



**Board of Directors Meeting * August 5, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
Virtual meeting**

Call to Order: Chair Juliet Milam called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Attending were:

Juliet Milam	Dr. Jack Azzaretto	April Branscome
Sam Burkett	Michelle Crocker	Wyndy Crozier
Jean Anne Encardes	Louis Erickson	Dr. Michael Erny
Randy Fleming	Ron Garriga	Bill Imfeld
Diane Jackson	David Jefferson	Joel Paul
Gail Sansbury	Nathan Sparks	Pam Tedesco
Al Ward		

CSOW staff members present:

Michele Burns	Kelly Jordan	Sue Berntsen
Will Miles	Brad Balfanz	Sarah Ambriz

Approval of Minutes: The June 10, 2020 minutes were presented – there were no questions or comments.

A motion by Ron Garriga, seconded by Al Ward to approve the June 10, 2020 minutes as presented. All Ayes.

Executive Committee: Juliet Milam reviewed the meeting and said the Committee voted to give access to Discretionary funds for staff morale for the 2020-21 Program year.

Business Competitiveness Committee: Jack Azzaretto presented Action Items which were reviewed and unanimously recommended by the BCC for presentation to the full Board for approval. Information was emailed to Board members prior to the meeting and is on the screen. The Regional Demand Occupation List and Eligible Training Providers Lists are the heart of our services enabling us to provide training to our customers.

Action Item 1: Approval of the Regional Demand Occupation List for PY 2020-21. The approval has been delayed by COVID-19 and new occupations have been added to the list.

A motion by Louis Erickson, seconded by Nathan Sparks to approve The Regional Demand Occupation List for PY 2020-21. All Ayes.
Abstaining from the vote: Wyndy Crozier-employed by Emerald Coast Technical College, April Branscome-employed by Okaloosa Technical College/Okaloosa Schools, and Michael Erny – employed by Northwest Florida State College as those schools have submitted programs for inclusion,

Action Item 2: Approval of Emerald Coast Technical College Continued Eligibility for the Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL) for PY 2020-21. The approval has been delayed by COVID-19.

A motion by Al Ward, seconded by Ron Garriga to approve ECTC's Continued Eligibility for ETPL for PY 2020-21. All Ayes.

Abstaining from the vote: Wyndy Crozier-employed by Emerald Coast Technical College

Action Item 3: Approval of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Continued Eligibility for the Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL) for PY 2020-21. The approval has been delayed by COVID-19.

A motion by Wyndy Crozier, seconded by April Branscome to approve ERAU's Continued Eligibility for ETPL for PY 2020-21. All Ayes.

Abstaining from the vote: Ron Garriga-employed by Embry-Riddle.

Action Item 4: Approval of Northwest Florida State College's Continued Eligibility for the Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL) for PY 2020-21. The approval has been delayed by COVID-19.

A motion by Nathan Sparks, seconded by April Branscome to approve NWFSC's Continued Eligibility for ETPL for PY 2020-21. All Ayes.

Abstaining from the vote: Michael Erny-employed by NWFSC.

Action Item 5: Approval of Okaloosa Technical College's Continued Eligibility for the Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL) for PY 2020-21. The approval has been delayed by COVID-19.

A motion by Wyndy Crozier, seconded by Jean Anne Encardes to approve OTC's Continued Eligibility for ETPL for PY 2020-21. All Ayes.

Abstaining from the vote: April Branscome-employed by OTC.

Action Item 6: Approval of Florida Panhandle Technical College, Fortis Institute, Truck Driver Institute, Inc., University of West Florida and New Horizons Computer Learning Center's Continued Eligibility for the Eligible Training Providers List (ETPL) for PY 2020-21. The approval has been delayed by COVID-19.

A motion by Jean Anne Encardes, seconded by Wyndy Crozier to approve the six named organizations Continued Eligibility for ETPL for PY 2020-21. All Ayes.

Career & Youth Committee: No update at this time.

PARTNER UPDATES

Okaloosa Schools – April Branscome said Okaloosa Schools open Aug. 31st. A significant number of students will be on-line. Adjustments are being made and classrooms sanitized and prepared. A carpentry program is opening at Choctaw HS and Bruner MS and the focus next year will be FWB HS. David Johnson has left due to family reasons.

Walton Schools – Wyndy Crozier reported Walton Schools are opening Monday, Aug. 10th and teachers already returned. They are focused, excited and ready to go.

Northwest Florida State College – Michael Erny said NWFSC starts Monday, Aug 17th. They will have a large portion of coursework on-line to help maintain an on-campus presence. Academies, welding, heavy lab classes & medical programs will meet on-campus with safety precautions and social distancing.

