

**GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD, INC. d/b/a CareerSource Gulf Coast  
GENERAL MEETING  
April 12, 2022**

CareerSource Gulf Coast held an in-person and Zoom meeting / General Meeting at 10:00 a.m. (CST) on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Members Present:

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Pat Hardman (V)            | Ms. Elinor Mount-Simmons (V) |
| Mr. Ted Mosteller (V)          | Ms. Lisa Barnes-Tapscott (V) |
| Mr. John Deegins (V)           | Mr. Aaron Little (V)         |
| Mr. Fred Croon (V)             | Ms. Shelley Scarborough (V)  |
| Mrs. Becca Hardin (V)          | Ms. Sheila Hauser (V)        |
| Mr. Jim McKnight (V)           | Ms. Rebekah Vassar (V)       |
| Mr. Glen McDonald (V) designee | Mr. Christian Johnson (V)    |
| Mr. Joey Ginn (V)              |                              |

Members NOT present:

Mr. Steve Jordan (V)  
Ms. Christy Smith (V)  
Dr. John Holdnak (V)  
Ms. Lori Price (V) designee

Also present were Ms. Julie Ramirez and Ms. Carlas Wodford, Royal American Management; Ms. Michele Cook, Department of Juvenile Justice; Ms. Angela McLane, Gulf Coast State College and CareerSource Gulf Coast board staff: Mrs. Kim Bodine, Executive Director, Mrs. Deb Blair, Ms. Jennifer German, Mrs. Maria Goodwin, Mrs. Shannon Walding, Mrs. Becky Samarripa, Ms. Janine Dexter, Mr. Corbett Hines, Ms. Adrienne Woods, and Ms. Donna Stapleton.

The purpose of the meeting was to review/take action on the following items:

- Consent Agenda Approval
  - Approval to Accept New Funds for PY 2021-2022
  - Approval to Allocate/Rescind Funds from Service Provider
  - Approval of Budget Modification #5 for PY 2021-2022
  - Minutes for the February 8, 2022, Executive Committee and General Board meeting
  - Approval of Revised Board Policy #1, Board Meeting/Schedule of Operations list-retro to 3/1/22
  - Acknowledgment of Form 8 Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Officers – Dr. John Holdnak, February 8, 2022
  
- New Business
  - New Board Member
  - DEO's Annual Performance Presentation
  - **Approval of new board policy #53, Sector Strategy**
  - Monitoring Memo – Veteran's Program
  
- Old Business
  - Marketing & Communication Report – through March 2022
  - One Stop Services Report –January 2022
  - Regional Performance Reports – December 2021
  
- Chair/Executive Director Report
- Public Comments

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Pat Hardman, Board Chair, called the meeting to order and confirmed there was a quorum present by attendee introductions.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. John Deegins gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Dr. Pat Hardman asked if there were any questions from the board regarding the Consent Agenda and asked if any member wanted to pull any item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There being none, she asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and previously discussed and approved by the Executive/Finance Committee.

**A motion was made by Mr. Ted Mosteller to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Glen McDonald seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### New Board Member

Mrs. Kim Bodine introduced Mr. Joey Ginn as the board's newest member. He was appointed on 4/5/2022 by the Bay Board of County Commissioners. He is the Market President at Centennial Bank and has extensive experience of serving on local boards. He is serving currently on the Alignment Bay County Board, the Bay Defense Alliance Board, is a Northside Rotary Club Member, and serves on the Gulf Coast Community College Foundation. Mrs. Bodine said that he will be a great asset to our board and Dr. Pat Hardman welcomed him to the board.

#### DEO's Annual Performance Presentation

Mr. Charles Williams and Mr. Daniel Harper from DEO gave an overview of performance for CareerSource Gulf Coast, which included 2020-2021 Programmatic and Financial Reports. The performance overall was very good, but in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, it was outstanding, meeting or exceeding in all areas. For the programmatic monitoring, Region 4 performed very well, there was only one finding for the 2020-2021 program year, an improvement from last year's six findings. Mr. Williams said that this has been satisfactorily closed out. In the financial monitoring, there was one issue of non-compliance, which was a website requirement, however, that has also been satisfactorily closed.

#### Approval of Board Policy #53, Sector Strategy

Mrs. Bodine reviewed the policy which is required by DEO. It is basically a recap of how we work as a region when selecting economic and industry sectors on which to focus. She said there are many items that could impact how the region selects targeted industry sectors such as economic conditions, pandemics and natural disasters. If one or more of those events occurs, then the region may have to change strategies pretty quickly. She said staff work closely with their educational partners such as K-12 Education for industry certifications, Gulf Coast State College and the sectors they support, and Haney Technical College. She said the policy as presented is an overarching guiding statement about what the region already does by working closely with partners and employers. Dr. Pat Hardman asked for a motion to approve Board Policy #53, Sector Strategy.

**A motion was made by Jim McKnight to approve the Board Policy #53, Sector Strategy as presented. Ms. Becca Hardin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### Marketing and Communications Report – March 2022

Mrs. Becky Samarripa quickly reviewed social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. She also said that staff has now added Instagram as a social media platform. Mrs. Samarripa reviewed the marketing highlights such as increased involvement in community events by CareerSource Gulf Coast, promoting summer internship opportunities for youth and young adults, partnering with Bay District Schools to recruit employers for their youth Job Fairs in May which are aimed at graduating students and their families, and Suits for Session donated by Volunteer Florida for May distribution event. She also said that more than 500 people attended the Bay County Job Fair in February. Mrs. Samarripa said that February was CTE month and staff worked on the promotion of the CTE programs and partners in the community. She reviewed the hiring events in January, February and March and reported the Job Center is hosting two resume

workshops per month as well as two job search workshops per month. Mrs. Samarripa gave a shout out to Mrs. Lianna Sagins, the Special Projects Coordinator in Gulf County for her participation in the Junior Service League work, collecting prom dresses and other fashion accessories for the senior class females so they could attend the prom with little expense if needed. Mrs. Bodine said she was impressed by this event and said how much the seniors appreciated it.

