Minutes

CareerSource Northeast Florida Executive Committee Meeting

May 27, 2020

A teleconference meeting of the FCWD, Inc., Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Elaine Johnson on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 9:02 a.m. at the CareerSource Northeast Florida Corporate Office. The following members participated, representing a quorum:

Elaine Johnson Jake Schickel

Clay Lyons Eda Edgerton

Darryl Register Dr. Joe Pickens

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

Others: Paul Waldron (St. John’s County Commissioner & FCWD Consortium Board Member), Emily Harrison (St. John’s County School District)

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

One consent agenda item was presented for approval. No questions were asked nor was it asked to be pulled from the agenda.

1. Executive Committee minutes – February 26, 2020 teleconference meeting

**Motion made by Darryl Register and seconded by Dr. Joe Pickens to move approval the consent agenda. Motion unanimously carried.**

**Finance Update**

Preliminary 2020-2021 funding allocations will be finalized at next week’s CSFL State Board meeting. Region 8’s major funding streams will be up about $347,000 from last year. Adult and Youth funding is up $340,000, Dislocated Worker funds are down slightly based on data from December 31, 2019 and does not include COVID data, and TANF has a $12,000 increase. Funding allocations for all of Florida’s LWDB’s is included and is based on formula (from the Feds to the state to the local level). Staff will present the 2020-2021 budget at the June 24, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Any increase in funding will be put into the adult and youth training line item (we believe there will be a higher training demand going into the fall). The Chair commented on the state revenue short fall and higher education. UNF is anticipating a 20-25% funding cut. Dr. Pickens stated SJRSC is preparing for 15-20% funding reduction even though enrollment is up, whereas enrollment at FSCJ is down. SJRSC received $3 million in CARE ACT funds. Half goes directly to students for their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, and the other half goes to the college but it cannot be spent to offset the revenue shortfall (in April their shortfall was $5 million). They are not sure what they can use the money for. The legislature is hoping the Feds change their minds; SJRSC is hoping the Governor has received and signs the budget and that the legislature goes into Special Session and cuts it. If it impacts the colleges, it is impacting K12 greater and that is a real big issue.

**Career Center Operations Update**

**Reopening and Operational Statistics:** A CSNEFL press release was sent out last week along with several articles on the reopening process. Seven career centers reopened May 26, 2020 at 9 a.m. with new enhanced procedures and modified center designs to help ensure the health and safety of jobseekers and employees. Clients will be seen by appointment only for in person or virtual counseling sessions with new hours and new satellite centers for more capacity.

Operational statistics for job seekers, job orders and employer services in March, April and May were reviewed. Services continued even though centers were closed. There was a dramatic increase in welfare transition and SNAP participants (+130% and +2,400% respectively), Call Center activity increased from an average of 800 calls per week with 3 call center agents to 37,427 calls per week with 45-50 call center agents (reassigned staff) with a minimum of 25 agents dedicated to unemployment claim questions.

Channel 4 News was at our Beach Boulevard center for the reopening and interviewed a job seeker and our PR Consultant, Ron Whittington, about the reopening and requirements. Our goal is to help people find a new job and answer basic unemployment questions. Clients can also use our computer resources to claim their weeks. Centers have been reconfigured to meet social distancing guidelines and sanitization. We have partnered for additional temporary space at the Clay County Fairgrounds, St. Johns County libraries, and the office next to our Gateway Center, increasing their overall capacity from 38 to 45 work stations. Regionally we are able to provide daily services to 665 people and weekly 33,000. There are 2 teams (A & B) at each center each working 2 weeks at home and 2 weeks at the center to help manage exposure. The teams were put into effect today at our Nassau center. A Team A staff member reported being in contact with someone who tested positive; therefore, Team B went to the center and Team A is working remotely while that staff person is being tested. A special shout out to Cheryl Taylor and her team for developing the split Team method and to Dianna Davis and Katherine Sineath on getting the supplies (sanitizers, masks, etc.) and signage needed at the centers. A special allocation was received to cover the cost of supplies/signage. A National Energy grant was also received for Dislocated Workers (same type of dollars you get for a Hurricane disaster) that allows us to give humanitarian assistance (food banks and distribution for those in need). The Chair, on behalf of the Board and Executive Committee, thanked the leadership and teams dealing with this unplanned event and creating a positive work environment for staff and clients.

**WARN Notices (April through May 17, 2020):** WARN notices are required for a layoff of 50+ employees but anyone can file, therefore smaller layoffs most likely will not shop up in the numbers. Our region had 2,808 layoffs and statewide there were 15,827 during this time frame.

**NEFL Unemployment Claims (March 7 through May 9th):** Our region is down 64,000 jobs, a 9% reduction in available jobs, versus other metro areas that are down 13%. Industry sectors most affected are accommodations, food services and health services. DEO updates claims every 2 weeks and we will continue to follow and track how claims our filed.

**Other – UNF’s Coggin College of Business:** The Chair reported UNF has completed their ZOOM job search and Dr. Richard Buttimer has been selected as the new Dean at their Coggin College of Business. He starts June 27, 2020 and is from the University of North Carolina.

**Next Meeting Dates**

**Full Board Meeting**: July 23, 2020, 9:30-11:00 a.m., University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL. (This meeting date should be confirmed in June with UNF).

**Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting**: June 24, 2020, 9-10:30 a.m., CSNEFL Corporate Office, Fleming Island, FL

**Adjournment:** 9:35 a.m.