



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

MINUTES

DATE: November 8, 2023
PLACE: College of Central Florida, Enterprise Center
3003 SW College Road, Ocala, FL 34474
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Whitehouse
Deb Stanley
John Hemken
Kathleen Betz
Mark Paugh
Pete Beasley, Chair
Phillip Geist
Scott Osteen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Angie White
Kevin Cunningham
Kevin Sheilley
Gary Smallridge
Jeff Chang

OTHER ATTENDEES

Rusty Skinner, CSCLM
Dale French, CSCLM
Cory Weaver, CSCLM
Cathy Galica, CSCLM

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pete Beasley, Chair, at 9:00 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 August 16, 2023, meeting. Deb Stanley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Update

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- CareerSource Florida is beginning the third phase of the alignment process. This phase will focus on regional challenges with procurement. The regional directors have made recommendations that they believe will create statewide improvements. The development of the standardization for products and services will be further

discussed at the December CareerSource Florida meeting.

- Senate Bill 240 requires the development of an Education and Industry Consortium. The executive committee met and concluded that the Consortium should be a separate committee. The executive committee recommended that the Consortium membership be composed of educational partners and up to three members from each industry for fair representation from the three counties. Rusty Skinner is meeting with the school superintendents in the region to discuss their needs. The By-laws will be amended to include the new Consortium. The amendment will be presented to the executive committee and then to the full board for approval.
- Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community
The committee did not have any items to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

PROJECT UPDATES

Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

- There were no updates for Citrus County.

Levy:

- Scott Osteen shared that the below items:
 - An annual strategic planning session was held in partnership with NFEDP. The Nature Coast Business Development Council plans to expand their board and meet quarterly instead of monthly. The Council is also planning an annual dinner for community stakeholders.
 - A private landowner in Levy County owns a substantial plot of land, and there are plans to make it development-ready in order to attract businesses to the area. Grant funds will be employed for the development of this property.

Marion

- There were no updates for Marion County.

MRMA

Kathleen Betz's shared the below highlights:

- Since 2018 \$63,000 has been raised to support numerous programs in our region. This report does not include an additional \$24,000 raised at recent events.
- A new slate of executive officers has been selected and will serve for the next two years.

Talent Center

Cory Weaver introduced Chris Wilkinson as the new Talent Center manager. Cory Weaver reviewed the quarterly Talent Center report. She explained that the report has revised to provide a clear concise overview of Talent Center activities.

Event Report

Cory Weaver highlighted items from the Event Report. She noted 10 hiring events have occurred in this program year, with a 40% hire rate. We continue to have an increase in partner job fairs with high levels of participation. She also noted that there are new businesses in the top three hiring events graph. Citrus County will be hosting a youth job fair in the Spring. She also invited the committee members to attend the upcoming Paychecks for Patriots and Marion Youth Expo.

Experiential Learning Contracts

Cory Weaver summarized each section of the report. Noting two successful completions that lead to employment.

Metrix Users

Cory Weaver shared details from the report, noting the most popular pathways and courses. Program usage continues to grow annually.

Contract Reports

Cathy Galica reviewed the performance report for Citrus and Marion counties and the youth report. Overall, the partners did well.

- County Reports:
 - Marion County continues to meet their goals.
 - Citrus County did not meet the 1st quarter goals, but we will continue to work with them to meet their goals by the end of the program year.
- Youth Report: The State released the results from the fourth quarter of the last program year and Eckerd exceeded their goals

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

APPROVED:
