



Programs and Services Committee Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2023

Opening Remarks

1. Welcome & Attendance

Voting Items

2. Review and Approve Local Targeted Occupations List (LTOL) for 3rd Quarter of PY 2023- 2024
3. Review and Approve Welfare Transition (WT) – Work Registration Policy Revisions

Information/Discussion

4. CareerSource Research Coast (CSRC) Program Updates
 - a. Wagner-Peyser (WP)/TAA
 - Corrective Action Plan PY 2022-2023
 - Staffing Updates
 - b. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - On-the-Job (OJT) Training Progress YTD
 - Individual Training Account (ITA) Expenditures
 - Staffing Update
 - c. Welfare Transition (WT)/SNAP
 - SNAP State Plan Changes
 - Statewide WT Program Participation Task Force
 - Staffing Updates
 - d. Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG)/Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW)
 - JVSG - Paychecks for Patriots/Annual Conference
 - MSFW - Change in Significant Office/Regional Subject Matter Expert Group
5. Regional Planning Update/Collaboration with CareerSource West Palm Beach
6. Hope Florida Program Update
7. CareerSource Policies Under Development: Standardized/Regional Planning Policies
8. Letter Grade Update - Change to Methodology for PY 2023-2024
9. Adjournment

Members Participating by Teleconference

Jim Brann Bill Solomon

Members Present

Bob Cenk

Members Excused

Jose Capellan Pete Tesch Pamela Burchell

Members Unexcused

None

Staff Present

Shelly Batton Christina Coble Rachel Pamer
Mary Bell Kate Sayger Martin Rivera
Jennifer Eimann

Call to Order

Bob Cenk, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. A quorum was not established. Bob Cenk referred agenda voting Items 2 and 3 to the next Executive Committee meeting on December 8, 2023, for review and vote.

Agenda Item 4 - CareerSource Research Coast (CSRC) Program Updates:

Mary Bell, Wagner-Peyser Program Manager/TAA Coordinator, shared updates on the Wagner-Peyser program:

- Programmatic Monitoring Action Plan: A plan has been put in place to address any findings, observations, or other non-compliance issues (ONIs) identified in the monitoring process.

Ms. Bell will be going to the career centers over the next several weeks to work with staff to review the monitoring outcomes and deliver more training if necessary.

- New Hire: Stacey Schaefer will be transitioning to a position with FLORIDACOMMERCE as a Resource Room Customer Service Specialist in the Garden City Office as of December 18, 2023.

Angela Bragg started on September 15, 2023, as a Reemployment Services and Eligibility

Assessment (RESEA) Specialist. Ms. Bragg is part of the St. Lucie County Comprehensive Center in Ft. Pierce.

Christina Coble, Business Services Manager, gave an update on the WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker programs, St. Lucie County (SLC) Summer of Success (SOS) Initiative, and current staff promotions.

- WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker Programs: Ms. Coble stated that CSRC had a robust beginning to PY 2023-2024, enrolling over twenty-three clients in On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunities. These opportunities have been in various sectors, such as healthcare, manufacturing, and skilled trades.
- Individual Training Account (ITA) Enrollments: There were 23 ITA classroom training enrollments into RN, LPN, and CDL programs of study. In addition, one client was enrolled in the Cybersecurity Apprenticeship.
- Promotions: Ms. Coble stated that Kate Sayger, Martin County Career Planner II, has been promoted to Program Performance Coordinator.

Doralys Baez has been promoted from Career Planner I to Career Planner II and will be placed in the Martin County Career Center.

Ms. Coble has been promoted from the WIOA Programs Manager to the Business Services Manager.

Rachel Pamer, Welfare Transition (WT) & SNAP Program Manager, gave an update on the WT and SNAP programs:

- WT Program: Since the Comprehensive Career Center moved to Garden City, Ft. Pierce, there has been a marked increase in WT client participation.
- The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023: Ms. Pamer explained that this was enacted in June 2023 and phases in an expansion of this work-reporting requirement for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) adults up to age 54.

As of September 2023, the requirement was extended to adults up to age 59. This will go into effect November 20, 2023, for 51- and 52-year-olds and October 2024 for 53- and 54-year-olds.

Ms. Pamer noted three new exemptions to this work-reporting requirement: People who cannot work due to a physical or mental limitation, are pregnant, or have a child 18 or younger living in their home will also be exempt.

Overall, Ms. Pamer stated that we should see more individuals seeking our services because

of this new requirement.

- Statewide Program Participation Task Force: FLORIDACOMMERCE, in conjunction with the Department of Child and Families (DCF), has been working on a plan to best serve the influx of refugees from other countries entering the United States.

Our LWDA sees refugees from Haiti, Cuba, and Ukraine. The current plan is that they can receive benefits through the Welfare Transition /SNAP programs and be exempt from the requirements for one year.

However, at the end of that year, many are still limited as to their ability to fulfill the activity requirements, such as job search, employment, training, etc.

As a result, FLORIDACOMMERCE created the Statewide Program Participation Task Force to create a bridge between Federal and State requirements to better address the challenges the immigrants are facing and determine resolutions to these issues.

- New Hires: Ms. Pamer stated that Nelly Diaz has been hired as a WT Program Career Planner in the Martin County Career Center. Ms. Diaz started on October 2, 2023.

Rachel Pamer has been promoted to Finance Specialist in the St. Lucie Administration office as of December 1, 2023.

Shelly Batton, Director of Programs, shared updates on the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) and the Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) Program:

- Annual Paychecks for Patriots Job Fair: This event was held on November 9, 2023, at the Riverwalk Center, Ft. Pierce.

Of the forty-three individuals that participated in this event, thirty-three were veterans. Seventeen employers and five community partners attended as well. Jose Capellan, St. Lucie County Veterans Services, was the guest speaker.

