

The Manatee Chamber Legislative Committee meeting was held in Tallahassee last month. At the meeting, Josh and Sharon were able to meet with the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Environment Protection, the region's legislative delegation and the Governor's office. Myakka City is working to obtain a rural area designation that will open the community up for grant opportunities.

Additionally, Josh and Anthony attended the CSF and Florida Workforce Development Board meetings also held in Tallahassee in February. Josh shared the importance of attending these meetings for area representation.

IV. Other Board Business

Eric Troyer notified the committee that the following Board Members have resigned.

- Pranov Mayor- Star Student with the Boys and Girls Club.
 - Representing a workforce organization addressing the employment and training/education needs of eligible youth.
- Christine Clyne – Life Star Living, LLC
 - Representing Business Sector

V. Staff Reports

Kathy Bouchard, V.P./Chief Talent Officer

CSS is currently planning the upcoming staff retreat on Friday, March 24th.

CSS has onboarded five new staff this past month. There are three remaining positions to be filled.

The Covid-19 grant is wrapping up. The grant served 111 clients in temp employment and provided seven clients with scholarships.

The Opioid grant is hosting a HR training this month and provides 20 continuing education credits. The training is a train-the-trainer to help employers identify and address opioid abuse in their workplace.

The marketing campaign has started for the non-custodial parent grant. The position for the grant coordinator was filled by Becky Blanco. This grant goes through June 2023.

The VIPER program was awarded from Sarasota County. This is a Sarasota County initiative partnering with the Salvation Army. CSS will be working with clients who are in recovery to assist them with employment.

The DEO audit is currently underway, and the Director of Continuous Improvement, Michelle Snyder, will be working on the response and improving our results in the future.

Robin Dawson, V.P./Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

DEO financial Monitoring is currently underway. There has been no communication back currently.

Funding allocations for the next fiscal year are expected to be coming soon, and a new budget will be drafted for Board review and approval.

TANF funding allocations have been extended through August 2023. This will help the TANF Summer Youth Program.

Anthony Gagliano, V.P./Chief Operating Officer

The recent CSS internal program audit was shared. The internal audit focused on the TANF Summer Youth Employment program was shared with the committee. There were no findings, but there were some observations noted on the audit.

This summer, CSS is anticipating serving 70 youth in the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program. Alicia Cruz-Otero, the Youth Development Manager, has her team already working with students to enroll them and prepare for the summer employment when school ends in May.

Chet, CSS IT Director, will be demonstrating the new AI technology at the upcoming Board of Directors meeting. AI will assist with document verification and processing applications.

On the communications side, Michael and his team sent out a customer satisfaction survey to clients. Over two-thirds of the clients surveyed would highly recommend our services and approximately five percent would not, due to process and speed of the application process. Additionally, this team has just finished the 30th cohort of the CEO Platform for Success program and will be gearing up to launch the next session. Friday morning, Curt Pressier will be featured on ABC7 discussing labor market statistics in the local area. A new radio campaign will be launched soon for the non-custodial parent employment program.

The North Port office is nearly ready to re-open. Furniture and internet has been installed, and Cody from the IT team will be completing the final set-up.

Due to participating in the Patterson Foundation Digital Navigation program, CSS Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist Gilbert Humphrey was able to refer and connect two disabled veterans with refurbished laptops. Having these laptops will assist the veterans with their job search. There are an additional three laptops that will be distributed in the future to CSS clients in need.

James Disbro and Diane Seavers were in Clearwater last week attending the Florida Apprenticeship Association summit. CSF asked James and Diane to present on the apprenticeship work we are doing in our region.

The DEO audit is currently underway. A few things have shown up on the veteran's program, while currently there has only been a few items on the SNAP and Welfare Transition program.

Hurricane Ian grant work continues to move forward. There have been eight clients placed in temporary employment. One of them a Veteran placed at the United Way, assisting with recovery efforts.

There have been 18 scholarships issued under the CDL grant received since January 2023.

There is still rapid credentialing funding available to assist with short-term training programs, such as the coding academy or trucking.

VI. Public Comment/Closing Remarks – Eric Troyer, Chair

None

VII. Adjournment – Eric Troyer, Chair

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023.

There being no further business, Chair Troyer adjourned the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Matlock

[Joshua Matlock \(Apr 11, 2023 14:53 EDT\)](#)

Josh Matlock
President & CEO