



**Broward Workforce Development Board
Employer Services Committee**

**Monday, May 4, 2026
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 869 7826 6552
Zoom Password: 247608
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, Maribel Feliciano, Nelson Fernandez and Paul Farren, who chaired the meeting.

STAFF: Mark Klinecicz, Tony Ash, and Sonia Harriott.

PRESENTATION

Demonstration of the AI Playbook for Small and Medium-Sized Employers

Paul Farren introduced the item. Tony Ash demonstrated the playbook and noted that it was launched and distributed to the business community. He stated that the Playbook can be accessed on CareerSource Broward's AI Resources for Employers webpage. Mr. Ash thanked BWDB Chair Jim Ryan and committee member Michael Goldstein for their input and support during the development process.

Mr. Goldstein commended the staff on the quality of the Playbook and noted the value of providing employers with this interactive online tool. Denise Jordan praised the employer focus group process and commended the staff on a job well done. Nelson Fernandez stated that he looks forward to reviewing the Playbook.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the 3/16 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 3/16 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WIOA Work Experience Contract for Broward Health

Considered the approval of a WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Work Experience (WEX) contract with Broward Health through 6/30/29. Healthcare is one of our targeted industries. WEX contracts are non-financial, as CareerSource Broward is the employer of record. Because Board Member Shane Strum is employed by Broward Health, this recommendation will require a 2/3 vote of the Board.

Mr. Farren introduced the item. Mr. Ash reviewed the recommendation and explained that the contract would allow Broward Health to place WIOA participants in structured work experience opportunities.

On a motion by Nelson Fernandez and seconded by Denise Jordan, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with Broward Health through 6/30/29.

2. WIOA Work Experience Contract for 2Lyons Aerospace

Considered the approval of a WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with 2Lyons Aerospace through 6/30/29. Aviation is one of our targeted industries. WEX contracts are non-financial, as CSBD is the employer of record. Because Board Member Vanessa Cantave is employed by 2Lyons Aerospace, this recommendation will require a 2/3 vote of the Board.

Mr. Ash reviewed the recommendation and highlighted a previous work experience participant who was hired by 2Lyons Aerospace for long-term employment.

On a motion by Nelson Fernandez and seconded by Denise Jordan, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with 2Lyons Aerospace through 6/30/29.

3. WIOA Work Experience Contract for the Las Olas Company, Inc.

Considered the approval of a WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with the Las Olas Company, Inc. (LOC) through 6/30/29. WEX contracts are non-financial, as CSBD is the employer of record. Because Board Member Heiko Dobrikow is employed by the LOC, this recommendation will require a 2/3 vote of the Board.

Mr. Farren introduced the item and Mr. Ash reviewed the recommendation.

On a motion by Paul Farren and seconded by Denise Jordan, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with Las Olas Company, Inc. through 6/30/29.

4. **WIOA Work Experience Contract for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce**

Considered the approval of a WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce (GFCC) through 6/30/29. WEX contracts are non-financial, as CSBD is the employer of record. Because Committee Member Denise Jordan is employed by GFCC, a conflict of interest must be declared at the committee meeting.

Mr. Ash reviewed the recommendation and noted that participants placed with the GFCC would have the opportunity to work in a professional business environment that regularly interacts with a wide range of local employers.

Ms. Jordan declared a conflict of interest as she is employed by the GFCC and abstained from the discussion and vote.

On a motion by Paul Farren and seconded by Michael Goldstein, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce through 6/30/29.

5. **WIOA Work Experience Contract for the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce**

Considered the approval of a WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce (GHCC) through 6/30/29. WEX contracts are non-financial, as CSBD is the employer of record. Because Committee Member Marie Suarez is employed by GHCC, a conflict of interest must be declared at the committee meeting.

Mr. Farren reviewed the recommendation.

On a motion by Michael Goldstein and seconded by Nelson Fernandez, the Employer Services Committee unanimously approved the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker WEX contract with Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce through 6/30/29.

REPORTS

1. **AI Playbook for Small and Medium-Sized Employers**

CSBD developed an AI Playbook to help small and medium-sized businesses understand and apply artificial intelligence to support their growth and competitiveness. The Playbook incorporates insights from employer roundtables and survey feedback, and provides practical guidance for implementing AI. It also includes real-world examples, case studies, readiness assessments, and downloadable tools. BWDB Chair Jim Ryan and Board Member Michael Goldstein played key roles in shaping this initiative.

Mr. Ash reviewed the item. There was no further discussion.

2. CompTIA 2026 State of the Tech Workforce Report

The CompTIA 2026 State of the Tech Workforce report provides an overview of national, state, and metro-level trends in technology employment, wages, and hiring demand. The report highlights the growing importance of upskilling and work-based training strategies to ensure businesses remain competitive in an increasingly digital economy. These findings align with CSBD's focus on work-based training grants.