Dr. Pat Hardman asked that in the interest of saving time that staff skip the review of monthly program reports. She asked board members to please review the performance reports in the agenda packet and email any questions to staff.

### **Chair/Executive Director Report**

Dr. Hardman thanked Ms. Elinor Mount-Simmons for filling in for her at the last board meeting. She also said that after posting the RFP in the newspapers/website, there were three volunteers to serve on the rating committee: Ms. Rebekah Vassar, Ms. Elinor Mount-Simmons and Mrs. Alex Murphy. She said the rating committee would meet the first week of May to rate the responses and then bring the recommendations to the full board at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Dr. Hardman said that she was happy to join the Franklin County board members in Apalachicola last Friday to be part of Governor Ron DeSantis announcement of \$500,000 to our board for training of residents of Franklin County in construction and trades. She also said this has been an incredibly busy time for our staff and the board appreciates all of the hard work, especially now with WestRock announcing its closure in June with 426 employees being laid off.

Mrs. Bodine reiterated that there is a lot going on and staff is feeling a pinch with having lost four staff members over the past month at the Job Center in Bay County. She said Adrienne Woods is doing a great job and staff are recruiting for these positions.

She also spoke about the Summer Programs being held in Gulf and Franklin counties which always makes for a busy time; but is also such a rewarding experience in the end. She said Mrs. Lianna Sagins and Lee Ellzey are making preparations for the Gulf County summer program. She said in Franklin County, staff is working on a summer program utilizing the vendor used last year who did a great job. Valentina Webb is assisting with that program as well as Lee Ellzey, who oversees everything in those counties.

Mrs. Bodine said staff is implementing the Get There Faster Grants which cross three counties, by working with school partners. She also said staff is looking for youth that are graduating this year from high school for the WIOA summer youth program. She said we need 40 participants, but to date, only eight applications have been received. She said this program is a great program, with participants getting a \$1,000 incentive if they do well and will get a paid internship for 30 hours per week for 6-8 weeks.

Mrs. Bodine said that staff is working on budgets and contracts for next year. As soon as the rating process is done and the board approves their selection, a new contract will be put in place for the WIOA Youth Services program. Additionally, the Hurricane Michael and Sally grants will be ending in the next few months. She also said the COVID grant has been extended and staff will be asking for more money with that and placing a few more participants under that grant.

Mrs. Bodine said that last Thursday night she was contacted by Emily Hand in Atlanta about the WestRock closure. Mrs. Bodine spoke about the Rapid Response Program. She said when there is a mass layoff, we are required as an agent of the state and by our county commissioners, to go in and offer an array of services and possibly ask for money to help the impacted workers. She said CareerSource Gulf Coast (CSGC) could offer work-based training for those workers that transition into local jobs whereas the employee will work and CSGC will pay a portion of their wages for a period of time until that employee is acclimated into a new position. She also said that WestRock operates 24 hours a day so staff at CSGC will develop a plan to be able to meet with all of the workers. She said this is a big change, emotional and otherwise for Bay County. The mill has been in Bay County for 92 years and will impact the county greatly.

Mrs. Bodine said it's time for board training again. It is all virtual training, and she will be sending out the link to board members.

Mrs. Bodine said the next Executive Committee and General Board meeting is planned for May 10<sup>th</sup>. She said there may be an Executive Committee conference call in between to handle urgent items such as the newest budgets and contracts.

Ms. Elinor Mount-Simmons said she grew up in the area where the WestRock mill is located, and it broke her heart to hear of the closure.

Mr. Bill Dozier said that at the previous evening's Commission meeting, people appeared to be in shock. He also said that CareerSource is at the point of the spear and historically there have been events in the past that have put a lot of pressure on CareerSource and the staff and that every time, has risen to the occasion. He said that every time CareerSource has done such an outstanding job in the community and as we go through this with WestRock, he feels that CareerSource will rise to the occasion and do an outstanding job once again. He said he wanted staff to know how much they are appreciated.

Mrs. Becca Hardin said that as soon as the press release went out about WestRock, phones began ringing immediately from manufacturers letting everyone know that they had a lot of jobs. She is very optimistic that they will be able to get the staff jobs fairly quickly. She said that Eastern Shipbuilding said they could hire 200 people and Central Moloney, a new company in town said they could hire numerous people and Trane was very involved with discussions yesterday as well as Berg Pipe and Oceaneering. She said everyone is involved in putting these folks back to work. Mrs. Bodine said that everyone wants these skilled workers. Mr. Jim McKnight said when the mill closed in Gulf County, there were not enough options such as there is now. He said people had to take at least 30% less than what they were making and that the young folks just left the area. He said that he had every confidence that Bay County would have no problem with getting these folks hired and he said the environment is a lot different than when the mill closed in Gulf.

Mr. Croon echoed everyone's sentiments and said he knows it will be hard to get everyone hired to the same level of pay. He asked Commissioner Dozier geographically, the mill looks like it's situated in Springfield and some in the Panama City city limits. He asked Mr. Dozier if all this was considered the county or was it a particular municipality? Mr. Dozier said that he would have to look at a map to give Mr. Croon an answer.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Articles to read are an attachment to the agenda packet.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business, Dr. Pat Hardman adjourned the meeting.