- 2023 Florida Veteran Workforce Summit: Ms. Batton stated that seven CareerSource Research Coast (CRSC) individuals attended the Florida Veterans Workforce Summit in Orlando. The event was held from October 23 through October 27, 2023. The summit serves as statewide training for the Florida Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG). Ms. Batton stated it was a very informative event.
- Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFW) Program: Ms. Batton provided a brief overview of the equity of services for Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers (MSFWs). The United States Department of Labor has established Equity Ratio Indicators and Minimum Service Level Indicators – Employment and Training Administration to measure the level of equity and quality of services provided to MSFWs during a program year. To meet the equity performance standards, the percentage of services provided to MSFWs must be equal to or greater than the percentage of services offered to non-MSFWs.

All three career centers are now considered significant offices, whereas only the St. Lucie Comprehensive Center was previously.

Several challenges affect the LWDA's ability to meet the equity performance standard, such as a decrease in the MSFW population in our region. Additionally, what services must be offered to meet the minimum service level indicators still needs to be clarified.

Ms. Batton stated that she and Hector Ramirez, Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Specialist, continue to work towards making sure LWDB 20 is in full compliance with the equity service level indicators.

- New Hires: Ms. Batton stated that Edlyne Garcon started her Consolidated DVOP/LVER position in the Martin County career center on October 16, 2023.

Agenda Item 5 - Review Regional Planning Area Strategic Policy:

Shelly Batton, Director of Programs, gave a brief overview regarding the start of the implementation process of the regional planning areas, of which LWDB 20 will be part. Ms. Batton stated that LWDB 20 offered to be a pilot as one of the two to three regional planning areas that will be in place by July 1, 2024. CareerSource Research Coast (CSRC) will partner with CareerSource Palm Beach in this process. There are already components in place that make this workforce alliance make sense, such as:

- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- Commuting Patterns
- Business Structure and Industries Sectors Align

Agenda Item 6 - Review Hope Florida Program Update:

Shelly Batton, Director of Programs, explained that the Hope Florida - A Pathway to Prosperity Initiative (HOPE Navigator Grant) was spearheaded by First Lady Casey DeSantis and implemented by the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Rona Brighthaupt was given the position of Hope Navigator and is responsible for helping clients access a wide variety of services and resources to achieve economic independence while overcoming barriers.

Ms. Batton stated that she, Rona Brighthaupt, and Tracey McMorris attended a Hope Navigator meeting on November 14, 2023. The meeting was held at CareerSource Palm Beach (CSPB), West Palm Beach.

The purpose of the meeting was to take the first “Regional Planning” steps with CareerSource Palm Beach regarding operating the Hope Florida program, review and train on the referral processes, and align expectations of service delivery. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Hope Navigators for CSPB and CSRC were in attendance.

Agenda Item 7 - Review CareerSource Policies Under Development: Standardized/Regional Planning Policies:

Shelly Batton, Director of Programs, discussed two CareerSource Florida strategic policies that are being developed to support workforce systems alignment.

Regional Planning Area Policy: Ms. Batton reiterated that a Regional Planning Area is made up of two or more local workforce development areas to improve workforce system alignment within larger economic development areas to support economic mobility, growth, and prosperity. The intended goals of establishing Regional Planning Areas across neighboring local workforce development areas include but are not limited to:

- Aligning workforce strategies to address the needs of shared industry sectors, employers, and significant populations of job seekers.
- Addressing common labor shortages and worker skills gaps with aligned service strategies.
- Realizing system efficiencies through reducing resource costs (monetary, time, or other).

Statewide Standardization of Tools and Services: This policy supports partnerships and ensures the attainment of state-procured technology, tools, and services used by all local workforce development boards and regional planning areas.

Each LWDA submitted an extensive list to the state showing the tools and resources currently used. That information will be utilized to assist in establishing statewide procurement of all technology, tools, and services for local, regional, and network-wide use. This will ensure:

- Standardization of service delivery to create a uniform customer experience.
- Identified efficiencies through maximizing the expenditure of funds, use of human and other resources, and time directed to training and business services.
- Improved performance, accountability, and transparency throughout the workforce development system.

Agenda Item 8 - Review Letter Grade Update - Change to Methodology for PY 2023-2024:

Shelly Batton, Director of Programs, explained that the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act calls for the assignment of local workforce development board letter grades to improve accountability in the workforce system. The law charges the Governor's REACH Office with developing criteria for determining letter grades and the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors with assigning and publicly releasing the letter grades annually.

CareerSource Florida offered updates on the most recent data regarding the LWDB's performance for PY 2022-2023. The letter grades are updated quarterly as the data becomes available. LWDB 20 achieved a letter grade of A- (90.58%).



The data that make up the letter grades were analyzed for continuous improvement. In an effort to continue to improve the state's workforce system, the following updates are being implemented to the letter grades methodology for program year 2023-2024:

Adjustments to two metric targets are as follows:

- Participants with Increased Earnings: Target (PY22-23) 45% to (PY23-24) 50%
- Reduction in Public Assistance: Target (PY22-23) 35% to (PY23-24) 50%

Adjustments to the Extra Credit points scale are as follows:

- Extra Credit Points: Expanded to include Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Blind Services, and low-income participants.

Agenda Item 8 - Adjournment:

With no further items to discuss, a motion was made by Bob Cenk to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Solomon. All members agreed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

The next Programs and Services Committee Meeting will be on January 31, 2024

BOARD STAFF CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify these minutes reflect the proceedings by the Youth Council of CareerSource Research Coast, have been reviewed by the Board of Directors, and approved or approved with modifications which have been incorporated herein.

Shelly Batton
Board Staff

Date

