

Minutes
CareerSource Northeast Florida Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting
August 26, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the FCWD, Inc., Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Elaine Johnson on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 9:01 a.m. The following members participated, representing a quorum:

Elaine Johnson	Darryl Register
Clay Lyons	Eda Edgerton
Wayne McClain	Dr. Joe Pickens

Excused: Jake Schickel

Staff: Bruce Ferguson, Cheryl Taylor, Jay Loy, Steven Dionisio, Dianna Davis, Ron Whittington and Diane Nevison

Others: Emily Harrison (St. John's County School Board), and others

Public Comment: None.

***Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Darryl Register and seconded by Clay Lyons to move approval the June 24, 2020 Executive Committee minutes as presented; motion unanimously carried.

Operations Update

July Unemployment Statistics: The July 2020 unemployment rate for the CSNEFL region was 8.8%, versus 8.0% in June and 11.2% in April. The increase in July from June is a combination of factors...more people who had not been working see more job opportunities in July and get back in the game, bumping up the number which is not necessarily a bad thing to see. Baker County had the lowest unemployment rate of 6.6%. Our region is below the state rate of 11.5% and the national rate of 10.5%. This is due to our diversified economy.

The July 2020 employment stats by industry for our region indicate we are down 25,500 jobs from July 2019 (-3.5%). Leisure and Hospitality lost the most jobs 11,900 (-13.7%), followed by Retail Trade down 7,100 (-8.7%).

The July 2020 employment stats for Florida's Major Metro Rates have Jacksonville at 8.8%, Tampa at 10.1% and Orlando at 15.3% (which was at 22% in April).

The Employment Forecast using the JOBEQ forecast tool (looks at our economy and projects out what future employment will look like) was reviewed.

1. **All Industries:** Total jobs plummeted the end of first quarter 2020, slowly starts to rebound getting back to pre-COVID numbers 3rd quarter 2021.
2. **Health Care and Social Assistance:** There is a massive job plummet the end of 1st quarter 2020 due to no elective procedures being done, getting back to pre-COVID numbers 3rd quarter 2021.
3. **Manufacturing:** This will take longer to flatten, then rolls along, getting back to pre-COVID numbers 4th quarter 2021 or 1st quarter 2022.

4. Transportation (trucking) and Warehousing (distribution): Total jobs plummeted the end of 1st quarter 2020 and will take time to get back to pre-COVID numbers, maybe 1st quarter of 2022. There are a number of ships with goods on them that are not getting unloaded; less trade is going on due to the Pandemic.
5. Finance and Insurance: Total jobs are steady. It went up a bit in the initial part of COVID, then dropped down (it is not as robust if we did not have COVID) but it is the least impacted and shows steady growth through 2024.

Operational Status and Statistics: Center appointment numbers for the 2-month period June 15 through August 21, 2020 were reviewed. Caseloads and virtual appointments were down significantly (from 928 in June to 459 in August)...those numbers are being tracked. We are not sure if it is due to children get ready to go back to school.

1. Appointments (scheduled and walk-ins) Region – All Sites: We are down 50% since the week of June 15th. We need to keep in mind that September 5th ends the job search requirement for people receiving unemployment. Starting September 7th claimants will be required to do a minimum of 5 job searches per week. If we see an increase in traffic at the centers and more on line help is needed, we will adjust accordingly.

2. Job Orders by Month – 2020 YTD: Since April there has been a steady increase in job orders being placed (2,081 in July), a 25% increase from June to July.

3. TANF and SNAP Challenges: Capacity has not been reached and we have been able to provide good staff assistance for those coming into the centers. We previously talked about monitoring SNAP and TANF caseloads and the waiver was extended through August 31, 2020. We are currently running staff caseloads at 200 in TANF and that is not sustainable long term if additional funds are not received and none are anticipated. From a case management standpoint individuals will not receive a lot of case management assistance with that kind of volume. We will see if the work requirement has an impact and it has in the past and it may come down. We will continue to track numbers and make adjustments if we can.

4. Coursera Enrollments: Coursera is a new online certification and training program that is free to anyone who wants to enroll in any of their courses through the end of December 2020. It is being offered across the state of Florida and possibly nationwide. We are encouraging dislocated workers to enroll and 275 have done so in various courses with IT being the most popular. Question: Is it only free through the workforce development system? No, it is open to everyone. CSNEFL is pushing it through social medial and our hot jobs platform. Question: It's free so someone needs to be sponsoring it and paying for it? Some of the courses are free and some are not. Those that are not, Coursera is waiving the fee through December 31, 2020. We can receive reports of weekly enrollments to see how they are progressing through their certifications, or if they are just window shopping. Emails are also sent encouraging them to continue to take courses.

Other

Executive VP – Rebecca Livingston: Our new EVP, Rebecca Livingston starts August 31, 2020 and will be able to participate in our September 23, 2020 meeting.

Next Meeting Dates

Full Board Meeting: October 22, 2020, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Location/Format: TBD.

Executive Committee Meeting: September 23, 2020, 9-10:30 a.m., Location/Format: TBD.

Adjournment: 9:24 a.m.