



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

MINUTES

DATE: February 5, 2025
PLACE: CareerSource CLM
2703 NE 14th Street, Ocala, FL 34470
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Whitehouse
Deb Stanley
Gary Smallridge
Jeff Chang
John Hemken
Kevin Cunningham
Mark Paugh
MJ Toscano
Phillip Geist
Steven Baham

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edward Suor
Pete Beasley, Chair
Scott Osteen

OTHER ATTENDEES

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

Chris Wilkinson, CSCLM
Cira Schnettler, CSCLM
Heather Shubirg, Ocala CEP
Andy Starling, IBEW 1205

CALL TO ORDER

In Pete Beasley's absence the meeting was called to order by Jeff Chang, Committee Member, at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Cira Schnettler called roll and a quorum was declared present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deb Stanley made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2024, meeting. Andy Starling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Update

Rusty Skinner updated the committee on the following items:

- The Consortium's of all three workforce regions have met and agreed to sign off on the regional planning identification application. The regional planning application was

submitted to the State and will be on the agenda for the February CareerSource Florida board meeting.

Workforce Issues that are Important to Our Community

No issues were presented.

Revised OJT and ITA Forms

Cory Weaver presented the State issued forms. These new forms replaced all OJT and ITA forms throughout all regions in the State.

Survey Results

Cory Weaver reviewed the results of the business engagement survey that was approved at the September board meeting. We collaborated with the Ocala CEP to survey their membership and the CLM business contact list. The survey had a great response rate and provided insights into the business community awareness of our programs.

- Based on the responses we will be improving outreach efforts with the local business community.
- The responses also provided feedback from businesses that used our services. We will analyze how we can improve our processes based on this data.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

YouthBuild

Dale French was happy to share that we were awarded the fifth YouthBuild grant. Through this grant 4 homes will be built through our partnerships with Eckerd Connects and Habitat for Humanity. We anticipate 48 enrollments into the program. Heather Shubirg made a motion to accept and proceed with the grant and implement the program. Phillip Geist seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PROJECT UPDATES

Economic Development Partner Reports

Citrus:

- The new Economic Development Director, Steven Baham introduced himself. He stated that he is working on a website to showcase economic development in Citrus County. There is a new project in development that will be announced later in the year.

Levy:

- There were no updates for Levy.

Marion

- Heather Shubirg shared that there are several projects in development.
 - There has been increased interest in Marion county from manufacturing businesses.
 - There has also been an increase in international interest, which may be attributed to the international draw from WEC's presence in the county.
 - The CEP Business and Job Creation team will continue to partner with CLM to increase awareness of our programs in the business community.

- A NSF Engines grant was awarded to Central Florida, and potential funding could be received to support a semiconductor program in Marion County.

MRMA

MJ Toscano introduced herself as the new Executive Director for MRMA. The board recently held a strategic planning session and intends to increase fundraising events. The bowling tournament will be held on May 8th and the golf tournament is scheduled for October 16.

Talent Center

Chris Wilkinson reviewed the report provided in the packet. Phillip Geist requested median wages be added to the report along with average wages.

Event Report

Melissa Saco highlighted items from the Event Report. She noted increased attendance at hiring events and job fairs. She also noted two upcoming job fairs. She invited the committee members to attend the February job fair at MTC in Marion County and the April job fair at WTC in Citrus County. There will also be youth job fairs occurring in all three counties in the next quarter.

Experiential Learning Contracts

Cory Weaver summarized each section of the report. Noting the successful completions that lead to employment. The apprenticeship programs are at a standstill, but there is a summer youth construction pre-apprenticeship program in development.

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

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

- County Reports:
 - Marion County met the 1st quarter goal.
 - Citrus County met the 1st quarter goal.
 - Levy County is still recovering from the recent hurricanes and is experiencing a delay.
- Youth Report:
 - All measures were met except for one. This is an annual report on performance, so the program has more time to meet the requirements.

Grant Update

Cory Weaver provided an overview of the grants. The Dislocated Worker Grant that is funding recovery efforts from Hurricane Idalia was not renewed and will be coming to an end beginning in March. This grant was very successful with 197 enrollments and a community investment upwards of ten-million dollars.

The Broadband grant is also having successful outcomes with 29 enrollments and 18 individuals hired. There will be upcoming classes in February, June, and October. The February class has already had 4 enrollments.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

APPROVED:
