

Minutes
CareerSource Northeast Florida Executive Board Meeting
February 28, 2018

A meeting of the FCWD, Inc., Executive Board was called to order by Chair Darryl Register on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 9:05 a.m. at the CSNEFL Corporate Office, 1845 Town Center Boulevard, Fleming Island, Florida. The following members participated, representing a quorum:

Darryl Register	Jake Schickel
Lad Daniels	Dan Vohs

Excused: Eda Edgerton, Elaine Johnson, and Brian Keith

Staff: Bruce Ferguson, Cheryl Taylor, Candace Moody, Jay Loy, Steven Dionisio, Dianna Davis, Melissa Terbrueggen and Diane Nevison

Others: Yovancha Lewis-Brown (CSNEFL Board Member & Area Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)

Public Comment: None.

***Action Items**

***Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Dan Vohs and seconded by Jake Schickel to move approval the December 6, 2017 Executive Board minutes as written; motion carried.

Approval of Apprenticeship Support Policy

With WIOA's high focus level and emphasis on improving and expanding apprenticeships, staff is presenting for approval an Apprenticeship Support Policy that helps students in apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs with costs associated with tools, equipment, transportation, etc. We have not done this in several years but there is flexibility in the budget to do this and it will not impact our 50% training requirement. In a phone call with Board member, Kirk Barras our plumbers and pipefitters training and union rep, he suggested adding the word "Registered" to the policy title "Registered Apprenticeship Support Policy". Under WIOA we can only fund and train participants registered in those programs. Staff concurs and recommends approval of the policy. Just under 100 participants are anticipated in any given year. Board member Yovancha Lewis-Brown with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation stated VR can assist with some of those support costs (tools, equipment, transportation) for individuals with disabilities especially students in those pre-registered apprenticeship programs. Under WIOA, VR can share consumers easier just as long as services are not overlapped. Bruce stated services can be leveraged and we can hand that group on to VR. **Motion made by Jake Schickel and seconded to Dan Vohs to move approval the Apprenticeship Support Policy and to add the word "Registered" before Apprenticeship; motion carried.**

Discussion

Florida-Georgia Workforce Alliance: The Florida Georgia Workforce Alliance started with the CS Capitol Region in Tallahassee. They partnered and developed this relationship with the SW Georgia WFB, which joins up with part of their region. They then expanded and added CS North Florida (the Live Oak area board) and its adjoining Georgia neighbors to the north. A few months ago, our region received a call from the Coastal Georgia WFB (runs from Savannah to St. Mary's) to see if we were interested in a partnership. Coastal Georgia's workforce system is known as WorkSource Georgia. Staff person Melissa Terbrueggen has taken the lead and will talk about what she has learned about the partnership and what they want to do. The partnership is simple. Georgia's job matching and client matching system is the same Geographic Solutions out of Clearwater that we use. As they learned more about the great things we were doing in NEFL through Melissa's presentations, they asked us if we would like to partner (while the partnership to

the west of us was already growing). The partnership allows regions to work hand-in-hand with each other and do important things for staff and job seekers. Since we have already been working with the Georgia career centers over the years, expanding that partnership to the east and including the 12 regions in Georgia made sense to solidify the work that we were already doing. WIOA encourages looking at different strategies and blurring regional lines and we are doing that into South Georgia because many job seekers and businesses go over the state line. This is great for staff because it allows for active participant information sharing, how we do things, what are their sector strategies, what do their career pathways look like, etc., and gives insight into how they are doing things. It also allows job seekers more streamline communications and allows them easier access to what is happening. Both our center staff and Georgia's center staff have been trained in on how to explain to job seekers how to walk through the Employ Florida data base and and Georgia job seeker information data base. It really helps us understand their systems better, their jobs better and ultimately it will be better for labor exchange and job seekers especially those that are hardest to serve.

Bruce added it will impact Nassau and Baker the most but will certainly formalize the process and cross training. The Chair added this is a great opportunity and that he had asked Bruce a year ago about this...if anything was being done over state lines because counties that share a border with Georgia such as Baker have many workers in Baker County that live in Georgia. Baker also has an agreement with the Georgia School District that students who live in extreme South Georgia can attend high school and middle school in Baker County. The Charlton County School District reimburses Baker for some of those expenses (otherwise those children would need to be bused to Folkston); this has been going on for a number of years. Bruce added that Valdosta State University offers in-state tuition for Florida residents to grow their student body. It is an attractive offer for someone who wants to go away to college but not too far.

