



**First Coast Workforce Development Consortium  
Meeting on March 25, 2024**

Chair Larry Harvey called to order a teleconference meeting of the First Coast Workforce Development Consortium on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present, representing a quorum.

Present: Jim Renninger - Clay County  
Larry Harvey – Putnam County  
Mark Hartley - Baker County  
A.M. “Hupp” Huppmann - Nassau County

Absent/Excused: Roy Alaimo – St. John’s County

Staff present: Bruce Ferguson, Rebecca Livingston, Steven Dionisio, Cheryl Taylor, Jay Loy, Angie Pineiro

Others Present: Brad Hough, Powell & Jones CPA

**Public Comment:** None

**\*Action Items**

**\*Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2023, FCWD Consortium Meeting**

Motion to approve the June 26, 2023, FCWD Consortium Meeting minutes made by Commissioner Renninger and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion unanimously carried and minutes approved as presented.

**\*Approval of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Audit**

- The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 annual audit was presented by Brad Hough from Powell & Jones, CPA. The balance sheet was explained and reviewed. The audit was clean and there were no findings or questions.

Motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Audit made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Huppmann; motion unanimously carried and audit accepted.

### **\*Appointment of New CareerSource NEFL Board Members**

The JAXUSA Partnership has nominated Mr. Reggie Fullwood. Mr. Fullwood is the CEO at Operation New Hope. He is very active in the non-profit and philanthropic communities in the region and across Florida. Mr. Fullwood's biography and nomination letter were reviewed.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce has nominated Ms. Donna Wagner. Ms. Wagner is the Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer, UF Health St. John's. She has participated in programs on apprenticeships and is very active in both the business and philanthropic communities in the region. Ms. Wagner's biography and nomination letter were reviewed.

Motion to accept the appointment of the new CareerSource NEFL Board Members made by Commissioner Renninger and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion unanimously carried and appointment accepted.

### **\*Operations Update**

The February 2024 employment statistics were reviewed. We held steady for January and February at 3.3%. Job growth increased from February 2023 to February 2024. We gained a net of 16,000 new jobs. We lost jobs in a couple of categories. Professional/Business Services lost approximately 900 jobs. There was a decrease of approximately 600 jobs in Transportation and 300 jobs in the IT category. We will continue to monitor.

There has been a significant increase in traffic in our career centers with over 4,100 job seekers for the month of February. This was 1,000 more job seekers than February 2023. We have also had a significant increase in job orders in our region across all categories. In November and December, we were in the 1,500 to 1,600 range for job orders each month and in February, we jump up to approximately 2,600 job orders.

We continue to hold job fairs in-person and virtually and are well attended. Fanatics closed their warehouse in Jacksonville which affected over 200 employees. We held a job fair at their job site with 20 employers and helped those employees affected by the layoff.

Question was asked: Do we put a price on the number and the average annual salary/wage of the jobs placed? Yes, we track the wages of clients placed within our WIOA Program.

### **Adjournment**

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 a.m.