



First Coast Workforce Development Consortium
Meeting on March 10, 2025

Chair Larry Harvey called to order a teleconference meeting of the First Coast Workforce Development Consortium on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The following members were present, representing a quorum.

Present: Larry Harvey – Putnam County
 Jim Renninger - Clay County
 Mark Hartley - Baker County
 Alyson McCullough – Nassau County

Absent/Excused: Sarah Arnold – St. Johns County

Staff present: Cheryl Taylor, Rebecca Livingston, Steven Dionisio, Jay Loy, Ivette Berrios, Angie Pineiro, Mike Lashbrook

Public Comment: None

***Action Items**

***Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2024, FCWD Consortium Meeting**

Motion to approve December 2, 2024, FCWD Consortium Meeting minutes made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Renninger. Motion unanimously carried and minutes approved as presented.

***Acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Audit**

Mr. Brad Hough, CPA from Powell & Jones CPA presented the annual audit for fiscal year 2023-2024. Brad also reviewed long-term liabilities and internal controls with the committee. There were no findings and questions. Motion to accept the 2023-2024 Annual Audit made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Renninger; motion unanimously carried.

***Appointment of New CareerSource Northeast Florida Board Members**

The committee reviewed the appointment of two vacancies to the Board of Directors.

The Clay County Economic Development Council has nominated Mr. Michael Rathjen. Mr. Rathjen is the Vice President of School Programs for VyStar Credit Union. Mr. Rathjen's biography and letter of nomination was reviewed. Motion to approve the appointment for the new Board of Director member made by Commissioner Renninger and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion unanimously carried and appointment approved as presented.

The Nassau County Economic Development Board has nominated Mr. Terrill Morgan. Mr. Morgan is the Human Resources Manager for LignoTech Florida. Mr. Morgan's biography and nomination letter was reviewed. Motion to approve the appointment for the new Board of Director member made by Commissioner Renninger and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion unanimously carried and appointment approved as presented.

***Operations Update**

- The December 2024 Employment Statistics were presented. The unemployment rate is down slightly at 3.0% from 3.5% last month. We have seen an increase in job seekers in our centers with a total of 5,174. This is the highest number to date since January and higher than in the last two years. Our Gateway and Southside locations saw the biggest jump, but the increase is across our entire region.
- We have seen job orders substantially decrease in the last year. These numbers are reflective in other regions as well. The number of jobs at Indeed.com is down as well. Job order trends by industry were reviewed.
- Upcoming recruitment events include:
 - Recruitment Wednesdays
 - March Virtual Hiring and Education Fair on March 20, 2025
 - Duval County Public School Employment Fair for High School Juniors and Seniors on March 11th.
 - 2025 Spring Career Fair at FSCJ in April.
 - 3rd Annual Second Chances Job Fair on April 22nd.

Adjournment

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.