



Strategic Policy & Planning Committee Meeting

August 9, 2023

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Conference Call: Erin Gillespie, Kevin Vaughn, Shelly Bell, BJ VanCamp & Antonio Jefferson

Staff: Jim McShane, Trish Yahn

Recording: Tandria Edwards

I. Call to Order @ 3:35 pm by Board Chair Kevin Vaughn

II. ACTION ITEM I – Meeting Minutes Approval for May 10, 2023

Motion: Board Chair Vaughn entertained a motion to approve the May 10, 2023, minutes. Shelly made the motion, and Chair Gillespie seconded—all in favor.

III. ACTION ITEM II – Training Provider Application Review

Tandria stated that one training provider application was received for review, from GEB Computer Training LTD, DBA TechLaunch Academy. They submitted 2 training program applications, for the Networking Security Professional Preparatory and Networking Professional Preparatory programs. Required documentation was submitted for review. She noted there was a typo for the recommendation for the Networking Security Professional Preparatory program application. It states the program as CompTia A+ & Network+, but it should be corrected to Networking Security Professional Preparatory program. She noted an area of concern regarding the cost of the programs, as the cost of both programs exceed the \$10,000 lifetime limit for funding.

Shelly inquired about the cost of the Networking Security Professional Preparatory program (\$23,702) and what it includes. Tandria indicated that the cost includes access to 8 certifications, as they are included in the tuition. Trish mentioned that the chances of a participant having the additional \$13,000 for tuition would be low. Tandria stated that it would be the same as Keiser, for example, since their tuition exceeds our available funding. Jim reminded the committee that we are a customer choice system and they get to choose where they go. Tandria stated that we do have performance standards for training providers and if they do not meet the standards, they could be removed from the ETPL. BJ asked if we had to approve the application, because it was submitted. Tandria stated no, but that we approve applications that meet our criteria (which does not take into account the program's cost). Shelly asked about the role of educating career seekers regarding program costs and debt. Tandria stated there is career guidance provided to participants along with access to the full ETPL. Kevin asked for further clarification of what the ETPL is, since some individuals may not be aware. Tandria explained that the Eligible Training Provider List includes programs that we are able to fund with our WIOA dollars, and providers must submit applications and meet certain criteria for consideration and the local list becomes part of the statewide list. Jim clarified that the list is driven by occupations that are in demand (based on jobs posted in Employ Florida) and highlighted the fact that many employers don't post their openings in Employ Florida, and discussed the lack of use by employers in the construction industry as an example.

Motion: Antonio made a motion to approve Action Item II and Erin seconded – all in favor.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEM I – 2023-24 Board Retreat Discussion

Jim shared and provided a status update on the strategic recommendations/goals from the Board's Retreat. He indicated that we've made progress in some areas and in others we have not. Jim mentioned that it would be up to the new chair, but it may be time in the winter or spring for have another retreat for the Board. Jim mentioned that regarding advocacy, we have Beth at the state level and locally we have Amber, but we need advocacy at the federal level and asked that if anyone has any connections in Washington, D.C., that would be helpful. Jim mentioned that he is pleased with the level of outreach being conducted and it's trending in the right direction. Jim stated that he spoke to Chair Vaughn regarding the Board's desire to meet more frequently, at least 1 or 2 additional meetings that are more like workshops, to have general discussions. He indicated that they will go back to the full Board once he and Kevin have established some potential dates. Jim stated that both Board and staff roles are clearly defined and have job descriptions that are reviewed regularly by Charlotte and updated as needed and at this time, he is unsure what else is needed and will need guidance. Regarding the goal for the Board to be regional subject matter experts on workforce and convening local leaders, Jim stated that Board staff is involved in this effort, over the past 6 years with the CSCR Sector Rounds. Jim stated that due to declining participation, CSCR will now be partnering with the Chamber to conduct the Sector Rounds and hope the participation will improve this year. Jim stated that the Committee structure to the Board as well as diversity, equity and inclusion should go to the Governance Committee, and will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Jim indicated that he did not have a report for expanding our data-driven model, but staff is able to request any data that's needed from FloridaCommerce and that with shrinking federal funds, we can't afford the platforms that are out there. Jim stated that we know soft skills are most important and is part of our assessment process at the career centers and that he would like to see the K-12 system build this into their curriculums. Jim stated that he disagrees that the Board does not fully understand the market, employers and partners. He stated that the Strategic Policy and Planning Committee understands and asked great questions. Jim stated that due to the demographic drought, we have smaller and smaller populations coming up, with the Alphas being even smaller than the Zoomers, and we'll have a shortage of people to fill jobs from now on unless something significant happens. There was additional conversation regarding soft skills.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEM II – Local Workforce Strategic and Operating Plan Updates

Jim mentioned that over the coming year, we will be looking to work on our new 4-year plan and this committee is in charge of going through the plan and that we will be making modifications and bringing them to the committee for input. Tandria stated that we need to figure out how to structure our review of the plan, due to its size, possibly reviewing by section. Chair Vaughn asked that we include a list of acronyms. Chair Vaughn asked about the timeline for completion. Tandria stated that we haven't received a definitive date nor the anticipated structure for the Plan, but that we would at least have a baseline to start from by working through what we already have. Chair Vaughn asked if we needed to start thinking about adding Jefferson county, Trish stated that by that time, we will. Jim stated that he'd been told, at his meeting with EY and CareerSource Florida on Monday, that he needed to start having monthly meetings with Jefferson County and that he

sent a note to his counterpart Diane to see when they could start having those meetings. Jim also indicated that a checklist would be provided.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEM III – EDO Quarterly Reports (All Counties)

Antonio provided an update for Gadsden County. He mentioned that Gadsden County hired a new Economic Development director, TJ Lewis, who came from the City of Tallahassee's Office of Economic Vitality. Antonio stated they have a number of projects going on right now, including a large-scale development at I-10 and Highway 12 and a project in Midway for a large transportation company. Antonio also mentioned that the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce is working with Opportunity Florida, and soon with CSCR, to bring the region together to discuss how they could work better together as a region.

Chair Vaughn provided an update for Wakulla County. He mentioned that Wakulla County just finished their 3rd year of having paid staff on board, who has done a great job of putting Wakulla County on the map, with great marketing. He mentioned that they are working closely with the developer, as well as potential establishments, for Opportunity Park, Wakulla's industrial park and other areas of the county. Chair Vaughn stated that they have a quasi-governmental entity, a private non-profit, where the county funds about 1/3 of their funding needs and the rest comes from private businesses in the county. They are approaching their 3-year approval from the County and are in good shape to continue for another three (3) years.

Jim stated that CSCR helps with funding for both Wakulla County EDC and GCDC.

Chair Vaughn mentioned that they would be holding their Champion celebration in August, honoring all of the Economic Development champions in the area.

Jim mentioned that we do not contribute to Leon county, though we used to. They felt they had enough funding and didn't need to utilize the dollars we were providing. Jim stated that he does meet monthly with Keith, who is the designee for Leon County for the change of adding Jefferson County into our area.

Chair Vaughn inquired about the formula for that contribution, for adding Jefferson County (how would it be calculated). Jim stated that he's not sure at this time and would need to learn more. There was additional conversation regarding Jefferson County's desire for their students to attend Lively Technical College.

VII. Adjourn

Motion: Chair Vaughn adjourn the meeting at 4:23 PM.