**MINUTES OF THE**

**CAREERSOURCE FLAGLER VOLUSIA**

**Youth Employment Training Initiative**

**November 1, 2021**

A virtual meeting of the CareerSource Flagler Volusia Youth Employment Training Initiative (YETI) Committee was called to order via Microsoft Teams, at 2:00 p.m. on the 1st day of November 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

Mr. Earl Burney, Assistant Professor – Bethune-Cookman University

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 outcomes from the YETI activities. Ms. King responded that last Spring, the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) was sent out and six responses were received from the Community Healing Project, Chiles Academy, CATALYST, Sisters Build with ManUP, Mission Be Great, and the Boys and Girls Club of Volusia/Flagler which already had an agreement in place. She reported that all the agreements were completed with the exception of Mission Be Great which had difficulty finding a suitable location.

Ms. King advised that the providers served a total of 104 young adults and spent approximately $250,000 with an average cost of $2,462 per participant. She stated the feedback from the providers was positive; everyone thought the programs were successful and wanted to participate again in the future. Ms. King stated that there were some takeaways learned which included that semantics mattered when talking to businesses, creating stronger partnerships between businesses and providers, and overcoming challenges such as transportation issues, lack of parent involvement, and the pandemic.

Ms. King advised that staff will be asking businesses to participate in video testimonials. She stated that the testimonials would be used as outreach to businesses and young adults and noted that there will be two job fairs held in April that CareerSource Flagler Volusia will be hosting in partnership with Volusia County Schools where the testimonials will be shown. Ms. King advised that the current labor shortage is having many businesses reconsider their stance regarding the hiring of young adults. She asked if any of the Committee members would volunteer to participate in the video testimonials. All members present volunteered.

Next, Ms. King reported that the funds set aside for the 2021-2022 YETI program were approximately $216,000. She asked Ms. Helga van Eckert how CareerSource Flagler Volusia could engage the municipalities in a campaign to request additional funding. Ms. King stated that she would ask participating municipalities for a commitment of $2,800 for each youth enrolled within their community. A question was raised on whether CareerSource Flagler Volusia would match funds. Ms. King replied that the funds would not be matched because funding through CareerSource Flagler Volusia would require youth to meet eligibility requirements. By allowing the municipalities to fund their own young adults, the program can be expanded to serve youth that would otherwise be ineligible.

Ms. King advised that the Community Healing Project sent out a press release showcasing their youth which attracted a business to donate $2,500 to the program. She stated that she will be reaching out to that company for a testimonial to determine why they felt it was important to invest in young adult training. Ms. King asked if it was an appropriate time to go before the Counties and request their participation. Ms. van Eckert agreed to work with the Community Assistance Division to evaluate available funding.

Ms. King reported that staff have received a request from the Boys & Girls Club to extend their contract for six months, which would mean their contract would end June 30, 2022. She asked the Committee for $25,000 for the Boys & Girls Club contract extension.

Ms. Girtman called for a motion to approve the request for $25,000 to extend the Boys & Girls Club of Volusia/Flagler contract through the end of the fiscal year.

1. After discussion, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the YETI Committee approved the request for $25,000 to be allocated as an extension of the Boys & Girls Club of Volusia/Flagler contract through the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Ms. King reported that CareerSource Flagler Volusia is applying for additional funding through Truist. She explained that their company is funding projects and programs that will offer volunteer opportunities to their staff. Ms. King stated that she has talked with Truist about having their staff talk to participants about their careers, the Finance industry, or provide financial literacy training.

The Committee discussed the schedule for short programs around the holidays, Spring Break, and the summer. Ms. King asked if the Committee would like to create a budget for each of those time periods. Ms. Girtman recommended to cap funding per provider for the year instead of per event. She explained that while providers are spending the allocations assigned to them, staff can continue to seek additional funding.

Ms. King advised that up to this point, the YETI program has funded programs and organizations that already serve young adults. She stated that there is a possibility of funding the YES! program for the Midtown Redevelopment Board where young adults would be employees of the City of Daytona Beach. Ms. King advised it would be a standalone summer program, and participants would be assigned to a specific location in midtown where they would partner with a City worker for the job shadowing piece. She stated that the question posed would be whether the YETI program could fund those positions. Ms. King explained that it would be a more expensive program since wages and other employee compensation would be included. Ms. Girtman asked if the City could be asked to help fund this program. Ms. King replied that Commissioner Paula Reed was on the call when this program was discussed, and Ms. King let Commissioner Reed know that a request for funding assistance would be brought before the Commission. Ms. Girtman stated that the YETI program is a good base; however, it will require the partnership and support of the local communities if the program is to continue on a long-term basis.

The Committee agreed that the YETI program will be able to offer more to young adults if the municipalities are involved. Ms. King advised that Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry recently contacted her about a possible grant opportunity the City could apply for and asked for her thoughts. She stated that she gave the Mayor some ideas for the grant, but she has not heard whether the City has applied for the grant.

Ms. King advised that the next step would be to compile the information needed to go before the municipalities and request their support. Ms. Girtman opened the floor to comments and questions from the Committee. She stated that she was pleased with the outcomes of the program, especially in light of the pandemic, and looked forward to a successful program year.

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

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Recording Secretary