

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
CareerSource Southwest Florida
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON
April 13, 2023
3 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present:

Keitha Daniels – In Person
Michael Wukitsch- Virtual
Adrian Llanes – In Person

John Talmage – In Person
Adrian Kerr- In Person
Dave Gammon- Virtual

Members Absent:

Michael Dalby
Rosemary Fllori

Jim Lamb

Guests/Interested Parties:

James Parish, Punta Gorda Airport- Virtual
Melanie Schmees, FGCU- In Person
Dr. Aysegul Timur- In Person

Rick McCoy Airglades Int. Airport-Virtual
Dr. Amir B. Ferreira- FGCU- Virtual

Staff Present:

Bill Welch, Staff Liaison
Lis Scott

Peg Elmore

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by John Talmage, Interim Chair, at 3:02 p.m. at CareerSource Southwest Florida, 6800 Shoppes at Plantation Drive, Suite 170, Fort Myers, via ZOOM and in-person. Role call was conducted and confirmed quorum.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

John Talmage referenced the Committee Directory included in the meeting packet and welcomed everyone to the Committee. John briefly reviewed highlights from the previous meeting at the SWFL International airport and thanked everyone for their time and participation.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2023 MINUTES

John Talmage motioned for the approval of the March 24, 2023 minutes and Keitha Daniels seconded the motion and motion was unanimously approved by the committee.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adrian Llanes stated that the Punta Gorda Airport has a new contractor. Things seems to be going in the right direction and he has heard a lot of positive things about it. Airglades International Airport is expanding after increase of flowers and fruits imports.

John Talmage also shared that 4 finalists were announced for the FGCU presidential search and

Dr. Aysegul Timur is being considered as one of them.

V. SWFL EQUITABLE JOBS PIPELINE

Melanie Schmees, FGCU, presented an overview on the SWFL Equitable Jobs Pipeline Grant. FGCU received \$22.9 million dollars in federal funding from the Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge. After regional economic research, the following industries were identified as high demands and will be the main focus under this grant: Healthcare, K-12 Education, Logistics and Manufacturing. As the grant progresses, we will be looking at adding additional sectors.

FutureMakers Coalition at Collaboratory is the subrecipient of this grant. They are responsible for wrap-around services, Navigators, Convener for unidentified skills gaps, RFPs. The Regional Economic Research Institute will be the grant administrator and will collect and report data. The Office of Innovative Education and Partnerships identified skills gaps and new programs.

Primary goal is training completion mainly through short term training programs and micro credentials leading to job placement and job advancement in the focus industries.

1700+ job seekers will be placed in good jobs which translates to above average regional rate plus benefits. This total will also include those placed in jobs without training completion. Not every engaged participant will complete the training.

Funding objectives are tuition, program development and wrap-around services which cover personnel, transportation assistance, training material, uniforms and childcare. For housing assistance we will rely on partners.

Individuals within other industries will also be assisted as part of the outreach approach. Navigators assist job seekers through the process, connect them with partners and services; and focus on job training and job placement.

Pipeline has 4 stages but major part is commitment to hire from employers. 2552 employers committed at time of application.

Over the next 36 months we expect formalized MOUs with employers and education/ training partners, skills gap analysis, program development and training (1800+ trained), training navigation and connection to jobs (1700+ employed), research and sustainability planning.

As part of our partnership engagement on June 21 from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM we will be having the SWFLEJP Manufacturing and Logistics Summit at Collaboratory. The idea is to encourage employers within the targeted sectors to connect their workers with Program Navigators. Manufacturing and logistics employers will be invited to engage with Pipeline team.

Session will cover information about grant, training on best data practices, how can we build a better system for job recruitment and job retention.

We started with bigger employers, but once we have a better understanding of the process, we will connect with smaller businesses to join.

Timeline from September 2022 to August 2025.

VI. OPEN FORUM

Keitha stated that EDA is looking to create additional child care sources such as certified in home child care due to the need for child care mainly in rural areas.

Adrian Kerr shared his concern about not having any training programs available for first line supervisors. Dr. Aysegul Timur stated that the issue has already been identified and FGCU is working on it. Grant is industry driven so the idea is addressing what industries are in need of but can't find in this market.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

VIII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board Meeting 05/10/2023 3:30 PM

Business and Economic Development Committee Meeting 06/08/2023 3:00 PM