



**CAREERSOURCE CITRUS LEVY MARION  
Consortium**

**MINUTES**

DATE: January 18, 2023  
PLACE: College of Central Florida – Enterprise Center  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Finegan  
Commissioner Hodge  
Commissioner Zalak

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

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

Andrew Collins, CareerSource Florida  
AJ Temple, Ernst and Young  
Geraldine Lopez, Ernst and Young  
Sarah Gosselin, Ernst and Young

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Zalak, at 10:05 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Andrew Collins began the meeting by introducing himself and the role that CareerSource Florida plays in this process.

AJ Temple introduced the Ernst and Young team.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

AJ Temple led the presentation by explaining the function of the REACH Act and the REACH office. He reviewed the guiding principles, which help prioritize implementation of the REACH Act, while keeping inline and compliant with WIOA criteria. He explained the end goal is to increase access for job seekers and businesses.

**SCOPE OF WORK**

AJ Temple outlined the scope of work. He noted that the Ernst and Young team has met with over 650 community stakeholders from around the State. Notable reoccurring themes from the meetings include:

- System wide improvements at local and state levels
- Concerns for the impact on rural communities

## **COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS**

1. The Consortium members introduced themselves, adding length of time and experience working with CareerSource and the workforce system in general.

## **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

2. What are the current needs of businesses and job seekers in your local workforce development area?
  - a. The Commissioners noted that many employers struggle to find candidates for trade positions, CDL drivers, and health care positions. The lack of skilled labor is an issue across the board from the trades to professional positions. Strong partnerships with educational providers have been an asset for employers.
3. What opportunities exist locally and regionally to improve workforce development efforts to meet the needs of those businesses and job seekers in your community? What actions would you like to see pursued by the state and local workforce development boards to achieve those improvements?

Highlights of the discussion included:

  - a. Challenges to geographically collapsing the regions.
  - b. Streamlining the process of enrolling in Employ Florida.
  - c. Slow response time from the state on local requests.
  - d. Lack of approved training providers that offer online educational programs.
  - e. Rural areas have multiple issues that include not having enough attendees for in-person class size requirements, but also not having access to broadband for online training.
4. What opportunities do you see for greater collaboration among workforce development partners and others to enhance services and resources for businesses, job seekers and workers in your community?

Highlights of the discussion included:

  - a. Currently there are statewide groups for CEO, COO, Finance, etc. that meet monthly and communicate regularly on best practices and policy development. The meetings are a great opportunity for new people to receive support and cross collaboration for all positions.
  - b. There are challenges when trying to replicate programs across regions. Within our region alone all three counties have individualized needs and have customized community partnerships based on those needs.
  - c. Regular meetings with local, state, and federal representatives to discuss issues and streamline processes would be beneficial to all regions.

The meeting wrapped up at this point due to time constraints.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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