Embry Riddle - Ron Garriga said their satellite campuses will be 100% on-line until Jan 1, 2021. The residential campuses are open now with COVID precautions. Local area campuses may open in late August or early September, safety is paramount. Registrations are at an all-time high. They opened the new facility at Mobile Brookley Airport last week. His goal is to bring the same type of facility to Okaloosa County.

Vocational Rehabilitation – Diane Jackson said VR is teleworking and in office. They are not open to the public yet. Thanks to CSOW for allowing their Counselors to work at the FWB center. They have two positions open but hiring is frozen right now.

Dept. of Children & Families - Randy Fleming said about 88% of their staff is teleworking and productivity is good. No date to open storefronts has been set. They will start referring clients for CSOW services this week, except for able bodied workers.

Walton Economic Development Association – Bill Imfeld said they have had success attracting new industry. A drone manufacturer is leaving Daytona Beach to relocate to the new industrial park on 331. An old plant on US 90 abandoned since 2002 has been sold to a Georgia company to use the rail siding to off-load ethanol.

Okaloosa Economic Development Council - Nathan Sparks announced that TeCMEN Industry Day has been postponed from Aug 28 to April 14, 2021. The event is sold out for 37 exhibitors and 13 sponsors, 95% said they would support the move. The website is available for updates. Shoal River Ranch is progressing. The Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners acquired 623 acres. Incentive review and approval by Okaloosa BCC and the Ft Walton Beach City Council is progressing for a defense contractor which will create 40+ jobs over the next three years. They are engaged in reconnaissance and surveillance technology and manufacturing and will be moving their U.S. headquarters from Washington D.C. metro area to FWB. Another company focused on PPE will manufacture the material used in medical masks and gowns. They are one of only two U.S. manufacturers and will create about 40 jobs. They have a new on-line virtual entrepreneurial support incubator at www.startupokaloosa.com.

Ft. Walton Beach Chamber – Jack Azzaretto said the Chamber is hosting a virtual First Friday Coffee Aug. 7th.

Tri-County Community Council – Joel Paul reported they are days away from receiving CARES Act funding through DEO to assist with training and mental health counseling. Their counties to the east should receive Hurricane Michael funding for storm recovery.

Programs Update: Kelly Jordan updated the Board on virtual services being provided by CSOW. Staff are teleworking and in the center. Some customers prefer more virtual services. WIOA Adult is entirely online, WIOA Youth are using Career Edge online. Business Services

has a virtual job fair platform purchased by CareerSource Florida and are looking forward to hosting the first virtual job fair in late August. Staff tested the platform and approved. Sarah Ambriz has been chosen to be on a state group on best practices. Veterans services are being provided virtually and in person. MFEA staff are working with 65 spouses. Child care is a significant barrier as on-base providers are restricted to mission essential only. Staff are busy answering calls about unemployment compensation and trying to assist customers with navigating the process.

Executive Director's Report: Michele Burns said Finance is waiting on final numbers for the 2020-21 budget and when received Budget Mod #1 will be presented to the Board. Funding is up slightly from last year. Staff working at the FWB center is divided into two alternating teams in case of COVID issues with the teleworking team answering and returning voice mails. Unemployment for June is 6.4% for Okaloosa, 7.1% for Walton and 10.7% for Florida. SNAP numbers are down, WT cases continue to grow. The work requirement is still waived and services are still virtual or by appointment. Shalimar staff are in the office every day and serve as backup for the center. Someone on a Facebook page for unemployment got and posted phone number information for all DEO staff. Turnover has been high recently and we are currently down five DEO staff members and DEO is on a hiring freeze. Valerie McLaughlin will retire Aug. 31st.

Chair Comments: - Juliet Milam reported CSOW received a \$12.5K grant to assist with COVID related expenses. They are being used for PPE, cleaning supplies, etc.

Roundtable Comments:

- Louis Erickson reported Bit-Wizards built the SchoolCentsMakesSense.com website which will be published after the primary election.
- Nathan Sparks congratulated Louis Erickson and Bit-Wizards on their #5 ranking for the Florida Trend Best Places to Work. They have been on the list for 10 years running, always in the top ten. Their HR professional Mallory is in the top four for HR Professional for Florida.
- Ron Garriga is involved in the National Exchange Club a civic organization for the prevention of child abuse. An Okaloosa County Youth of the Month has won 14 of the last 19 years at the state level. This year Ms. Victoria Orcutt of FWB HS won the National Award.
- The Florida representative for Distinguished Young Women was from Okaloosa County

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2020.