Elevate Northeast Florida: There was a kick off last week and the document is in your packet with a online survey link, www.ElevateNEFL.com, for the board to take. The link will be emailed to the Board to share with their colleagues and friends (survey takes 10-15 minutes). The more survey takers the better the results. The survey was done 5 years ago with 3,000+ respondents region wide. This survey is different but some questions are the same to see if things have changed in the results of those questions. Our Strategic Planning Process just kicked off and we are doing it in parallel with Elevate Northeast Florida and the feedback from our Executive and Full Board will be fed into this process as well as other state data that we will be getting soon. The consulting group for Elevate Northeast Florida, the Avalanche Consulting Group will be back in our region doing more and different focus groups in April, June and August with completion in August/September. **Question:** Will Avalanche Consulting Group be sending a letter or statement that the board can send with the survey link? **Reply:** There is good information on the landing page of the document that Diane will send to the Board.

Finance Update: The schedule of training expenses for the month ending January 2018 is in your packet and indicates where we are because it translates and relates directly to the support policy. On our 50% training requirement, we have a 40% waiver due to WIOA funding reductions and are currently at 61%. Over the past 2 years less people are going to school under a traditional scholarship; more customized training and work experience is being done, which are currently the most popular methods of utilizing training funds.

Preliminary TANF (welfare transition) funds have been received. The state budget will have a \$7,000 reduction after formula is applied, leaving us close to level TANF funding, and the Federal allocations for next fiscal year should be received by month end. We are sending a funding letter to our delegation (Senate and House) that rolls into the Legislative Update. The Feds received a framework budget agreement and are figuring out the allocations. Through the US Workforce Association (includes about 20 states and locally driven state associations) there is a representative in D.C. monitoring this for us. At the Federal level we have encouraged full WIOA funding Up to authorized levels that were put in place in 2014 when WIOA was passed. It has never been fully funded since it was passed. We do not believe we will take a big hit through this process and are cautiously optimistic. Another \$60 billion was put into the discretionary funding pool for this fiscal year, which hopefully will translate to a little bit more funding rolling into the local workforce system. The other good thing that brings this back up to the legislative update, from the Federal

level that was a 2-year budget agreement which means Continuing Resolutions will go away and we will have an actual budget and can plan well in advance.

A copy of our preliminary audit for this last fiscal year was received and staff is reviewing it. When finalized an Executive Board teleconference meeting to accept and approve it will be scheduled possibly the week of March 12th.

State budget conferences started last night and they agreed to a top line number. However, our work in their committees indicate a number of policy differences that they have to work out. The House and Senate agreed to put \$400 million into school safety based on the recent school shooting which will impact other areas of the budget. Session is scheduled to end March 9th. They have until noon a week from today to finalize it with a 72-hour cooling off period to review and vote on it. Staff is following this closely.

Darryl stated for the state's budget, the Senate Appropriations Committee had a 7-hour meeting yesterday which focused on education and the school safety piece. Many parents from South Florida attended and many items on the agenda were not discussed due to the length of the meeting, which showed a commitment by the Senate to address those issues that are in the forefront of everybody's mind and need to be addressed.

WIOA 4 Year Strategic Plan: We completed the midpoint update of our 4 year WIOA Strategic Plan (service delivery, changes in the labor market, what do we need to do going forward, etc.) The plan was posted on the website and sent out for Public Comment on Monday with a 30-day public comment period. The link will also be sent to the Board for their review. **Question:** What is the labor participation rate? **Reply:** Florida's rate is 60% and nationally it is 62%.

Legislative Update: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Executive Board is Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 9 a.m. at the Corporate Office, 2145 Town Center Blvd., Suite 250, Fleming Island, FL. An Outlook Invite will be emailed.

The next Full Board meeting is Thursday, April 28, 2018 from **9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the University of North Florida, Adam W. Herbert University Center, and 12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville, FL.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.