



**Board of Directors Meeting * December 2, 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
Michelle Crocker	Wyndy Crozier	Jean Anne Encardes
Dr. Michael Erny	Randy Fleming	Bill Imfeld
Diane Jackson	Rebecca Pazik	Joel Paul
Scott Seay	Nathan Sparks	Pam Tedesco
LaVonne Vazquez	Al Ward	Holly Newton

CSOW staff members present:

Michele Burns	Kelly Jordan	Therese Baker
Sue Berntsen	Sarah Ambriz	

Approval of Minutes: The October 14, 2020 minutes were presented – there were no questions or comments.

<i>A motion by Nathan Sparks, seconded by Wyndy Crozier to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes as presented.</i>	<i>All Ayes.</i>
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Finance Committee: Therese Baker reported that both the DEO fiscal monitoring and the independent audit by James Moore have completed field work and are in the review stage. No issues are reported so far and none are expected. Final report from the auditor is expected by Christmas and DEO will be a few months.

Executive Committee: There was no meeting last month. The Committee completed the Executive Director evaluation and thanked Michele for her good work.

Business Competitiveness Committee: Jack Azzaretto said there was no meeting in November and there are no recommended actions for the full Board. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2021.

Career & Youth Committee: The Committee will schedule a meeting in the new year.

Approval of By-Laws Update: An updated version of the CSOW by-laws is in the packet. Changes involve compliance with the DEO Sub-Agreement and WIOA. Jack Azzaretto questioned why the Business Competitiveness Committee is not a standing committee - it is a local committee and best practice.

<i>A motion by Wyndy Crozier, seconded by April Branscome to approve the update to the CSOW by-laws as presented.</i>	<i>All Ayes.</i>
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Partner Updates

Okaloosa Schools – April Branscome said they are excited about the ½ cent sales tax, it will be a game changer. Emerald Coast Robotics Alliance is training teachers for elementary coding to be introduced in January. It has been a busy 1st semester with new carpentry programs and Choctaw HS and Bruner MS. Yesterday a \$50K anonymous donation was received for the Pryor MS carpentry program. Niceville HS students won 1st, 2nd & 3rd for the 1st Congressional District in the Congressional App Challenge. They are looking forward to the 2nd semester.

Emerald Coast Technical College – Wyndy Crozier announced they have added a new nursing section to their practical nursing and have hired another instructor. They are expanding the nursing building with an \$8M Triumph grant, including an emergency room setting, and expanding the STEAM facility in South Walton. Another Triumph grant through the Sheriffs' Dept. will build a facility to house AC and welding with completion anticipated 9/30/21. Enrollment is up 141%. ESOL classes launch 1/11/21.

Northwest Florida State College – Dr. Erny said Director of Workforce Development Bill Allison accepted a position in Arkansas. A new CDL training program will start about 3/1/21. Apprenticeship programs are expanding, including construction, plumbing, HVAC, machining, paramedic and culinary. Carpentry may be re-vamped. Building projects are completing with programs up and running in January in public safety and welding. Airframe Power Plant program is completing early January and students are expected to start Fall 2021.

Vocational Rehabilitation - Diane Jackson thanked CSOW for their assistance and mentioned that they received approval to hire two positions which were frozen. Their WIOA for in-school youth is increased from \$300 to \$500. There are nearly 2000 qualifying students in the two counties. They are looking for OJT sites where they pay 100% reimbursement and FICA, Workers Comp, etc. A CSOW staff roster with contact and program affiliation would be helpful.

Department of Children and Family Services - Randy Fleming said they are looking at how to reopen storefronts after January 1st. They are moving their Care Coordination program into Okaloosa and Walton counties. Clients who have been on assistance 6 – 21 months will be referred to Care Coordinators to help them become economically self-sufficient.

Okaloosa EDC – Nathan Sparks announced effective 12/1/20 the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa FL is known as OneOkaloosa. It gives them a more concise name and speaks to unity and a new logo. The new website is www.oneokaloosa.org. The first quarterly professional webinar is Wednesday 12/9 at 2:00pm – *Leading Through Chaos - Lessons From 2020* at no cost. Also, American Elite Molding has been sold to South Wire.

Walton EDA - Bill Imfeld congratulated OneOkaloosa. They are in a holiday lull. There was groundbreaking for the Veterans' Lodge road which will facilitate bringing in new businesses. There are verbal commitments from two large box stores, which will be a dynamic change for DeFuniak Springs.

Military – LaVonne Vasquez said Hurlburt is planning a Hiring Our Heroes job fair 4/29/21. They have in-place classes going on and are back to work in the Center.

Holly Newton said all services are being provided at Eglin with some staff still teleworking.

Ft. Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce – Jack Azzaretto reminded the group about the First Friday Coffee tomorrow and said the Chamber is very proud of it's efforts promoting the ½ cent sales tax.

Tri-County Community Council - Joel Paul said they are spending their CARES funding quickly in both Crestview and Ft. Walton Beach.

Program Updates: Kelly Jordan reviewed Business Services performance and the continuous improvement funds of \$42K. They have served 369 business since 7/1, providing 3180 services. They met performance goals for the first quarter. The Paychecks 4 Patriots job fair was both in-person and virtual on 11/1. There were 23 business, 56 in-person jobseekers and 58 virtual jobseekers. They are looking forward to the HX5, Walton County and Executive TAP job fairs in the next few months.

Veteran and Military Spouse services numbers are good. WP services are down due to COVID. The State separated EF and the CONNECT systems.

The Youth/WorkforceNOW! Program is virtual but looking forward to re-engaging in person. Worksites were closed down due to COVID. We have CareerEdge and Fast Forward virtual platforms to move forward. Worksites are starting to open back up. LearnKey is for staff and participants to train on Microsoft Office and CompTia. We are working apprenticeships with NWFSC.

Executive Director's Report: LWDA 2 has the lowest unemployment in the state at 3.8%. Returning to in-person job fairs is the goal – having people in the center again. We adjust every day to meet scheduling needs. UF put on a Halloween contest at Camp Timpoochee. CSOW participated choosing Alice In Wonderland for the theme and won first place and a team building retreat. We have CARES grants for each county which end 12/31 and are doing outreach. The disaster relief DW grant from DEO helps employees affected by COVID and other nonprofits where we can send temporary employees. We are requesting an additional \$350K for the two year grant, trying to place 25 clients in training and temporary jobs. A \$12.5K grant from CSF for PPE ends 12/31. DEO has instructed us to purchase laptops and phones for DVOP & LVER staff. Michele commented that there is good participation in these virtual meetings.

Chair's Comments: Juliet Milam expressed appreciation for everyone's hard work. A Board Orientation is required by DEO, please use the link to the 1.5 hour virtual orientation. The Gulf Power Economic Symposium will be virtual 2/25/21 and in-person 9/14/21.

Roundtable Board Members Updates/Public Comments: The Camp Timpoochee retreat is 12/11/20 12:00pm – 4:00pm. All are invited to join us.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.