



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

**MINUTES**

DATE: May 14, 2020  
PLACE: Teleconference Only  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Pete Beasley, Chair  
Bruce Register  
David Pieklik  
Jeff Chang  
Kathleen Betz  
Kevin Sheilley  
Mark Paugh  
Nicole Nash  
Phillip Geist

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

John Cook  
Mark Vianello  
Kevin Cunningham

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Rusty Skinner, CSCLM  
Kathleen Woodring, CSCLM  
Dale French, CSCLM  
Cira Schnettler, CSCLM

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Pete Beasley, at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Cira Schnettler called roll and a quorum was declared present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dave Pieklik made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2020 meeting. Mark Paugh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**State Update**

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on unemployment. He explained that DEO continues to have obstacles with the unemployment platform, but is making gains on improvements. We are assisting DEO and customers seeking unemployment

assistance with pin resets and answering basic questions. We will also be assisting DEO with data entry of the paper applications. DEO has provided all workforce boards with five log-ins for staff to enter the paper applications into the Connect system. Many applications are also in Spanish and Creole. These applications must be translated into English and then entered into the system. Rusty Skinner stated that there are still hundreds of thousands of applications to be processed. We have received a grant that will allow individuals returning to the workforce to work on humanitarian worksites.

#### Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community

Dr. Geist stated that he is finding many employers he works are encountering two main issues with re-opening. Employees are refusing to come back to work because they make more on unemployment and some employees are scared to return to work due to exposure. Rusty Skinner stated that after an employee files for unemployment, the business will need to verify that the position was offered and refused. This will impact employees' ability to continue to receive benefits. Kevin Sheilly recommended that businesses put offers in writing. Kevin also welcomed employers to visit the resources page on the CEP website. Employers will find several employer law webinars to review. Kathleen Woodring shared that the Connect system is no longer allowing individuals who have been approved to claim their weeks and notify the State that they have found employment. This will potentially cause over payments to individuals. Any monies that they receive should not be spent and will need to be returned back to the State.

#### Re-Opening Plan

The centers reopened on May 11th. Customers are being seen by appointment only within the hours of 10 am – 3 pm. Twenty-five appointments per day are available in each office. Staff will be provided with proper PPE. Portable Plexiglas barriers will also be installed. All of the centers have been thoroughly cleaned. During the reopen there will be a daily cleaning process in place at each center. Staff will clean after each customer and thoroughly at the end of the day. All social distancing guidelines will be heeded. Armed security officers are onsite at all three centers. The security officers take temperatures of everyone entering the building and ensure all entrants are wearing face masks. The officers are working well with staff. Beginning May 25<sup>th</sup> hours will be extended to 9 am – 4 pm for two weeks. Hours will then be reevaluated depending on guidelines from local, state, and federal levels. Many customers are still being serviced virtually as well.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

None

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

##### Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

- Bruce Register stated that several projects in Citrus County are progressing

despite the impact of the pandemic.

Levy:

- David Pieklik stated leads are still coming in steady. Project Healthcare will be opening soon. There is also an aqua cultural business considering the area. David is exploring three federal grants that will help businesses recover from the pandemic.

Marion

- Kevin Sheilley stated that Dollar Tree and Amazon are looking to hire over 500 employees in the upcoming year. General interest and activity is strong. Coming out of the pandemic new demand areas have been identified and businesses offering these services will be well suited for our community. Kevin was happy to highlight a new entrepreneur program and welcomed everyone to visit [marioncountymicro.com](http://marioncountymicro.com) for further details. Rusty Skinner congratulated the CEP on being a Chamber of the Year finalist for three years in a row.

### MRMA

Kathleen Betz highlighted three items from her report. Through the youth expo and the Made for Trade events in Citrus County she is building relationships with a variety of community partners. She is very appreciative of all the opportunities. The Golf Tournament is building up funding. The funds will help with such things as robotics camps for youth. There is also a MRMA scholarship available for a student to attend CF.

### Event Report

Dale French reviewed the report. The Event report reflects a dip in events for January, which is consistent year over year coming out of the holiday season. He congratulated all of the staff that assisted in organizing the very well attended youth expos, held in the first quarter. He received positive feedback from all three school systems. Kathleen Betz commended all efforts on the expo.

### Talent Center

Dale French reviewed the report, noting that the drop in traffic due to the pandemic. The Talent Center staff continue to assist candidates virtually.

### Online Learning Platforms – Metrix

Dale French stated that staff is looking for trends from individuals enrolling in Employ Florida for the last couple of months in the hopes to pinpoint how to best market the online training platforms to customers.

### Experiential Learning

Dale French updated the committee on the number of agreements in process for the CBT, OJT, Work Experience and Internships programs. All programs are being utilized and so far the data looks encouraging that it will continue to be positive.

### **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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