

**CareerSource Pinellas  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
“Emergency Meeting”**

**Date:** January 31, 2018 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** 13805 58<sup>th</sup> Street North

**Call to Order**

Chairman Aundre Green called the meeting to order at 9:03am. The chairman opened the meeting with welcome and a moment of prayer. There was a quorum present with the following Executive Committee members participating.

**Committee Members in attendance**

Dr. Bob Arnold (phone), Tom Bedwell, Jack Geller, Aundre Green, Sandy Ho, Karla Leavelle (phone), Mike Mikurak, Lenne Nicklaus, William Price (phone), Commissioner Patricia Gerard.

**Staff Present**

Edward Peachey, Kimberly Williams, Jennifer Brackney, Luna JP Clarke, Joseph Calhoun.

**Board Counsel:** Charles Harris

**Guest (s):** Jewel White, County Attorney  
Mark Woodard, County Administrator  
Numerous members of the Media

**Discussion Items**

**1. Update on recent issues impacting CareerSource Pinellas**

Chairman Green provided an update on recent issues impacting CareerSource Pinellas. He acknowledged the recent media coverage and noted that Mr. Peachey's salary was inaccurately reported in the Tampa Bay Times' articles. Referring to the meeting handout, he discussed the details of Mr. Peachey's salary and how it has changed over the years. Mr. Green also addressed the questions raised regarding job placements. Mr. Green also noted that the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has launched an investigation into the matter, but no final resolution has yet been received. A copy of the letter to stakeholders from Chair Green dated January 22, 2018 was provided.

**2. Governor Scott's Communication**

Chairman Green reviewed the letter sent by Governor Scott on January 26, 2018 and his written response to the Governor sent on January 29, 2018. Copies of both documents were provided to all attendees.

**3. Options for Moving Forward**

Chairman Green began the discussion by suggesting the following two options:

- a) Wait for the various third-party investigations to be completed, and then respond. It is unclear, however, how long that process will take.
- b) Take immediate action by creating an Ad Hoc Committee to oversee and evaluate information gathered and presented by Board counsel. This committee would be composed of various board members, as identified by Chair Green. The Ad Hoc committee would consider and evaluate the placement practices, whether those practices were improper and what, if any, disciplinary actions are appropriate. It was also suggested that this Ad Hoc team would include members of both counties (Pinellas and Hillsborough) to avoid duplicating efforts and resources. The information gathered by Board counsel would be presented to the Ad Hoc committee within a short period of time for evaluation. Board Counsel indicated that the process would take 40-60 hours, could be completed in 7-10 days, with estimated costs between \$10K-\$12K.

The matter was then open for further discussion.

### **Board members comments**

**Commissioner Gerard:** Noted that the Clerk of Court has an internal investigation team available/capable to conduct a necessary investigation. Suggestion that Mr. Peachey be placed under paid administrative leave while investigations are ongoing.

**Tom Bedwell:** Underscored the need for due process, and made a motion to create an ad hoc committee to consider and evaluate information from the investigation of placement practices and respond appropriately.

**Michael Mikurak:** Supported the need for due process and seconds the motion previously made by Mr. Bedwell.

**Jack Geller:** Made a case for the administrative leave for Mr. Peachey during the inquiry, citing concerns about public perception.

**Lenne Nicklaus:** Reinforced the need for unbiased and transparent inquiry.

*The motion was put to a vote and roll call was conducted to ensure accuracy.*

*The motion was passed by a 7-3 vote. With dissents from the following members: Commissioner Gerard, Jack Geller and Sandy Ho. The motion carried.*

The suggested names for the Pinellas Ad Hoc team were as follows: Bill Price, Jack Geller, Tom Bedwell, Sandy Ho, Mike Mikurak, and Commissioner Gerard. Those names are merely recommended, and any member may decline to serve, of course. No names were yet brought forth for CareerSource Tampa Bay.

### **Public Comments**

Members of the media were given an opportunity to ask some questions. Namely, Trevor Pettiford, Mark Douglas and Aaron Mesmer.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:54 AM.