



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

MINUTES

DATE: May 8, 2024
PLACE: CareerSource CLM
2703 NE 14th Street, Ocala, FL 34470
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Whitehouse
Gary Smallridge
Jeff Chang
Judy Mckee
Mark Paugh
Pete Beasley, Chair
Phillip Geist
Scott Osteen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Angie White
Chris Cowart
Deb Stanley
John Hemken
Kevin Cunningham
Kevin Sheilley

OTHER ATTENDEES

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

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

Mark Paugh made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2024, meeting. Jeff Chang seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Update

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- Budget allocations have been received and we expect to see a slight increase in funding.
- The State invited local boards to volunteer to be in the next phase of regional planning. A letter of intent was sent yesterday informing the State of our interest to

volunteer with Regions 6 and 9. If chosen, a formal application will be submitted.

- Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community
Phil Geist stated many businesses are still finding it difficult to find quality candidates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

PROJECT UPDATES

Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

- Rusty Skinner noted that Citrus County has not filled the economic development director position yet.

Levy:

- Scott Osteen shared that the below item:
 - The Nature Coast Development Council is working with a landowner that has purchased property zoned as industrial. They are working with the City of Chiefland to extend water and sewer services to the property to develop an industrial park.

Marion

- Heather Shubirg shared that there are several projects in development. One project may lead to the creation of 1,000 jobs in Marion County. She thanked Melissa Saco for her efforts on another project involving a business in the semiconductor industry.

MRMA

Judy McKee introduced herself as the new executive director and shared the below highlights:

- MRMA continues to build partnerships in Sumter County. There will be a hiring event on May 16.
- The Bowling Tournament fundraiser will be this Thursday, May 9. Proceeds from the tournament will be used for CDL scholarships.

Talent Center

Chris Wilkinson reviewed the report provided in the packet.

Event Report

Cory Weaver highlighted items from the Event Report. She noted increased attendance at hiring events and job fairs. This is a shift happening in workforce trends that will be watched going forward. The Marion County Youth Job Fair was held yesterday and had about 250 young adults from 16-24. It was extremely successful. The recent Citrus County Youth had about 60 young adults attending. We were thrilled to see such a high level of participation in each county.

Experiential Learning Contracts

Cory Weaver summarized each section of the report. Noting the successful completions that lead to employment. Lake Weir High School is working on a construction pre-apprenticeship program that is anticipated to be popular amongst students. The updates from the program will be added to future reports.

Metrix Users

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

Contract Reports

Sandra Crawford 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 or 2nd quarter goals, but we will continue to work with them to meet their goals by the end of the program year.
- Youth Report: Eckerd exceeded their goals for the second quarter.

Broadband Grant

Sandra Crawford provided an overview of the grants. The Dislocated Worker Grant that is funding recovery efforts from Hurricane Idalia is having great success in Citrus, Levy and Dixie counties. Community investment in Levy and Dixie counties is nearing \$700,000. The next Broadband class is in June. We are on target for our annual enrollment goal. Outside of the grant program, young adults in the YouthBuild program participated in a broadband class and the residents in Marion County are also being assisted with broadband training.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

APPROVED:
