



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

**MINUTES**

DATE: August 14, 2024  
PLACE: CareerSource CLM  
2703 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocala, FL 34470  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ben Whitehouse  
Deb Stanley  
Gary Smallridge  
Jeff Chang  
Kevin Cunningham  
Mark Paugh  
Pete Beasley, Chair  
Scott Osteen

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chris Cowart  
John Hemken  
Judy Mckee  
Kevin Sheilley  
Phillip Geist

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Rusty Skinner, CSCLM  
Dale French, CSCLM  
Cory Weaver, CSCLM  
Melissa Saco, 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 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Cira Schnettler called roll and a quorum was declared present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Kevin Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2024, meeting. Deb Stanley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**State Update**

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- The draft of the Subgrantee agreement will be on the September board agenda for approval. This will ensure submission on the State's timeline.
- A draft agreement for regional planning is in development for State review and approval.

- State law requires at least 50% of adult and dislocated funding be used every program year. In the past our region has routinely sought a waiver. Despite efforts to educate businesses on the benefits of utilizing our Custom Business Training programs and On-the-Job Training programs there continues to be a lack of interest. We will be looking to other regions that have successfully engaged businesses in their programs for guidance. Recommendations for how we move forward will be brought to the next board meeting.

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

- Kevin Cunningham asked if the new Citrus County economic development director has been approached about joining the board. Rusty Skinner stated that he has been invited and is awaiting a response.
- Deb Stanley was happy to report that the Citrus County School District was awarded a 2-million-dollar grant for welding programs in all three high schools in the county. She also shared that an application has been submitted for a grant that would upgrade the culinary kitchens in all three high schools to commercial kitchens.

#### WIOA Plan

Cory Weaver explained that the local workforce plan is updated every 4 years with a 2-year modification window. The current plan ends December 31, 2024. The new plan will be in effect January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2028. The Plan will be presented at the September board meeting and is due October 2 to the State.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

None

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

##### Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

- There were no updates.

Levy:

- Scott Osteen shared that the below item:
  - He invited the committee members to attend the State of the County dinner being held on September 12 at 6 pm.

Marion

- Heather Shubirg shared that there are several projects in development.
  - Two projects expected to launch in the Fall will provide 1,000 jobs. She invited members to attend the Rural Summit in November as well as a professional development training that will occur during the same week as the Summit.
  - She shared that the staff of the CEP would work with us to engage businesses with on the Custom Business Training and On the Job Training programs.

#### MRMA

Judy McKee was not in attendance, but her report is in the packet.

### Talent Center

In Chris Wilkinson's absence, Cory Weaver reviewed the report provided in the packet. Cory was happy to report 30 hires with an average wage of \$27.29.

### Event Report

Cory Weaver highlighted items from the Event Report. She noted increased attendance at hiring events and job fairs, almost doubling attendance from the previous year. Internal business coordinators have been hired in Citrus and Levy boosting business engagement and activities in those counties. She invited committee members to visit the upcoming Citrus County Job Fair on August 27.

### Experiential Learning Contracts

Cory Weaver summarized each section of the report. Noting the successful completions that lead to employment. She explained that the Lockheed Martin apprenticeship program has re-launched and applications are now being accepted. The pre-apprenticeship program at Lake Weir's Construction Academy will be ready to accept students this year.

Kevin Cunningham asked if a pre-apprenticeship program could be developed with the Citrus County Construction Academy. Cory Weaver explained some of the nuances with developing a program. Deb Stanley expressed that Citrus County Schools would be interested in pursuing a pre-apprenticeship program. Heather Shubirg suggested that interested agencies take a tour of the existing program in Lake County. We will work together to organize a tour and further discussion.

### 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.

### 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 met all goals for the 2023-2024 program year.
  - Citrus County met 3 of 4 goals.
  - Levy County met 2 of 4 goals.
  - We will continue to work with Citrus and Levy to meet their goals for the next program year.
- Youth Report: Eckerd met all goals for the third quarter for the previous program year and is expected to have met their goals for the fourth quarter.

### Grant Update

Sandra Crawford provided an overview of the grants. The Dislocated Worker Grant that is funding recovery efforts from Hurricane Idalia is having remarkable success in Levy and Dixie counties. Community investment in Levy and Dixie counties has reached beyond five million dollars.

The Broadband grant is also having successful outcomes with 24 enrollments and 9 individuals hired.

**MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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