

Meeting of the
First Coast Workforce Development Consortium
August 4, 2021

Chair Larry Harvey called to order a teleconference meeting of the First Coast Workforce Development Consortium on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The following members were present, representing a quorum.

Present: Aaron Bowman, Duval County
Jim Renninger, Clay County
Mark Hatley, Baker County
Thomas r. Ford – Nassau County
Larry Harvey – Putnam County
Paul Waldron – St. John's County

Staff: Bruce Ferguson, Rebecca Livingston, Steven Dionisio, Cheryl Taylor, Judy Hahn
and Diane Nevison

Absent/Excused:

Public Comment: None

*Action Items

*Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2021, FCWD Consortium Meeting

Motion made by Councilman Bowman and seconded by Commissioner Renninger to move approval the March 15, 2021, FCWD Consortium meeting minutes as presented; motion unanimously carried.

*Approval of FCWD Consortium Budget – FY 2021-2022

The FCWD Consortium budget for FY 2021-2022 includes a slight increase from last year of \$80,000. The budgeted amount for salaries includes an average base increase of 3% to keep

wage levels somewhat competitive with the market to retain staff and recruit new staff. There is a 4% incentive pool max that is based on staff evaluations and performance. We anticipate 134 FTE's versus 131 last year due to retirements and transitions to other jobs. We do not anticipate any increases in our health insurance costs and have updated the fringe on the FRS retirement rates out of this last year's legislative session. As a reminder the amount of the FCWD Consortium budget is included in the FCWD Inc. budget that was approved by the CSNEFL Full Board at their July 22nd meeting. Question: Did health insurance costs increase from last year? Reply: No. We piggyback off the City of Jacksonville's insurance and they have not increased at all. COJ went to a self-insured type of plan 6-7 years ago and we have not had an increase in our health insurance costs in that entire time. Question: What about property and casualty insurance? Reply: Those figures are inside the FCWD Inc. budget and there may be a slight increase but nothing too big. Question: Do we lease or own our properties? Reply: All our leased. **Motion made by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Councilman Bowman to move approval the FCWD Consortium budget for PY 2021-2022 as presented; motion unanimously carried.**

***Approval of FCWD Inc. Budget – FY 2021-2022**

The FCWD Inc. budget for PY 2021-2022 is \$20.1 million; it is the full operational budget and includes the Consortium budget numbers that were just approved. There was a 10% reduction in our WIOA formula funds (adult, youth and dislocated workers) this year. And our Welfare Transition (TANF) funding stream saw an increase of about 10%. The reduction of the WIOA formula funds is driven by the fact that the state reopened earlier than other larger states. We were already beginning to see an improvement in employment when they take the data snapshot for how that formula works. Within the state, Northeast Florida recovered more quickly than touristy dependent areas (Orlando, Miami, Tampa). The combination of those factors play a role in that 10% decrease in those funding streams. However due to the pandemic last year, we were significantly under spent in previous years training dollars with a lot fewer people taking training and scholarship opportunities therefore we have more than enough carryforward to offset that 10% reduction in funds which will help us through this year. Next year we should see a more balanced formula because everyone has reopened. This year we plugged extra dollars into training with the full intent of spending them that way. There is an improvement in training but final numbers come out the end of September. But training, training, training is what it is all going

to be about as move forward this budget cycle. **Motion made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Ford to move approval the FCWD Inc. Budget for PY 2021-2022 as presented; motion unanimously carried.**

***Approval of Appointment to FCWD Inc. Board of Directors**

There is one new private sector board member appointment to the CSNEFL Board of Directors for approval by the FCWD Consortium. His nomination letter and Bio are in the packet and his appointment fills a vacant private sector seat in Nassau County.

- Appointee Duane Ziller, Director of Human Resources for Science Interactive. Nominated by Nassau County Economic Development Board. His background and expertise will bring good knowledge to the FCWD Inc. Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Ford and seconded by Commissioner Waldron to move approval the appointment of Duane Ziller Director of Human Resources for Science Interactive to the FCWD Inc. Board of Directors; motion unanimously carried.

President's Report

At our previous meeting when we did not have a quorum we briefly talked about labor market statistics. We now have updated July 2021 numbers on job orders and career center visits. In June, over 4,000 individuals came into our career centers, and that is the most we have seen since February 2020. We dropped a little bit in July, partly due to a spike in COVID cases, a holiday and a Hurricane Day, as well, and we were just over 3,700 visits and that is the second highest month since the pandemic started. That is very encouraging to see more people coming in seeking our assistance.

The other half of the equation is the number of job orders received and we set a record in July with 3,500+ new job orders and that does not reflect every open job, just those that are in our system. That is 5 consecutive months with job orders over 3,000.

Question: Of the 3,500 new jobs do you have a break down by sectors? Reply: Yes, it is across all sectors, with a doubling this past month of the number of jobs in health care and social services but virtually every category and in particular our targeted industries increased month over month (June to July), with a nice spread and growth in all categories. **The Chair asked staff to email**

that information to members and staff can do that.

We continue to operate and require masks to be worn by staff and job seekers coming into the centers to protect both staff and clients. There have been a few positive cases among staff, and everyone seems to be doing okay with that. This is something we continue to monitor and do all we can to mitigate the spread as best we can.

Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.