



**Broward Workforce Development Board
Employer Services Committee**

**Monday, March 16, 2026
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 824 3040 9885
Zoom Password: 571458
Zoom Call-In: +1 646 876 9923**

MEETING MINUTES

**CareerSource Broward Boardroom
2890 West Cypress Creek Road, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309**

The committee was reminded of the conflict-of-interest provisions.

ATTENDEES IN-PERSON / VIA ZOOM: Michael Goldstein, Denise Jordan, Lori Wheeler, Maribel Feliciano, Nelson Fernandez, and Paul Farren, who chaired the meeting.

STAFF: Carol Hylton, Kimberly Bryant, Tony Ash, and Sonia Harriott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the 1/12 Employer Services Committee meeting.

On a motion by Denise Jordan and seconded by Paul Farren, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the 1/12 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. On-the-Job Training (OJT) Contract with Advanced Roofing

Considered the approval of the entry into an upgrade OJT training contract with Advanced Roofing to train up to ten (10) employees in their registered apprenticeship program. The apprentices will receive training in 1) roofing 2) handling asphalt equipment and 3) sheet metal fabrication and installation. The contract will provide up to a 90% reimbursement for wages paid to the apprentices while in training, totaling up to \$150,000 through 2027. Because Board member Kevin Kornahrens is employed by Advanced Roofing, a 2/3 vote of the Board members is required.

Paul Farren introduced the item. Tony Ash stated that the grant will support upskilling employees who are already in Advanced Roofing's registered apprenticeship program, helping them build specialized skills needed for career advancement within the company.

On a motion by Lori Wheeler and seconded by Michael Goldstein, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved entering into an upgrade OJT training contract with Advanced Roofing.

2. Employer Services Committee (ESC) Strategic Planning Matrix Update

Considered the approval updates to the ESC Committee Strategic Planning Matrix.

Mr. Farren introduced the item, and Mr. Ash reviewed the matrix, highlighting progress toward the objectives.

He elaborated on Workforce Wednesday Employer Seminars featuring guest speakers on multigenerational hiring, including AARP and a national workforce expert, as well as sessions on youth hiring strategies through the Summer Youth Employment Program. Lori Wheeler commended staff for bringing in a nationally recognized expert on youth hiring strategies.

On a motion by Paul Farren and seconded by Michael Goldstein, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved the updates to the Strategic Planning Matrix.

REPORTS

1. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Update

Our Summer Youth Application Portal received over 3,000 applications from youth. The employer portal is open, and we are actively seeking employers, not-for-profit organizations, and municipalities to serve as worksites. The program offers employers an incredible opportunity to empower the next generation. We are asking committee members to distribute the flyer link to their employer networks.

Mr. Farren introduced the item.

Nelson Fernandez inquired about the age criteria for the youth. Carol Hylton stated that participants must be ages 16–18. She added that the youth earn \$14 per hour and are covered under CSBD's workers' compensation. Ms. Hylton stated that CSBD is pursuing an additional \$1.5 million grant over three years to serve more youth. Ms. Wheeler noted that her organization, the Marine Industries Association of South Florida, will serve as a SYEP worksite.

Ms. Hylton stated that a copy of the flyer will be sent to the Committee for distribution, in addition to the link provided in the agenda.

2. Sector Job Fair - Aviation

On 2/12, CareerSource Broward hosted a targeted aviation job fair at the South One-Stop Center, bringing together eight aviation employers, including Aerotar Aviation, GA Telesis, MGT Aero Distribution, Gold Aviation, and Aviotek, to connect with qualified job seekers. A total of 75 attendees participated, engaging directly with employers about current openings and career pathways in the aviation sector. Both employers and job seekers provided positive feedback, reinforcing the value of smaller, industry-focused hiring events. This event reflects a strategy

discussed at prior aviation industry forums to host focused job fairs that directly address the industry's workforce needs while fostering more meaningful engagement between employers and job seekers.

Mr. Farren introduced the item, and Mr. Ash provided an overview. There was no further discussion.

3. 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 1) trained FTZ operators 2) greater awareness of manufacturing careers among students and job seekers and 3) potential funding for advanced manufacturing training initiatives. CSBD intermediaries are currently researching potential strategies and partnerships to address the identified needs.

Mr. Farren introduced the item, and Mr. Ash presented the information.

Mr. Farren inquired about the benefits of foreign trade zones. Mr. Ash explained that FTZs provide relief from duties on imported goods because the goods are not considered to have entered U.S. commerce. Ms. Wheeler offered additional context, referencing the marine industry.

Maribel Feliciano stated that the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development is working with Port Everglades to raise employers' awareness of FTZ benefits. She noted that the County is reducing administrative and application fees.

4. 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.

Mr. Farren introduced the item. Mr. Ash reviewed the item and expressed appreciation to Denise Jordan and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce for their partnership in hosting the forum. He also thanked Mr. Farren and Mr. Fernandez for attending.

Mr. Farren commended staff for hosting an informative event for the industry.

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

CSBD, in partnership with the Broward County School Board, 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.

Paul Farren introduced the item. Carol Hylton noted that refinements to the event allowed students more time in each world to engage with the hands-on exhibits.

Video presentations highlighting the event and its media coverage were shown. Tony Ash thanked Maribel Feliciano and Lori Wheeler for hosting exhibitor tables. Ms. Wheeler commented on the variety of exhibits. Ms. Feliciano commended staff for delivering a well-executed event.

6. 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, enabling participants to build practical skills while earning an income. The podcast is part of CSBD's digital marketing strategy and is now available to stream on Spotify.

Mr. Farren presented the item. Mr. Ash noted that the podcast is available on CSBD's website in addition to Spotify.

7. 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.

Mr. Farren introduced the item. There was no further discussion.

8. Employer Services Infograph January 2025 – December 2025

CSBD hosted 65 recruitment events and job fairs during the period covered by the infograph. Our outreach team has assisted Broward employers with nearly \$4.5 million in work-based training investments, including OJT grants, paid internships, and incumbent worker training.

Mr. Farren introduced the item, and Mr. Ash provided an overview of the infograph.

9. Broward County Unemployment and Economic Dashboard

There is no report this month due to "benchmarking," which happens each year at this time when the previous year's statistics are "trued up." The January report will be issued on April 8th. February labor statistics for Florida will be released on April 17th. CSBD's Economic and Workforce Dashboard allows website visitors to review the current and historical economic and workforce status of Broward County. The dashboard is a value-added resource allowing businesses and those looking to move to Broward the ability to make data-informed decisions.

MATTERS FROM THE EMPLOYER SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

None.

MATTERS FROM THE EMPLOYER SERVICES COMMITTEE

None.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

MATTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Ms. Hylton reminded the Committee of the Board Planning Session on 4/23.

She noted that intake for the Summer Youth Employment Program is underway at the Oakland Park Career Center.

Ms. Hylton discussed the Quick Response Training (QRT) Grant, noting its streamlined eligibility, and requested the Committee's assistance in referring employers. Mr. Ash added that QRT supports training for new and expanding employers in targeted industries. Ms. Hylton stated that the QRT flyer and targeted industries list will be shared with the Committee for distribution.

ADJOURNMENT

1:23 P.M.

THE NEXT EMPLOYER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING IS MAY 4, 2026
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