

**Rick Scott**  
GOVERNOR



**Cissy Proctor**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 26, 2018

Mr. Jack Geller  
Chairman of the Board  
CareerSource Pinellas  
13805 58<sup>TH</sup> Street North, Suite 2-140  
Clearwater, Florida 33760

Dear Mr. Geller,

The Department of Economic Opportunity's Office of Inspector General (DEO OIG) received your letter dated February 15, 2018, regarding job placement claims of CareerSource Pinellas and CareerSource Tampa Bay. You asked whether direct placements taken from "Employer Provided Lists" may be recoded as Obtained Employment.

As we began to review the allegations on this topic first reported in the media, we became aware of information that raised reasonable suspicion of potential criminal activity. In accordance with our statutory duties, we referred this information to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. The role of my office at this time is to coordinate with those agencies, and we urge the local boards to refrain from any attempt to alter previous entries in Employ Florida until the course of potential criminal investigations is known. Again, altering previous entries in Employ Florida is not permissible until further notice.

Although coordination with law enforcement requires certain information to be kept confidential, we recognize the urgency of administrative issues involved and provide this response in an effort to assist you and DEO's Division of Workforce Services in taking appropriate administrative steps. We recommend that the Division of Workforce Services not allow recoding of the claimed placements at issue until it receives and evaluates further information as explained below.

It has been publicly reported that the Employer Provided Lists include information about individuals with imminent employment start dates. It appears that many of these individuals were not seeking employment – they had found employment. It also appears that the employers were not considering whether to hire many of the individuals – the employers had already hired them. The explanation of the local boards' practices in your letter, however, states the Employer Provided Lists gave information about individuals that employers were "considering hiring in the future." Your letter also refers to the individuals as "potential job seekers."

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity | Caldwell Building | 107 E. Madison Street | Tallahassee, FL 32399  
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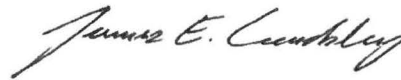
We believe this distinction is important. The basis for claiming credit related to a job placement or an "obtained employment" is that services were provided to an individual who was actually in the process of searching for a job. Individuals without any previous reportable service scheduled to start employment within days after a local board obtains his or her information from the employer should not be credited as a job placement or obtained employment.

If the local boards maintain that the Employer Provided Lists did not include information about hundreds of individuals with imminent employment start dates (often within days of first being entered in Employ Florida), please provide supporting documentation to:

Ms. Taylor Hatch  
Director of Workforce Services  
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity  
107 E. Madison Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Please also direct any future requests for programmatic guidance or technical assistance to the same address.

Sincerely,



James E. Landsberg  
Inspector General