

## **CAREER CENTER PARTNERS COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 9, 2018**

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**

**MEETING CALLED BY:** Jeanna Olson

**ATTENDEES:** Jeanna Olson, Lucretia Shaw Collins, Rayshell Holmes, Regina Browning, Jim McShane, Matt Guse, Monica Clemence, Caitlin Carrin.

**RECORDING:** Caitlin Carrin

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jeanna Olson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM. She began the meeting by asking everyone present to introduce themselves. She asked CEO Jim McShane if he had anything exciting to share. Jim said that there is a grant opportunity with CareerSource Florida related to apprenticeships, and CSCR, Leon County Schools, and the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) are working on applying for the grant together.

### **II. TODAY'S AGENDA**

Chair Olson explained that today's meeting will be her last as Chair of the Career Center Partners Council. She said that it was a pleasure to serve as Chair, and she welcome Matt Guse as the new Chair. Next, Jeanna reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. First a review of the goals of the Career Center Partners Council. Next, the partner presentations. Finally, member news and the upcoming meeting schedule.

### **III. GOALS OF THE CAREER CENTER PARTNERS COUNCIL**

Chair Jeanna Olson reviewed the CareerSource Capital Region Mission Statement with the council members present: CareerSource Capital Region connects employers with qualified, skilled talent and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities to achieve economic prosperity in Gadsden, Leon, and Wakulla counties. Next, Chair Olson reviewed the goals of the Career Center Partners Council. As a council we aim to improve awareness of each other's missions and leverage that knowledge to: reduce duplication of services across organizations; and, build collaborative relationships that result in working together to help our citizens achieve their goals.

### **IV. PARTNER PRESENTATION – READY4WORK TALLAHASSEE**

Chair Olson introduced Lucretia Shaw Collins, Program Director at Ready4Work Tallahassee, and invited her to share her presentation with the group. Collins said that Ready4Work has been up and running for about the last 16 months. It is a re-entry program that provides formerly incarcerated individuals with case management, employment & life skills training, and job placement assistance. The eligibility criteria for the program is: 18 years or older, drug free, no sex offenses or certain violent offenses, and currently on probation with DOC (Department of Corrections) or recently released from a DOC facility within the last 3 years. She said that Rev. Holmes at Bethel had a vision to try to find jobs, provide self-esteem, etc. for ex-offenders. They brought a program before the legislature in 2015 and were approved for

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\$400,000, but the Governor vetoed it. He said he wanted a more evidence-based, data-driven process, so the team at Bethel began looking at Operation New Hope in Jacksonville, who were running a similar program. They decided to form a partnership with the Ready4Work trademark. This program was supported by President George W. Bush, President Clinton, and President Obama. This time, they were successful in securing their dollars. The contract was signed in 2016, and the program launched in November of 2016. Lucretia Shaw Collins listed the benefits for those enrolled in the program: weekly bus passes, lunch daily, professional clothing for interviews, employability training, transitional housing, job placement assistance, mental health & substance abuse counseling, and financial incentives. Next, Collins explained the process for each client of Ready4Work. First, a Client is entered into the Efforts to Outcome System (ETO) by Case Manager after Intake Orientation. Then, the Client attends classes for 4-6 weeks. The Client meets with their Case Manager for Plan of Care and their Job Coach for Forecast. The Client completes 4 tasks (Completion of State Application, Resume, Mock Interview, and Skills Assessment Test) and completes 29 modules. Finally, the Client is assessed for Graduation by the Career Development Instructor and the Graduate list is disbursed to the team. Lucretia said that they provide a small stipend to encourage participation and attendance, as well as a certificate and \$50 upon graduation. When they are hired, they have an incentive of \$75 for staying on the job over 90 days. If a Client fails to attend 3 of their classes, they are removed from the program. After one year, they age out of the program. Recidivism is the greatest in the first 3 years after release. Collins stated that only 4 Clients have been re-arrested, which is much lower than the average recidivism rate. Ready4Work is working with TEMPO and their GED program for Youth, as well as TRIO at FAMU to pay for GED testing and college tuition. Collins said that she recognized the need to partner with CareerSource Capital Region when she discovered an overlap in the services we provide. She is now working on putting an MOU together with CSCR to avoid duplication of services, share information, and work more closely together.

## **QUESTIONS.**

- Matt Guse asked if attaining the Ready4Work certificate is a condition of parole. Lucretia Shaw Collins responded that yes, they have a partnership in the court system and in certain cases, when a referral is made and eligibility criteria is met, the judge will make Ready4Work a condition of parole.
- Rayshell Holmes inquired about the profile of an average Client of Ready4Work. Collins replied that the average client is between 25 – 35 years old, although they have many success stories of people over the age of 50. She said that there are many drug offenses. They operate on a case-by-case basis with more violent offenses.
- Jim McShane commented that the Federal Bonding Program provides insurance for employers who are hiring risky candidates, of \$5,000 - \$25,000. He said that he would love to help the Ready4Work team focus on two areas: 1) Diversion – work on bringing down the amount of life sentences and felonies, and 2) Housing – work on converting the 4 & 6 bedroom flats that are not being used in to single family homes. This is a huge opportunity that is not being realized. Collins agreed.

## **V. UPCOMING YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

Chair Jeanna Olson informed the council members present that the final meeting for the program year will be held on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM. She asked Matt Guse, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition and incoming Chair of the Council, if he would like to share a partner presentation at the June meeting. Matt Guse agreed.

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## VI. MEMBER NEWS AND UPDATES

Chair Olson invited each council member to share any news and updates about their respective organizations.

- Rayshell Holmes from Tallahassee Housing Authority shared an exciting new initiative with the group. In partnership with FAMU's Center for Health Equity, they are starting a STEM program for kids to learn while having fun summer experiences. It is completely free for the family, and will cost the organization about \$67.50 per child for the week. There are 50 slots. They have held a fundraiser and hope to continue to raise money for the program. Rayshell said that she would send Dan McGrew the flyer so that he can distribute it to the council members. Matt Guse said that he would be happy to display the flyer in the ELC lobby.
- Jim McShane shared that CareerSource Capital Region, in partnership with Leon County, is launching the Leon County Summer Youth Program. The county is paying for 23 slots and CSCR is paying for 40 slots. Jim mentioned some other initiatives, including the Junior Apprenticeship Program, Leon Works coming in the Fall, and efforts in Wakulla County with their Principals in Counselors. Jim said that we are already doing career counseling presentations in the local libraries, and we should be doing them in the schools as well.
- Matt Guse of ELC announced that they have finally cleared their wait list! They have 5400 kids currently enrolled in subsidized childcare and kindergarten.
- Regina Browning of Adult & Community Education (ACE) said that they have been at their location at 526 Appleyard Drive since May. They have open enrollment every Tuesday, and offer morning, afternoon, and night classes.

## VII. ADJOURN

Chair Olson announced that at the conclusion of the meeting, Matt Guse would be giving a tour of the new Early Learning Coalition facilities. She asked if anyone had any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting to the tour at 1:08 PM.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**June 8, 2018**

**12:00 NOON**