

Minutes
CareerSource Northeast Florida Executive Board Teleconference Meeting
August 23, 2017

A teleconference meeting of the FCWD, Inc., Executive Board was called to order by Chair Darryl Register on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The following members participated, representing a quorum:

Darryl Register	Eda Edgerton	Elaine Johnson
Brian Keith	Dan Vohs	Lad Daniels
Jake Schickel		

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

Others: Ann Watts (Baker County Public Schools) and Joan Long (FCTC)

Public Comment: None.

***Action Items**

***Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Brian Keith and seconded by Elaine Johnson to move approval the June 28, 2017 Executive Board minutes as written; motion carried.

Discussion

Strategic Plan Review (2015-2020) Update: Staff updated members on the status of the strategic plan. A draft schedule is in the agenda. We are half way through the plan and are getting ready to establish our internal team to drive this and any external teams that we may have in place. The internal team should be in place by early September to set a more formal process and goals.

CSNEFL, JAXUSA and the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) are involved in the Innovate Florida 2.0 initiative (an update to Innovate Florida (2012-2016)). The Department of Commerce has approved the grant proposal however the application process phase has been slowed due to the federal funding cycle which may not occur until January 2018. Since talent is a big part of Innovate Florida 2.0. staff would like members' opinions on starting the internal process now versus waiting until the grant is funded? Elaine Johnson, who was Co-Chair of the first Innovate Florida and who will also be a part of Innovate Florida 2.0, stated 2.0 should be easier and agreed talent is important as is the need to be aligned. There is value in doing that and ensuring the ability of our region. She votes that we align ourselves with

Florida 2.0. Bruce stated staff will begin the alignment process noting we may have to move the Full Board review date to the January time frame unless we hear something in September. The Chair concurred.

Federal Budget 2018

The agenda includes highlighted budget information. The House budget passed all their committee and department budget bills. The bill decreased WIOA Adult and Youth funding by 5% but the big surprise was it eliminated DOL funding (\$671 million) for Title III Wagner Peyser Employment Services. This will have a big impact on our system as well as the ability of states and local communities to provide critical job search and reemployment services to universal customers. Since the Senate has not passed any budget bills, it is very likely we will have another Continuing Resolution. If that occurs, the House budget goes away freezing all current spending, leaving programs intact and operations continuing as is. Continuing Resolutions do however affect our ability to plan because we just do not know; a full year of a CR is needed, otherwise it makes planning problematic. (An interesting article in the WSJ by Arkansas Senator Colton gives a better understand on how things are done and why we keep getting Continuing Resolutions. The article gives background on the budget and the 2011 Budget Act that impacts the federal funding cycle).

Staff also closely watches the sliding scale waiver calculation which shows what our total funding allocation has been for our 3 major WIOA funding streams, i.e., Adult, Welfare Transition and Wagner Peyser since 2012. At that time it was \$19.6 million and this year it is \$15.4 million (a 21% reduction over the last 5 budget cycles). To date we have been managing by not filling positions due to attrition and maximizing carry forward funds to absorb the funds, however if this trend continues, a 5-10% reduction over the next 2 years, we will be down to the lowest level of funding that we have had in 15 years. Staff will keep the board and committee apprised of these calculations. Question: Is the decrease related to the drop in unemployment? Reply: Partly yes. Everything is formula based and unemployment plays a key in that formula. Using this year's budget as an example, if Congress has a WIOA pie of \$100 million, and Florida's share of the \$100 million shrank by 5% last year, based on formula (not on a budget cut) then Florida's slice would be less. When you look at unemployment stats, when unemployment is low (economy is good) you get less of the pie and the same is true when unemployment is high (economy is bad), you get more funding.

CareerSource Florida Funding Initiatives

The CareerSource Florida Board is releasing discretionary funds that local boards can apply for to use towards sector strategies, pathways to prosperity and rural initiatives (Baker and Putnam Counties).

Sector Strategies: Staff is working on a sector strategy initiative to replicate the Surgical Technician training program that is currently done at Baptist and Memorial (training entry-level workers and workers in non-health related jobs to be Surgical Technicians) to 4 more hospitals

Pathway to Prosperity: Staff is also working on a Pathway to Prosperity initiative.

Rural Initiatives (Baker & Putnam Counties): This year CSFL will be releasing \$35,000 to rural counties whose plan meets the rural area of opportunity definition, which for us includes Baker and Putnam counties. (Previously the state would allocate a little extra money to rural workforce boards for those areas). The money can be used for whatever projects the county chooses. This is anticipated to be continued funding, however when planning your budgets, do not count it as recurring funds, because you never know when CSFL will pull back those funds.

Labor Market Information

Our most recent employment statistics (July 2017) continue to improve as unemployment reaches record lows with St. John's County at 3.3%. Job growth continues to be good with 17,700 net new jobs for the year. Every industry is gaining except Information, which is holding steady. We are doing well as a region.

Next Meeting Date

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled September 27, 2017 at 9 a.m. at the FCWD Corporate Office, 1845 Town Center Blvd., Suite 250, Fleming Island, FL. An Outlook Invite will be sent.

The next Full Board meeting is Thursday, October 26, 2017 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 9:25 a.m.