

Youth Committee Virtual Meeting

October 23, 2025 3pm

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 216 081 086 934 2

Passcode: ky2RY6Ae

Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Public Comment

Meeting Minutes

Youth with Disabilities

<u>Justice Involved</u> <u>Youth</u>

Summer Youth
Employment
Outcomes

Summer Youth Award Winner

Upcoming Meetings

Open Forum

Adjournment

- I. Call to Order
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - III. Public Comment
- IV. Approval of July 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - V. Youth with Disabilities
 - VI. Justice Involved Youth
 - VII. Summer Youth Employment Outcomes
 - VIII. Summer Youth Award Winner
 - IX. Upcoming Meetings
 - X. Open Forum
 - XI. Adjournment

Welcome & Introductions...

Public Comment...

CareerSource Southwest Florida Youth Committee Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2025 3:00 p.m.

Members Present

Brad Myers-Chair-Virtual Robert Richards
Kevin Donlan-Virtual Andrea Schaffer-Virtual
Tim Goodman

Members Absent

Brian Granstra Christine Sardina Phil Magin Aaron Stitt

Staff Present

Denia Kolek-Staff Liaison Lyntoria Thomas

Thais Kuoman

I. CALL OF ORDER

Chair, Brad Myers called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Lyntoria Thomas called roll and confirmed quorum was met. Welcomes and introductions were made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT-None

III. APPROVAL JUNE 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Andrea Schaffer made a motion to approve the June 16, 2025 meeting minutes; Tim Goodman seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. YOUTH COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Staff Liaison, Denia Kolek, gave a quick overview of the framework for the youth programs. Denia explained career planning, mentoring, and work experience.

V. YOUTH PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Denia Kolek gave an overview of the key performance indicators for the youth program. Denia explained the measurable skills gains, credential attainment, and employment outcomes. The committee discussed the difficulties of keeping the youth engaged and enhancing communication with local schools to support case managers in tracking participant progress.

VI. SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

- Connect with If I Can Dream Foundation, Family Initiatives, and Friendship Circles
- · I Will Foundation is a new partner
- 125 Summer Youth Employment Worksites
- 261 Summer Youth Employment Participants

VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 23, 2025 at 3pm January 29, 2026 at 3pm April 23, 2026 at 3pm

VIII. OPEN FORUM

Tim Goodman:

August 27, 2025-Career Fair at Community Cooperative Early November-Career Fair at CareerSource Southwest Florida Fort Myers

IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Youth with Disabilities

Disability Navigator – Carmen Henry

- Collaborating with the Ticket to Work Program to assist individuals with disabilities.
- Providing direct services to disabled youth through WIOA Work-Based Training and Classroom Training Programs.
- Supporting youth in achieving employment and educational goals.

Destination Graduation Mentors

- ➤ Working closely with **Moore Haven**, **Clewiston**, and **LaBelle High Schools**.
- > Partnering with school administration to identify In-School Youth with Disabilities.
- ➤ Career Development Representatives are actively monitoring WIOA applicants and engaging youth in career planning discussions.

Partnerships and Collaborations

- Strengthened relationships with ESE Teachers at local high schools.
- New partnership with De LaSalle Academy.
- Humane Society now providing Work-Based Learning Opportunities for disabled youth.

Justice Involved Youth

Partnerships & Coordination

- Maintaining strong partnerships with CareerSource Southwest Florida (CSSWFL) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).
- Each center in our region has an **assigned Point of Contact** who participates in **Re-Entry Meetings** for youth returning to their counties.

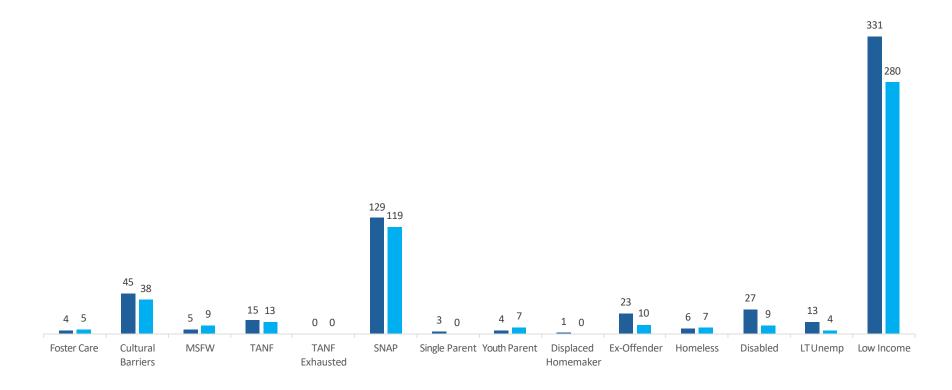
Youth Engagement & Support

- •When a youth is preparing for re-entry, the **Career Development Representative (CDR)** connects with them upon exit.
- •The CDR introduces available **WIOA services** and helps the youth engage in education, training, or employment opportunities.

Business Services Initiatives

- Business Services Team continues to coordinate hiring events throughout the region featuring Second Chance Employers.
- •Actively working to develop **10–15 Work Experience (WEX)** or **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** opportunities within the **Glades and Hendry County** areas.

Youth Barriers







2025 Summer Youth Outcomes

- ➤ This year the summer youth employment program was on fire growing from 174 participants in 2024 to over 260 in 2025 across 125 worksites.
- > SYEP Participants + 70%
- > SYEP Worksites + 67%
- While the program's numbers are impressive the heart of this program comes to life through the stories of one of our outstanding participants our Achievement Award Champion.

2025 Summer Youth Award Winner JERRIAH SHARP!!!





Upcoming Meetings

January 29, 2026 at 3pm April 23, 2026 at 3pm

(In-Person or Via Teams)

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Open Forum...

Adjourn...

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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CareerSource Southwest Florida is the direct service provider for various workforce programs which are fully supported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Agriculture as part of awards totaling \$15.3 million.

All statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations, public statements, social media, toolkits, resource guides, website, and visual presentations are fully funded with federal money.