Mr. Farren introduced the item. Mr. Goldstein provided an overview of the CompTIA 2026 State of the Tech Workforce Report and discussed national and state trends in technology employment, artificial intelligence, and workforce demand. He noted Florida's strong position within the technology sector and emphasized the importance of preparing workers with the skills needed to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving economy. Mr. Ash noted that the report findings align with CSBD's focus on work-based training grants.

Mr. Farren and Mr. Fernandez thanked Mr. Goldstein for his presentation and insights.

3. Report on Technology Industry Employer Forum

CSBD held a Technology Industry Employer Forum on 4/9, attended by employers, education partners, and industry leaders. The attendees identified skill gaps and talent shortages in cybersecurity, AI, data sciences, and foundational soft skills. To address these gaps, strategies developed focused on 1) strengthening alignment between training and industry needs through increased employer engagement in advisory councils 2) leveraging the use of CSBD labor market data to inform curriculum 3) expanding employer participation in internships and other work-based training to build the talent pipeline and 4) promoting CSBD's soft skills workshops to strengthen foundational competencies.

Mr. Ash provided an overview of the forum. He noted that employers continue to report strong demand for cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and data talent, while the supply of qualified workers remains limited. He also highlighted strategies identified during the forum to strengthen employer engagement, expand work-based learning opportunities, and promote the development of soft skills.

Mr. Ash indicated that the forum also included a guest presentation by Domenic DiLullo, Chief Information and Technology Officer for Broward County Government, on data protection and the evolving cybersecurity landscape. He added that staff will continue working with employers and partners to advance the identified strategies.

4. Upcoming Employer Forums in Healthcare and Marine

CSBD will host industry-focused employer forums for Healthcare on 5/12 and Marine on 6/4. The Healthcare forum will address ongoing workforce shortages and provide an opportunity to identify critical needs and solutions, while the Marine forum will highlight Broward County's role as a leading global boating hub and the industry's growing demand for skilled talent. Both forums will discuss workforce needs and how CSBD can assist. Committee members are encouraged to promote these forums within their networks.

Mr. Ash provided an overview of the upcoming forums. He indicated the forums will convene employers and workforce partners to discuss current workforce needs and identify collaborative strategies to support training and work-based learning. Mr. Ash encouraged committee members to share the forums with employers in their networks.

5. Sector Job Fair - Technology

On 4/29, CSBD hosted a targeted Technology Industry Job Fair at the Central One-Stop Center, featuring employers with technology-related openings, including Hotwire Communications, Broward Health, Nova Southeastern University, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners. Over 150 job seekers attended the fair meeting directly with hiring employers. CSBD will be reviewing the number of placements once the data becomes available. Both employers and job seekers reported positive feedback.

Mr. Farren introduced the item. Mr. Ash reported on the Technology Industry Job Fair and indicated that the event reflects CSBD's strategy of hosting targeted, industry-focused recruitment events. He stated that the job fair brought together employers from multiple industries with technology hiring needs.

Mr. Farren commended the staff for a job well done.

6. Upcoming Industry Job Fairs

CSBD is hosting a series of industry-focused job fairs, including Healthcare on 5/5, Hospitality on 5/13, Construction on 5/21, and Marine on 6/24. These events will connect job seekers with employers. The job fairs will be promoted to job seekers throughout our career centers, social media, community partners, and targeted outreach via Employ Florida.

Mr. Ash noted that the upcoming job fairs are part of CSBD's ongoing strategy to align recruitment efforts with Broward County's high-demand industries.

7. Employer Services Infograph April 2025 – March 2026

CSBD hosted 130 recruitment events and job fairs during the period covered by the Infograph. Our outreach team has assisted Broward employers with over \$4.4 million in work-based training investments, including OJT grants, paid internships, and incumbent worker training.

Mr. Ash reviewed the Infograph. He highlighted work-based training as a key strategy for helping employers hire, train, and retain talent.

8. 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 percent) over the year, there were 49,032 unemployed

Broward County residents. The dashboard is a value-added resource that allows businesses to make data-informed decisions.

Mr. Farren introduced the item, and Mr. Klincewicz presented the unemployment data and reviewed several updates listed on the dashboard. He highlighted continued job growth in the education and health services, government, construction, and manufacturing sectors. He also discussed Broward County's strong performance relative to other Florida metro areas in government and construction employment growth.

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

Mr. Klincewicz reported on behalf of Ms. Hylton, noting that she was attending the first Spirit Airlines rapid response event in partnership with FloridaCommerce. He provided an update on CareerSource Broward's efforts to assist affected workers, including targeted job fairs and training opportunities.

Mr. Farren inquired about the number of impacted employees. Mr. Klincewicz stated that approximately 17,000 employees nationwide were affected, including more than 3,000 in Broward County.

Mr. Klincewicz also provided an update on the Summer Youth Employment Program, noting that approximately 1,300 youth are expected to participate this summer. In addition, he highlighted ongoing marketing efforts promoting the AI Playbook for Small and Medium-Sized Employers.

ADJOURNMENT

1:10 P.M.

THE NEXT EMPLOYER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING IS AUGUST 3, 2026
