

Business Enhancement Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – 3:30 p.m.
MINUTES

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Raymond Royce, Committee Chair. Mr. Royce inquired if any Requests for Public Comment had been made and was advised that none had been received.

II. Introductions

Roll was called to identify and confirm committee members present in the room and those participating by phone. Staff and others present were identified. It was determined that quorum had been established. See end of minutes for all attendees.

III. Topic

Action Items:

A. Review of the Proposed 2021-22 Demand Occupations List

Referring to the Action Item in the committee packet, Donna Doubleday (CSH President/CEO) explained that CareerSource Heartland (CSH) annually solicits businesses, economic development, education partners, county and city entities, and other partners in the local area seeking input on the proposed local Demand Occupations List (DOL).

In response, requests for addition to the list include: *Correctional Officers and Jailers, Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers, Electro-Mechanical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics, Nursing Assistants, and Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers.*

The Demand Occupations List identifies industries/occupations CSH is permitted to expend training monies for. To qualify for inclusion on the Local DOL, an occupation must demonstrate at least 10 projected annual openings and anticipated growth. Training programs for DOL qualifying industries must not exceed 2 years and result in the attainment of an industry recognized credential, certification, or associate degree. Lastly, although a wage minimum is not mandated, consideration is given for the self-sufficiency of the wage earner. DOL occupations should therefore have an entry level minimum of \$11.77/hr. To be considered high skill/high wage (HSHW), the minimum entry level wage must be \$14.47/hr.

In discussion, Meghan DiGiacomo (Executive Manager of Business & Economic Development for Highlands County) inquired after the process to later add to the DOL over the course of the year should the need arise. In response, Ms. Doubleday explained that the current procedure to add an occupation/s would first be reviewed by the Business Enhancement Committee for a recommendation to be considered at the next scheduled Board meeting. Also during discussion, Ken Kenworthy (Okeechobee County School Superintendent) stressed his county's demand for agricultural skills and questioned if any agribusinesses, beyond grounds maintenance, were reflected on the proposed DOL. Ms. Doubleday informed Mr. Kenworthy that no other agricultural occupations satisfied all requirements for inclusion based on CSH's local business surveys. In follow up, based on the significant economic contribution of agribusiness in the 4-county area, Mr. Kenworthy asked if the CSH Board would be able to supply a letter of support to districts operating agricultural education programs. On

behalf of the Board, Ms. Doubleday conveyed that Board's willingness to make a letter of support available provided no legislative changes that would prevent CSH from doing so.

After discussion, committee Chair Raymond Royce, asked if there were additional questions or concerns. None were noted.

- A motion was made by committee member, Tara Poulton, to approve the proposed 2021-22 Demand Occupations list as presented with the inclusion of *Correctional Officers and Jailers, Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers, Electro-Mechanical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics, Nursing Assistants, and Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers*.
- Motion seconded by committee member, Thomas Leitzel.
- Motion carried unanimously.

B. Miller Dynamics' Continuation as a CSH Eligible Training Provider

Referring to the action item in the committee packet, Ms. Doubleday explained that the Board approved Miller Dynamics' initial training provider application in January 2021. Under current policy, training providers are exempt from the conflict-of-interest process except for situations where a Board member stands to benefit financially. As a Board member owned business, the training provider continued eligibility application for Miller Dynamics Academy of Emergency Services (MDi) requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ positive vote of the Board, a quorum having been established.

In response to committee Chair, Mr. Royce, Ms. Doubleday stated that, since their initial approval, Miller Dynamics has operated in accordance with all training provider requirements.

With no further questions noted, committee Chair Raymond Royce asked for a motion and a second and proceeded with a vote.

- A motion was made by committee member, Ken Kenworthy, to approve the continuation of Miller Dynamics Academy of Emergency Services (MDi) as a CSH approved training provider.
- Motion seconded by committee member, Tara Poulton.
- Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Other

Tara Poulton (Economic Development & Community Services Division Director) announced her resignation from the committee and her last day of employment with the DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Doubleday (CSH President/CEO) and Mr. Royce (BEC Chair) thanked Ms. Poulton for her service and dedication.

V. Adjourn

Committee Chair, Raymond Royce, adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Committee members present and participating: Ray Royce (Chair), Kevin Cundiff, Meghan DiGiacomo, Yessenia Irizarry, Ken Kenworthy, Thomas Leitzel, Tara Poulton, John Varady, Laurel White

Committee members absent: Russell Brown, Mary Kay Burns, Elizabeth Densmore, William Lambert, David Royal, Mike Willingham

Public attendance: None

CSH staff present: Donna Doubleday, Ann Martin, Brian Mercurio