

Minutes  
CareerSource Northeast Florida Executive Committee Meeting  
May 26, 2021

A ZOOM meeting of the FCWD, Inc., Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Elaine Johnson on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. The following members participated, representing a quorum:

Elaine Johnson	Eda Edgerton
Clay Lyons	Jake Schickel
Wayne McClain	Darryl Register

Excused: Joe Pickens, JD

Staff: Bruce Ferguson, Rebecca Livingston, Cheryl Taylor, Jay Loy, Steven Dionisio, Melissa Terbrueggen and Diane Nevison

Others: Dr. Anna Lebesch (JAXUSA), Kimberly Grey (Eckerd Connect), and Emily Harrison (St. John's County School District)

**Public Comment:** None.

**\*Approval of Minutes**

**Motion made by Wayne McClain and seconded by Darryl Register to move approval the March 24, 2021, Executive Committee minutes as presented; motion unanimously carried.**

**Operations Update**

**April Employment Statistics:** The nation is opening up and Florida is leading the pace and it is reflected in our employment statistics. April 2021 regional unemployment was 4.4% versus 11.5% in April 2020. That area is strong, and the number could tic up as more people come back into the labor force and start looking for jobs versus sitting at home on the side lines.

Total employment is up 71,000 jobs from April 2020 to April 2021. Retail is up 9,500 jobs, Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities 4,500 jobs, Leisure and Hospitality 26,300 jobs, Education and Health Services 10,100 jobs and Professional and Business Services 8,000 jobs.

Florida's major metro rate employment stats continue to do well with Jacksonville leading at 4.4% however Miami/Dade is struggling at 6.8%. All areas are doing much better than last year.

**Operational Update:** All staff returned to career centers/offices May 10, 2021. Work Search requirements for unemployment, Welfare Transition and SNAP goes back into effect June 1<sup>st</sup> and the Work Registration requirement for new claimants goes back into effect June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Program, \$300 per week supplement, is ending June 26<sup>th</sup>. The impact from these will be felt soon and additional virtual workshops are being developed on job search, resume writing, interviewing, etc. versus in person workshops. To increase capacity, we are starting off with scheduled events and then once they are perfected, they will be available on demand for viewing at their leisure or to attend live to ask questions.

Center Visitor Comparison (center traffic/not virtual). Center traffic ticked down slightly in April, but those number should increase when work search requirements resume and enhancement employment benefits end. The graph slide shows those numbers by center and month.

Account Support Requests. Account support requests are tracked when calls are received from people needing help with their Employ Florida. These calls take staff time and effort to work through and if the numbers increase back to the May/June 2020 levels, additional staff time will be required.

Business Services Update – Job Orders by Month: New job orders continue to be strong as well as employer demands and need for employees. April 2021 new job orders are 2,993. The two graph slides compare monthly numbers to April 2020 and monthly numbers from January 2016 through April 2021.

Job Order Trends by Targeted Industry: Manufacturing continues to grow but there was a slight dip in transportation and warehousing, finance and insurance, and health care and social assistance. Growth is also coming from other sectors (accommodation and food services, construction, education services, etc.), and not just targeted industries. The graph slide compares targeted industry job orders from January 2020 through April 2021 with steady growth in manufacturing and a slight down spike in health care and transportation and warehousing.

WARN Notices/Rapid Response 2021: Four WARN notices were received in April/May. When a employer is going to have a massive layoff of 50+ employees they are required to notify the state and DEO and a WARN notice is issued. Genpact, a finance and insurance targeted industry has the most recent WARN notice. However, with our connections and relationships with JAXUSA and employers looking for skilled employees in those areas, those 489 laid off employees will hopefully have a soft landing with other companies instead of being out of a job at the end of August. Members asked which employer is ABM Industries Groups Inc./Duval County Public Schools? Staff was not sure, but the Chair replied it is maintenance/HVAC...a contract and someone else awarded it.

#### May Hiring Events:

1. Northeast Florida Virtual Job and Education Fair, Thursday, May 20, 2021, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 133 employers, 319 registered job seekers, 151 active job seekers. It is still a challenge to increase job seeker interest. It is put up on social media, hot jobs list, etc.
2. Amazon Teams Tuesdays – This is a weekly virtual information session to connect job seekers to Amazon jobs that was developed in conjunction with FSCJ and other sponsors. Amazon continues to grow and has natural turnover with 5000+ local employees. It is going really well, and Amazon wants to replicate it with the other workforce boards and partners at their other locations in the state.
3. Jacksonville Plumbers and Pipefitters Apprenticeship opportunities. Two apprenticeship information sessions were held, a 9 a.m. virtual session and a 10:30 a.m. in-person session at the CSNEFL Gateway Career Center. These are great jobs earning as you learn plus benefits. Unfortunately, there was very little interest and activity. A new Apprenticeship Navigator position is coming on board to figure out how to better promote these opportunities.
4. Multi Company Job Fair – May 13, 2021, 1-4 p.m.
5. FBX Spring Empowerment Summit (Black Expo) – Virtual – May 22, 2021, 11-2 p.m. CSNEFL participated and was a co-sponsor of this event. Also, a huge entrepreneurial event will take place in August at the Prime Osborne with our mobile team participating.

