of community partners to include CF, Marion Technical College, the City of Williston, and the business community to submit a plan to receive funding through this grant. If awarded part of the grant money would be used to market the program to students and their parents. Phil Geist made a motion to accept the GR grant. Mark Paugh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PROJECT UPDATES

Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

- The Inverness Business Park is in phase 2 of development to add a corporate hanger and Helaplex complex.
- The Citrus County BOCC has approved the creation of a Citrus County Industrial Authority. Applications are being accepted for interested parties to join the board.

Levy:

- Tisha Whitehurst shared the below developments for Levy County:
 - The Levy County BOCC and school board will also be providing letters of support for the WRA grant.

Marion

- Erin Jones shared that there are several projects in development:
 - The new CEO, Matt McCormick will be starting on November 10th.
 - There are three new projects in development that will be announced throughout the next year.
 - MTC has kicked off their Aviation and Diesel Mechanic programs.
 - Mid-size spaces are coming online that will provide new opportunities for mid-size businesses.

MRMA

MJ Toscano stated the fundraising Golf Tournament was highly successful. The MRMA will be reviewing their strategic planning and goals. An update on board membership was provided as well as a summary of past and future activities.

Talent Center

Chris Wilkinson reviewed the report provided in the packet.

Event Report

Melissa Saco highlighted items from the Event Report. There has been record attendance at job fairs and hiring events. The next Paychecks for Patriots events have been scheduled for November 13 in Marion County and December 3 in Citrus County. ID Logistics, a large distribution center, is among the top three businesses with 246 reported hires.

Experiential Learning Contracts

Cory Weaver summarized each section of the report. Noting the successful completions that lead to employment. There are two additional programs that we will be exploring to provide support. One initiative is an electrical apprenticeship where we could provide support to purchase books and construction pre-apprenticeship program with a charter school.

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 explained that we are in the 5th grant cycle of YouthBuild. Four homes will be built over two years.

Contract Reports

Sandra Crawford reviewed the performance report for Citrus and Marion counties and the youth report. Overall, the partners did well. Citrus County met two of the four goals. A 5% hold-back in funding will be enforced but they have time to make-up the goal.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

APPROVED:
