



**Broward Workforce Development Board
Education and Industry Consortium**
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm.

2nd QUARTER REPORT
CareerSource Broward Main Conference Room
2890 West Cypress Creek Road, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309

ATTENDEES: Kathleen Hagan, Richard Haughton, Michael Smith and Maria Formoso, who chaired the meeting.

STAFF: Mark Klinecicz, Rochelle Daniels and Michell Williams.

GUESTS: Lidia Clarke, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Representative for the Florida Youth College, South Region Workforce Development Manager.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Quarterly Report of the 2/17 Meeting

Considered approval of the 2nd Quarter Report from the 2/17 meeting. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to provide a quarterly report to the Broward Workforce Development Board.)*

Maria Formoso introduced the item. There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Michael Smith and seconded by Kathleen Hagan, the EIC unanimously approved the 2nd Quarter Report.

2. Industry Updates

The Consortium members were asked to 1) discuss their sector-specific development needs on talent in the local area and 2) provide input on emerging industry and/or occupational trends. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to review information on the status of existing talent pipelines and the need to expand or leverage existing and/or new resources and to provide a quarterly report to the Broward Workforce Development Board.)*

Maria Formoso introduced the item, and Mark Klinecicz asked the members to share any new information and workforce trends in their industries.

Mr. Haughton reported that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will redesignate all of the vertical takeoff locations, currently called Heliports, as Vertiports. The operators will receive up to 100% funding for the required modifications. He stated that Florida leads the

Nation among areas designated for the establishment of Vertiports, specifically the Fort Lauderdale-to-Miami corridor. Mr. Haughton mentioned that it would be helpful if we had a contact at the FDOT to explore the types of jobs likely to be generated from converting Heliports to Vertiports.

Kathleen Hagan asked Mr. Haughton to clarify what a Vertiport is and when they would go into effect. Mr. Haughton explained that Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft are electric-powered vehicles designed to hover, take off, and land vertically, aiming to revolutionize urban transportation as "air taxis" similar to a flying Uber. Operating similarly to helicopters but with multiple electric rotors, they will require converting Heliports to Vertiports to accommodate the larger aircraft that will be used for transportation.

Mr. Haughton said these aircraft are already certified by the Federal Aviation Administration, and three companies, BETA Technologies and Archer Technologies, have already been manufacturing these aircraft, and Joby Aviation was in the final testing stages of its aircraft. Test flights have already started in Manhattan. He explained that while progress in this emerging industry was under the radar, now is a key opportunity to get students excited about it. He emphasized that we should help students prepare for this new development in aviation, because youth will encounter these emerging job opportunities when they graduate. Mr. Haughton stated that large drone deliveries up to 1,000 pounds could be expected within the next two years. Mr. Haughton commented to Ms. Formoso that it may be time to schedule a meeting to discuss ways to raise awareness among youth and encourage students to enter these fields of work.

Mark Klinecicz added that, with this technology, he was wondering whether there would be demand for engineers and technicians who would need to repair these aircraft, and whether there would be a need to develop training for these technologies. Mr. Haughton responded that, most likely, the engine repair would require an add-on certificate to the existing avionics technician certification. Still, there would also be a need for technicians to convert the Heliports to Vertiports. The current physical infrastructure will need to be updated to accommodate these vehicles, so we need to be aware that there may be a training need not only in aviation but also in construction.

Rochelle Daniels asked Mr. Haughton whether, eventually, eVTOL aircraft would become more AI-driven than human-driven. He replied that he did not think this would happen in the U. S. over the next five to eight years, but that it would happen much faster in other countries. Emirates and Africa are already operating flights, so those countries would have autonomous vehicles before the U.S. He explained that, because our infrastructure is so complex, autonomous vehicles cannot integrate easily. Mr. Haughton believes that human-piloted aircraft will begin this year and that test flights will soon be conducted between the Fort Lauderdale and Miami airports.

Maria Formoso asked Mr. Haughton for an estimate of the cost to be a passenger on one of these flights and whether the information is public. He responded that they are trying to keep the price closer to what an Uber Black ride would cost, which is optimistic, but it would definitely be less than the cost of a helicopter flight from Fort Lauderdale to Miami.

Kathleen Hagan shared that in March, the White House launched an initiative to build shipyards and introduced it as Maritime Prosperity Zones (MPZs), designed to encourage shipyard growth and bring investment opportunities specifically to the Maritime Industry. It starts at the shipyard level, but the goal is to support small businesses that provide auxiliary services to shipyards. Hopefully, they will be doing zoning around the U.S., and with South Florida being a major Maritime hub, there will be several of them, specifically the shipyards in the Fort Lauderdale area.

Ms. Hagan explained that the initiative is circulating throughout her industry, and they are listening and learning more about the MPZs. According to the report she has seen, they seem to be looking for investment opportunities to go in on these MPZs. Ms. Hagan stated that the report was a nice overview of where we are with shipbuilding, the shipyards available, and the action plan for how they intend to fund it, but stated that she was unsure when this would go into effect. Ms. Hagan stated she would share the link to the report from the White House website.

Ms. Daniels added that our new Board member, Kris Hopkins from the maritime industry, recently shared that, over the years, the number of shipyards in this country has decreased, leaving few remaining. Ms. Daniels inquired whether this MPZ initiative would lead to shipbuilding taking hold again locally and whether we would see some of these shipyards reopen or new ones open. Ms. Hagan responded “yes” that she believed that MPZs would apply not only to commercial shipyards but also to yachting shipyards, potentially enabling them to convert or expand their operations and initiatives to address the need.

Ms. Daniels asked Ms. Hagan if she sees jobs such as welders, engineers and other trades coming to South Florida, to build ships. Ms. Hagan responded that because Florida has a vibrant maritime industry, we should definitely be among the main recipients of several MPZs and are pursuing designation as a designated zone. Once designated, we would look for investment opportunities and develop them further, either by using existing shipyards or by developing a facility that may currently be underserved, and then attract more opportunities, which would obviously have a spillover effect on our communities.

Ms. Formoso added that Broward Schools were adding two new marine programs for the upcoming school year. They have their secondary program at South Broward High School and their post-secondary program at McFatter Technical College and High School. They will also be opening the Outboard program at North East High School and the Maritime Technology program at Stranahan High School. She mentioned that they are introducing these programs to students at the local middle school as well.

REPORTS

1. Upcoming Industry Sector Job Fairs

CSBD will be holding a series of Industry Job Fairs in the 1) Technology 2) Healthcare and 3) Hospitality sectors. During this time, job seekers will connect directly with employers actively seeking local talent. The events will strengthen employer pipelines, promote career pathways, and reinforce these industries as critical drivers of Broward County's economy.

Maria Formoso introduced the item and asked Mark Klincewicz to further elaborate. Mr. Klincewicz provided an update on the number and types of employers signed up to participate in each of the fairs, and the initiatives CSBD is taking to identify and prepare our job seeker customers for the upcoming Industry Job Fairs.

2. New Starter Guide For Youth on How To Get Started In Skilled Trades

CSBD created a “How To Get Started in Skilled Trades” Starter Guide for Youth and Young Adults (Ages 16–24). This two-page resource gives our future workforce a clear, engaging overview of today’s skilled trades, outlines practical training pathways, and provides a simple roadmap for getting started. It also highlights helpful career resources, including CSBD, to help youth move toward apprenticeships, certifications, and employment.

Maria Formoso introduced the item, and Mark Klincewicz reviewed the new starter guide and stated that it had been shared with the Brace Advisors and others at the School Board. Ms. Formoso added that the guide would also be great for their Education Advisors to share with their seniors.