6. "Return to Work" Virtual Hiring Fair – June 24, 2021, 10-1 p.m. – DEO's focus is to get people back to work and not need reemployment assistance. CSNEFL is supporting this effort and will continue to promote it heavily on the job seeker side, since the extra \$300 reemployment assistance is ending 2 days prior. Comment: Can we (DEO or CSNEFL) do a targeted outreach in our region to get access to the names of the people who are getting that extra \$300 in assistance, who will need to begin an active work search and will no longer get that supplement? Reply: That probably won't happen because it requires sharing personal identifiable information and even though we are all on the same team the data does not necessarily cross lines without some hurdles to clear. However, what will happen is all new applicants must register in Employ Florida meaning they will be relinked which will be very helpful. There were technical issues with the system connect between Employ Florida and the Reemployment system during the pandemic and that is now going to redevelop. A media press release is going out today on the waiver expiration and the \$300 ending and encouraging people to go back to work and reconnect with CSNEFL to start their work search. We do not run that program but can help them meet that requirement and get them into a good job. Scholarships are also being promoted for those looking for a new career or career track. Board members are encouraged to share their ideas on how to get the word out. Wayne McLain had a couple of ideas for Putnam County. He would like a press package with bullet points about the virtual job fair to put on the Putnam Chamber talk radio show. He would also like to send it to all Putnam Chamber members to get the word out about the \$300 going away to get people come to work in Putnam County as well as the other counties. Staff will send the press package with talking points to board members.

Legislative Update: The Reach Act that was one of the Speaker's priorities and followed by CSNEFL has passed in the House and Senate. CSNEFL staff will be meeting with FSCJ staff to discuss implementation hurdles and how Northeast Florida can be the model for implementation of the Reach Act. The same will be done with Dr. Pickens and the St. Johns River State College team. Written guidance has not yet been received but will be developed over the next weeks and months. Administrative rule making and public notices must be done at the state level that will impact local levels. Our goal is to have as much local input as we can as this legislation roles out and rules are made and developed. Bruce met with DEO Director, Dane Eagle, last week and he welcomes that input and looks forward to working with the local boards, colleges, and all the partners at the Department of Education in putting forth and implementing the Reach Act.

Clay Lyons asked for an update on the proposed term limits for board members. Bruce stated looking forward it will be a maximum of 8 consecutive years on the board starting July 1, 2021.

Wayne McClain Meeting with Governor Ron DeSantis: Wane McClain, along with local business owners, were invited to have breakfast with the Governor who wanted input from local business owners. Background was provided and there was a lot of discussion about Broadband. He also knew Wayne served on the Putnam Chamber of Commerce and the CSNEFL Boards and he asked Wayne about the effectiveness of the CSNEFL Board and input the Board provides. Wayne was short and to the point and provided real life examples where board members provided input and suggestions to staff and that input and suggestions were followed, and it took the Governor by surprise. It was a short 3–5-minute conversation and the Governor said, "So you think the CSNEFL Board that you are a member is effective"? And Wayne replied "Absolutely, sir"! The Governor then looked at his staff member and said, "Maybe that should be something some of the other areas should look at"! It was an interesting conversation. Bruce thanked Wayne stated we can try and leverage this...when the Governor says to his staff "that is a model other

regions should follow”, we need to continue modeling that and make it known to those developing policies that there is a model that can be referred to and looked at.

The Chair thanked Wayne for being a champion on behalf of our region. Our being looked at as a model is an honor we have experienced repeatedly in our state and nationwide. The Chair commended CSNEFL leadership and staff for leading our region through this time difficult and not only do we get recognized as the model in how we do business, but this team has come together and applied creativity and responded to the needs of our job seekers and our employers during this crazy time. The Chair, on behalf of the Executive Committee, thanked Bruce, Rebecca, and the CSNEFL team for what they have done and continue to do to keep us running.

Wayne gave special thanks to the CSNEFL team in Putnam County. He receives a lot of positive feedback and how staff go out of their way to help people. Clay Lyons echoed this for Baker County. They have a nice reputation in Baker County. He has inquired with several clients during tax season about their interaction with the MacClenny CSNEFL office and received positive feedback on their professionalism and how helpful staff are.

#### Nominating Committee

It has been the Chair’s honor to serve as the CSNEFL Board Chair the past 3 years, and it time to put together a slate of officers for the next term. The Chair proposed the following nominating committee appointments: Jake Schickel, Eda Edgerton and Dr. Joe Pickens with Dr. Pickens as Nominating Chair. There were no other nominations from the floor. **A motion was made by Clay Lyons and seconded by Wayne McClain to move approval the appointments to the Nominating Committee, Jake Schickel, Eda Edgerton and Dr. Joe Pickens with Dr. Pickens as Nominating Chair; motion unanimously carried.** Staff will advise Dr. Pickens of his appointment with the Slate of Officers coming forward at the July 22, 2021, Full Board meeting.

#### Strategic Visioning Update – Rebecca Livingston

The Fairman team is working hard to move strategic visioning forward. All Board and CSNEFL leadership input have been moved forward with research and they are now looking at key areas best practices identified in our region, nation, and the world. Staff and partner focus groups have been held, and one-on-one interviews are being held with job seekers, thought leaders and businesses and look forward to those outcomes. A draft will be available at the June Executive Committee meeting and the final report presented at the July Full Board meeting.

#### Next Meeting Dates

**Full Board Meeting:** July 22, 2021, 9:30-11:00 a.m., University of North Florida (University Center), 12000 Alumni Drive, Room 1058-1, Jacksonville, FL

**Executive Committee Meeting:** June 23, 2021, 9-10:30 a.m., Location/Format: TBD.

**Adjournment:** 9:45 a.m.