



**First Coast Workforce Development, Inc. (dba CareerSource Northeast Florida)  
Full Board Meeting – July 28, 2022**

Board members in attendance:

- Duval Kevin Doyle  
Michael Templeton  
Elaine Johnson  
Amy Rice  
John (Jake) Schickel
- Nassau: Duane Ziller
- Putnam: L. Wayne McClain
- Regional: Kirk Barras  
Lucia Valdivia-Sanchez

Excused/Absent: Clay Lions, Paul Cummins, Tim Hinson, Beth Payne, Joe Pickens, Kimberly Cobb-Ray, Darryl Register, Angie White, Diane Williams

Staff: Bruce Ferguson, Rebecca Livingston, Cheryl Taylor, Melissa Terbrueggen, Ivette Berrios, Angie Pineiro, and Joel Hickox

Others: Dr. Linda Woodard, Anna Lebesch, Valencia Strowder, Dwaine Sweet, Donny Anderson

Welcome and call to order:

9:30 a.m. Wayne McClain, Board Chair welcomed the CSNEFL Board of Directors and called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

Present/absent list above; Quorum was established according to the bylaws.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of April 28, 2022, CSNEFL Full Board Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes made by Elaine Johnson; seconded by Amy Rice; motion passed unanimously, and minutes approved.

### Related Party Contracts:

The Board reviewed three annual renewal contracts with county chambers/economic development partners and a funding assistance application for customized training. Per Florida Statute 445, contracts with a board member or related party conflict must be approved by a two-thirds majority of a quorum. All conflict-of-interest forms have been completed and received and those members will abstain from the vote.

- Baker County Chamber of Commerce Contract: FCWD, Inc Board members with a conflict are Darryl Register, President and Clay Lyons board member of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce. Darryl Register and Clay Lyons were not present but abstained from the vote through their conflict-of-interest form filed in the corporate office. **Motion to approve the contract made by Amy Rice; seconded by Duane Ziller; Darryl Register and Clay Lyons were absent for the vote; motion passed unanimously and contract approved.**
- Clay County Economic Development Contract: FCWD, Inc. Board member with a conflict is Dr. Joe H. Pickens, board member of the Clay County Economic Development Corporation. Dr. Pickens was not present but abstained from the vote through his conflict-of-interest form filed in the corporate office. **Motion to approve the contract made by Elaine Johnson; seconded by Amy Rice; Dr. Joe H. Pickens were absent for the vote; motion passed unanimously, and contract approved.**
- Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Contract: FCWD, Inc. Board members with conflicts are Dr. Joe H. Pickens who was not present but abstained from the vote through his conflict-of-interest form filed in the corporate office and L. Wayne McClain, board member of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. **Motion to approve contract made by Jake Schickel; seconded by Elaine Johnson; Dr. Joe H. Pickens was absent for the vote; L. Wayne McClain abstained from the vote; motion passed unanimously, and contract approved.**
- Miller Electric Customized Training Contract: FCWD, Inc. Board members with conflicts are Tim Hinson, Training Director for Miller Electric and Kirk Barras, President of the Jacksonville General Apprentices Association. Tim Hinson was not present but abstained from the vote through his conflict-of-interest form filed in the corporate office. **Motion to approve contract made by Jake Schickel; seconded by Amy Rice; Tim Hinson was absent for the vote; Kirk Barras abstained from the vote; motion passed unanimously, and contract approved.**

### Florida HIREs – Employment for Justice-Affected Citizens:

- The Florida HIREs Coordinator, Valencia Strowder, gave a presentation on Employment of Justice-Affected Citizens. Florida HIREs is a Florida Department of Corrections and CareerSource Florida partnership, delivering enhanced employability and technical training pre-release for justice-affected citizens. The program has worked with over 300 individuals and are given small group training including financial literacy. Dwaine Sweet also presented regarding the role CareerSource NEFL's role in the program. Extensive discussion occurred during Q&A.

### Operations Update:

- The Labor Market Data for June 2022 showed an uptick from May. There was an increase of 10,000 more people looking for jobs in June compared to May in this region. We continue to have robust net job growth in all industries. We saw an increase of job seekers in our career centers for the month of June. Our job recruitment events have helped draw in more people. In particular, the Gateway center had over 1,400 job seekers in June.
- Job orders dropped off in June and part of July. The Employ Florida system was down statewide for approximately 2 weeks. The vendor had a cyber-attack causing the system to go down and depress the number of job orders. The system is now back online. There was a little shift in the top 10 occupations. Software held the top spot but now it is social services and RN's. We are seeing a lot of demand for RN and occupational health training.

### REACH Act Implementation Update:

There are two key portions of the REACH Act being reviewed and implemented over the next several months. The first is a "letter grade" scorecard for all local boards and the second is a realignment study to review the possible reduction in the number of workforce boards. Phase One is an overview of our system in Florida, the results of some roundtables with stakeholders, and a review of some other states that have, or are in the process of, realigning their systems. The target is to have final recommendations to the state board by December.

### Strategic Visioning Update:

- We set up a 4-year plan as required by WIOA. We are now at the midpoint and need to update our 2-year plan. Rebecca reviewed the goals from the Strategic Visioning 2021 Plan and asked for any updates or changes according to what is happening in each county. The Board suggested adding a focus on justice involved customers (those with significant barriers to employment) and to emphasize the strength of partnerships. The list will be amended and enhanced with the Board's feedback.
- Choices 2022 is a summer internship program that began June 6<sup>th</sup> supporting about 20 youths in Duval, St. Johns, and Putnam counties. It was a challenge recruiting youths this summer. This may be because many youths already had a job and the funding stream, we are utilizing has eligibility requirements. The combination of the two has decreased the number of individuals participating. Nonetheless, we have strong stories with the employers. Experiences are diverse and include information technology, medical office training, logistics training, and exposure to airspace industry
- We launched a new Skillbridge partnership through the Department of Defense. This program provides training through Florida Rock and Tank Lines to members that will be exiting service. This apprenticeship is for professional tank truck drivers and participants are required to have their CDL license.
- The Construction Ready Program is going well. They are currently have 19 students enrolled in their third class. Participants will be meeting with 7 employers today. Graduation will be held tomorrow.
- We have started to see an increase at regional job fairs. Our most recent event took place at Gateway with 37 employers and focused on military families. There were 22 hires that took place on site. The job fair event in Palatka connected employers with over 50 job seekers.
- All materials are online for the Regional Workforce Forum. A few videos will be added and shared on social media.

Public Comment: None.

The meeting was adjourned by the Board Chair, Wayne McClain at 11:00 a.m.