3. Summer Youth Employment Program 2026 Updates

The Summer Youth Employment Program 2026 was off to a strong start! The application period opened on 12/1/25 and closed on 1/5/26. More than 3,000 youth applications were received. SYEP is recruiting new employers to serve as host worksites for youth. These worksites would provide youth with meaningful, real-world career exploration in fields such as information technology, skilled trades, public service, and hospitality throughout Broward County.

Mark Klincewicz provided the update on the Summer Youth Employment Program and thanked the Consortium members for circulating the information about the program.

Ms. Daniels reported that this year we would serve an estimated 1,300 youth, and even though we have a good amount of job sites, we were still accepting additional employer job orders to match youth with their areas of interest. She also informed the Consortium that, thanks to our President and CEO Carol Hylton’s efforts, CSBD was awarded \$1.5 million by the DeLuca Foundation over the next three years to increase the number of youth we can serve in our highly sought-after youth employment program. Ms. Daniels reminded the Consortium that over 3,000 youth applied, meaning we are serving only 1/3 of them. We are delighted to have been awarded this additional grant so we can serve more youth. The SYEP brings more income into youths’ households and provides a meaningful work experience in a supported environment, offering employability skills training and a worksite monitor who visits daily to ensure a good introduction to the world of work.

4. Manufacturing Industry Employer Forum

CSBD held a Manufacturing Employer Forum on 2/18 to engage local manufacturers on workforce needs and opportunities. The forum included 1) a presentation on operating within Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) 2) a discussion on industry skill gaps and best practices and 3) strategies to strengthen the local manufacturing talent pipeline. Employers identified a need for trained FTZ operators and greater awareness of manufacturing careers among students and job seekers. CSBD intermediaries are currently researching potential strategies and partnerships to address the identified needs.

Mark Klincewicz provided an update on the Manufacturing Industry Employer Forum and highlighted the many ways CSBD has promoted and continues to promote the Manufacturing Career Pathway video to youth.

5. Construction Industry Employer Forum

CSBD partnered with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce (GFLCC) to host a Construction Industry Employer Forum on 2/25, bringing together industry stakeholders and workforce partners to discuss current hiring trends and workforce needs within the construction sector. Employers highlighted industry challenges such as 1) limited soft skills among entry-level workers 2) growing interest in understanding how artificial intelligence and digital tools can support construction operations and 3) low awareness among youth of career opportunities in the skilled trades. Follow-up efforts are underway to identify workforce strategies that respond to the needs highlighted by employers.

Maria Formoso introduced the item, and Mark Klincewicz provided an update on the Construction Industry Employer Forum, featuring keynote speaker Ian Schwartz, Vice President of Operations at Stiles Construction. Mr. Klincewicz highlighted the topics of discussion at the forum. Ms. Formoso added that, on the secondary school sites, the School Board has added employability and soft skills to their curriculum.

6. Worlds of Work (WOW) Youth Career Exploration Event

CSBD, in partnership with the School Board of Broward County, hosted the 3rd Annual WOW Youth Career Exploration event on 3/4 at the Amerant Bank Arena for 9th and 10th-grade students. The event received media coverage from WSVN Channel 7, WSFL Channel 39, and 101.5 FM Voice of the Caribbean, raising community awareness of CSBD's efforts to introduce Broward County youth to a wide range of career pathways. Students participated in hands-on activities across ten industry worlds. The exhibits were provided by our education and employer community. Feedback from students and exhibitors during the event was extremely positive.

Maria Formoso introduced and reviewed the item and shared that WOW was such an incredible event, one of her favorites. Mr. Klincewicz presented the Worlds of Work video to the Consortium and highlighted coverage from several outlets. Michael Smith mentioned that he attended the event and that his organization provided one of the cranes seen in the video. It was his second year attending, and the event was fantastic. Mr. Klincewicz noted that, between the cranes and the assimilators, they were the two most visited pieces of equipment and were loved by the youth at WOW.

