

First Coast Workforce Development Consortium
Meeting on March 21, 2022

Chair Larry Harvey called to order a teleconference meeting of the First Coast Workforce Development Consortium on Monday, March 21, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The following members were present, representing a quorum.

Present: Aaron Bowman - Duval County
Jim Renninger - Clay County
Larry Harvey – Putnam County
Paul Waldron – St. John’s County
Absent/Excused: Mark Hatley - Baker County
Thomas R. Ford – Nassau County
Staff: Bruce Ferguson, Rebecca Livingston, Steven Dionisio
Others Present: Richard Powell, Auditor

Public Comment: None

***Action Items**

***Approval of Minutes – August 4, 2021, FCWD Consortium Meeting**

Motion made by Councilman Bowman and seconded by Commissioner Renninger to move approval the August 4, 2021, FCWD Consortium meeting minutes as presented; motion unanimously carried.

***Approval of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Audit**

Richard Powell with Powell & Jones CPA presented the Independent Auditor’s Report for the fiscal year 2021-2022 for First Coast Workforce Development, Inc. The auditor has met and reviewed the audit with Bruce Ferguson and his management staff. Richard stated that FCWD has the highest level of assurance which is a good reflection of the quality of the financial records and practices of the Consortium. The organization’s balance sheet shows total assets as \$725,701.00 and total liabilities as \$3,789,408.00. The liabilities are much higher because it is required to report the share of the Florida Retirement System net pension liability which is a little over 3 million dollars. The net worth is (\$5,062,066). This is because FCWD is required to report the net pension liability related to deferred inflows in the financial statement. Financially, it was a successful year. There were no findings in the internal control audit of the Consortium’s policies. For the required communication between the auditor’s firm and the Board, there were no issues or restrictions with the information requested. There

were no disagreements with management. Question: Is there any other pension plan that we have other than the Florida Retirement System? Answer: That is the only plan that we have available to staff. Question: Do we have a senior executive pension plan? Answer: Yes, we do. Based on the FRS guidelines, we have up to 10 slots in the SMS in the senior management category and we currently have 6 of those filled. Question: Is that part of the FRS funding stream or is it separate from the financial management. Answer: It is all done through the Florida Retirement System. **Motion made by Commissioner Waldron and seconded by Councilman Bowman to move approval the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Audit as presented; motion unanimously carried.**

***Operations and Legislative Update**

Bruce Ferguson presented the PowerPoint for the January 2022 employment statistics. All counties have had a slight uptick from December 2021 to January 2022 but we are still in really good shape at 3.3% for the region. Putnam County came in a little higher at 5.1% and St. Johns County is the lowest for the region at 2.6%. This is still a strong job market. By industry, net new jobs in the region were almost 30,000 from January 2021 to January 2022 with all sectors increasing except the transportation/warehousing; in particular, we saw a huge increase in professional & business services with 10,400 new jobs at a 9.4% growth rate. In our career centers, we are just below the total number of visitors where we were at the same time last year. We are still trending upward but still slow in job seeker traffic overall.

Trainings have been slow in the state colleges and other training providers have seen this as well. But during the last couple of months, we have seen a lot more interest in training. Bruce spoke with FSCJ and summer enrollment is up 6% from last year so we are hoping that trend continues. Job order trends are down in February under 2,900 from a peak in October of almost 4,300. Although we have dropped off considerably since that October peak, we still have historically high job orders. According to the Top 10 Occupations list, software development, management analyst, and customer service representative are at the top of the list and in highest demand. Question: Where would the CDL drivers/bus drivers be categorized? Answer: They are in the transportation category. Interestingly this is the category that has dropped significantly although we have we have seen a lot of interest in CDL training. We are working with the colleges to fill that need. It's a capacity issue at this point. FSCJ is opening another training school at their Nassau campus.

From a legislative standpoint, for the workforce system it was a quiet session. House Bill 1507 that was passed in the previous session called the REACH Act required CareerSource Florida to do an analysis of potential realignment of the regional workforce boards. We would have to follow federal guidelines if they decide to do that. The CareerSource Florida and Department of Economic Opportunity want local feedback by engaging with us and elected officials. This process could take up to 6 months. CareerSource Florida has hired a firm to look at Florida and other states that did regional consolidation to see what worked and what didn't. We can expect an initial report in June.

Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m.