

**MINUTES OF THE
CAREERSOURCE FLAGLER VOLUSIA
Youth Employment Training Initiative
January 5, 2020**

A virtual meeting of the CareerSource Flagler Volusia Youth Employment Training Initiative (YETI) Committee was called to order via Microsoft Teams, at 10:00 a.m. on the 5th day of January 2021, pursuant to written Notice fixing said time and place; the same being filed and attached to these minutes.

The Honorable Barbara Girtman Chaired the meeting and Ms. Jennifer Gosling served as the Recording Secretary.

The following members of the Youth Employment Training Initiative were present:

Ms. Denise Breneman, County Director, Flagler and Volusia – Special Olympics Florida
The Honorable Barbara Girtman, Councilwoman – Volusia County Council
Dr. Aubrey Long, Owner – Long Global Enterprises
Ms. Helga van Eckert, Director – Volusia County Economic Development

The following guests were also present:

Ms. Angela Hamilton, Program Specialist – CareerSource Flagler Volusia
Ms. Robin King, President & CEO – CareerSource Flagler Volusia
Ms. Jennifer Gosling, Executive Assistant – CareerSource Flagler Volusia

Ms. Barbara Girtman called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Robin King to provide an update on the Boys and Girls Clubs of Volusia/Flagler Counties agreement. Before reporting on the agreement's progress, Ms. King introduced Ms. Helga van Eckert, Director of Volusia County Economic Development. She advised that Ms. van Eckert accepted an invitation to join the Committee, and that we have had preliminary conversations with the County on possible partnership opportunities. Ms. King stated that since Ms. van Eckert's department works with local businesses, they could help identify potential employers. Ms. Girtman requested that Ms. van Eckert reach out to Volusia County's Community Assistance Division regarding their service program for youth and assist in connecting any available resources to the initiative. Ms. van Eckert agreed to reach out to them.

Ms. King reported that we have an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club prepared for signatures and that it would be for the 2021 calendar year through December. She advised that the total cost would be \$49,956, and we would be paying based on monthly reports. Ms. King stated that the reports would be provided to the Committee and would include outreach, number of positions filled, activities performed by junior staff, and participant testimonials. Ms. Girtman asked if the program would be focused solely on

sixteen and seventeen-year olds. Ms. King advised that the work experience would be for older youth; however, a respondent of the upcoming Intent to Negotiate (ITN) could choose to offer employment-related training suitable for fourteen and fifteen-year olds. Ms. Girtman stated that she did not see younger ages specified when she reviewed the ITN and suggested looking at the wording when it is discussed later in the meeting.

Next, the Committee discussed the budget. Ms. King advised that Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are the funds that support this program. She stated that we do not know yet whether our current year will be extended for an additional month. Currently, these funds are set to expire on June 30th. Ms. King advised that an extension is anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the work requirement waivers in place. She noted that this was not just a local issue and that all workforce development boards in the State were significantly underspent. Ms. King stated that if the year is extended, it would mean the budget for the YETI program would grow from \$150,000 to \$250,000. Ms. King advised that \$50,000 will be obligated for the Boys and Girls Club which would leave \$200,000 available for new partnerships over the next six months.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the draft ITN that was emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting. Ms. King explained that the ITN was written as broadly as possible to allow for innovative program ideas. Ms. King revised the ITN to include Ms. Girtman's previous suggestion which specified that the YETI program could fund employment-related training for fourteen and fifteen-year-old participants. The Committee reviewed the ITN further and discussed mentorships. Ms. King advised that most mentorships are not owned by the schools; however, she recently met Mr. Ralph Lightfoot who is involved in the African American mentorship program which belongs to Flagler County Schools through their Take Stock in Children program. She stated that she is unaware of any current mentorships operated by Volusia County Schools.

A question was raised on the 200% of the poverty level threshold. Ms. King replied that it does not have to be documented and that the majority of individuals residing in our two-county area would meet this requirement. She asked the Committee if the ITN should include high school graduates still actively engaged in a mentoring program. Ms. Girtman agreed that including high school graduates was a good place to start, and it could be altered in the future as needed. The Committee asked whether out-of-school youth could be included and if it could serve individuals not in a mentoring program. Ms. King responded that we do not have the capacity to provide case management to the participants, and the mentoring partner would assume this role. She stated that out-of-school youth are served through our contracted youth providers who offer work experience as part of their programs. The Committee inquired about the frequency of

reporting. Ms. King replied that the Boys and Girls Club will be reporting on a monthly basis.

Ms. King advised that there is a possibility that we will not expend the full budget before June. She stated that when this happened to a similar program several years ago, we found non-profits that work with this age group and were able to fund them. Ms. King advised that other workforce boards have used this model. She asked if the Committee would prefer to have every contract come before them individually, or if staff could operate under the established parameters. Ms. Girtman stated that it could affect the timeline if every agreement had to wait to for the Committee to reconvene. The Committee concurred and recommended staff proceed with autonomy.

With no other business being heard, the meeting was adjourned.

Recording Secretary