Mr. Haughton added that he always tries to bring hands-on equipment for the youth and said this was one of his favorite events of the year as well.

7. The Source Podcast – Apprenticeship Edition

CSBD has released the seventh episode of *The Source Podcast*, exploring pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship opportunities for youth. The episode featured Rick Shawbell, BWDB Member and Training Director of the Florida East Coast Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC), along with Blake Kanarek, JATC Instructor, and hosted by Yushika Florence, CSBD's Youth Programs and Services Manager. Their discussion highlighted how apprenticeships combine classroom instruction with on-the-job training, so participants can build practical skills while earning an income. The podcast was part of CSBD's digital marketing strategy and was now available to stream on Spotify.

Ms. Formoso introduced the item, and Mark Klincewicz discussed the CSBD quarterly podcast and informed the Consortium that we have expanded our reach and that all of our podcasts are now available on additional media platforms. Ms. Daniels added that if any members had ideas, subjects, or suggestions for the podcasts, to let us know. Ms. Formoso responded that the School Board could definitely collaborate with CSBD by having seniors or graduates who are working in our in-demand industries join a future podcast to discuss their experiences. Ms. Daniels agreed that this was a great idea and said she would discuss it with Ms. Hylton to determine a good topic and how our Communications team can coordinate it.

8. Tech Hub Pulse 2026

CSBD's Technology Industry Intermediary and Outreach Team participated in Tech Hub Pulse 2026 on 3/5 at the Broward County Convention Center, where BWDB Chair Jim Ryan served as a guest speaker. Hosted by the South Florida Tech Hub, the event convened IT professionals, employers, and community stakeholders to discuss emerging trends shaping South Florida's innovation economy, including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. CSBD hosted an exhibitor table, connected with employers, promoted the upcoming AI Playbook for Small and Medium Employers, highlighted the AI Resources for Employers webpage, and shared information about workforce services, recruitment support, and work-based training funding opportunities.

Maria Formoso introduced the item, and Mark Klincewicz presented the Tech Hub Pulse post to the Consortium.

9. Broward County Unemployment and Economic Dashboard

The unemployment rate in Broward County was 4.6 percent in February 2026. This rate was 1.3 percentage points higher than the region's year-ago rate. In February 2026, Broward County's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage points lower than the State's rate. Out of a labor force of 1,075,893, down 695 (-0.1%) over the year, there were 49,032 unemployed Broward County residents. The dashboard is a value-added resource allowing businesses the ability to make data-informed decisions.

Mark Klincewicz provided an overview of the Economic Dashboard and added that, as CSBD receives data, the dashboard is updated.

MATTERS FROM THE CONSORTIUM CHAIR:

None

MATTERS FROM THE CONSORTIUM:

None

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

MATTERS FROM THE CAREERSOURCE BROWARD PRESIDENT:

On behalf of Carol Hylton, Ms. Daniels reminded the Consortium that their ideas, suggestions, and thoughts are welcome and very important, and that feedback or recommendations received are shared with the Board.

Mr. Klinecicz announced that CSBD recently completed the Board Planning session, and the discussions and engagement were great. More intel was being gathered to determine how we can forge our direction for the next year. Ms. Daniels added that the attendance was great, and we had Dr. Howard Hepburn, Dr. Stacy Volnick, and Dr. Steven Tinsley, as speakers, who provided a lot of information to discuss during the breakout sessions as they studied the goals and objectives for the upcoming year. The Council of Elected Officials indicated that the thought questions for this year's work groups were important and hit the mark for what we need to be doing now. Ms. Daniels explained that the report will go to the Board and then be shared with the Consortium, which may prompt additional discussion by the members.

Lastly, Mr. Klinecicz reported that we are the only Board to exceed all Federal requirements for our measures and one of two Boards to receive an A letter grade on the state's report card.

ADJOURNMENT – 1:16 pm.

THE NEXT EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2026.
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