



Youth Committee Meeting April 23, 2026 3pm

Join:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/23202883950469?p=EgbbZwcMsGadcwlug2>
Meeting ID: 232 028 839 504 69
Passcode: mQ2AT657

Agenda

Public Comment

Welcome &
Introductions

Meeting
Minutes

New Staff
Liaison

Disable &
Re-Entry Youth
Services

Out of School
Youth
Work-Based
Training

Summer Youth
Employment

Meeting
Schedule

Open Forum

Adjournment

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Public Comment**
- III. Welcome & Introductions**
- IV. Approval of January 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- V. New Staff Liaison**
- VI. Disable & Re-Entry Youth Services**
- VII. Out of School Youth Work-Based Training**
- VIII. 2026 Summer Youth Employment**
- IX. 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule**
- X. Open Forum**
- XI. Adjournment**



Public Comment...



The image features a white background with decorative geometric shapes in the corners. In the top-left corner, there are three overlapping triangles: a blue one, a green one, and an orange one. In the bottom-right corner, there are three overlapping triangles: an orange one, a green one, and a blue one. The text "Welcome & Introductions..." is centered in a bold, black, serif font with a subtle drop shadow.

Welcome & Introductions...

**CareerSource Southwest Florida
Youth Committee Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2026
3:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Brad Myers-Chair-Virtual	Robert Richards-Virtual
Tim Goodman	Christine Sardina-Virtual
Phil Magin-Virtual	Aaron Stitt-Virtual

Members Absent

Kevin Donlan	Andrea Schaffer
Brian Granstra	

Staff Present

Denia Kolek-Staff Liaison	Lyntoria Thomas
Thais Kuoman-Virtual	

I. CALL OF ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by the committee staff liaison Denia Kolek; Lyntoria Thomas confirmed quorum was met.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT-None

III. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Aaron Stitt made a motion to approve the October 23, 2025 meeting minutes; Christine Sardina seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING (IET)

Denia Kolek gave an overview of the IET program that is offered to individuals enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and General Education Development (GED). The IET program provides an opportunity for students to gain essential skills and knowledge while exploring career paths that are aligned with their interest.

V. COLLIER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAREER FAIRS

CareerSource Southwest Florida, Collier County Public Schools, The Greater Naples Chamber, and Junior Achievement have partnered together to host three regional career fairs for local high school juniors and seniors. CareerSource will have the opportunity to engage with future high school graduates. We will share information on job-seeking opportunities, work-base training, and our occupational skills training programs.

2/10/26 Immokalee High School from 9am-12pm
2/12/26 Lely High School from 9am-12pm
2/26/26 Aubrey Rogers High School from 9am-12pm

VI. 2025 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW

CareerSource Southwest Florida participated in the two-day 2025 Florida International Air Show. The staff participated on both days, representing the most highly attended tent. Beyond the remarkable air show, our Career Exploration Virtual Reality Goggles served as a major highlight for attendees.

VII. 2026 UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 23 at 3pm
July 30 at 3pm
October 29 at 3pm

IX. OPEN FORUM

Denia Kolek

- We are excited about our partnership with Collier County Adult Education to offer the IET program to our youth that are enrolled in the GED program. Our focus is on our youth, but the program is available to adults too.

Tim Goodman-Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida

- In partnership with CareerSource Southwest Florida's Business Services

2/18/26 Career Fair from 1pm-3pm
Community Cooperative
3429 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd 33916

3/11/26 Career Fair from 10am-1pm
Next Level Church (Downtown)
3637 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd 33916

X. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm



Meet Vicki Pesonen, WIOA Program Manager

Vicki Pesonen joins us from CareerSource Region 12. With over 23 years of dedicated experience in workforce development, Vicki is a seasoned WIOA Program Manager with a proven track record of successfully administering and enhancing Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.

Throughout her career, Vicki has led the implementation and oversight of key workforce initiatives, including Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs, helping thousands of individuals achieve sustainable employment and career advancement.

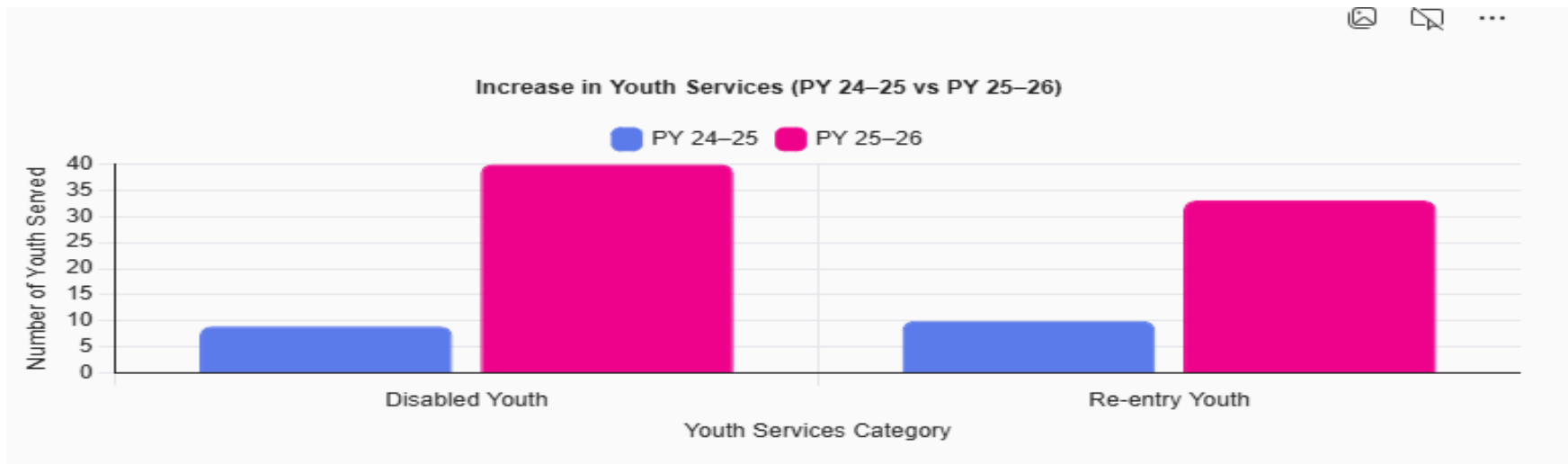
Vicki brings extensive expertise in program management, compliance, performance accountability, and strategic planning. She has consistently ensured alignment with federal and state regulations while driving program outcomes that exceed performance benchmarks.

She is a strong advocate for underserved populations; Vicki has dedicated her career to expanding access to training, education, and employment opportunities—particularly for at-risk youth, dislocated workers, and individuals facing barriers to employment. Her ability to develop innovative solutions, streamline processes, and lead high-performing teams has made her a respected leader in the workforce development field.

Vicki continues to be committed to fostering economic growth and empowering individuals to reach their full potential through effective workforce strategies and meaningful community engagement.



The **Disability Navigator and Front-Line staff** continue to expand outreach and engagement with **Disabled and Re-Entry Youth**, resulting in increase participation and service delivery. CareerSource Southwest Florida provide a **comprehensive array of services** to support these youth including:


- Job Seeking Services
 - Classroom Training
 - Work Based Training Opportunities
- These services are designed to **build and strengthen job-ready skills**, address barriers to employment and support successful workforce entry.
- Through individualized guidance and training opportunities, youth are equipped with the tools necessary to **increase employability and long-term career success**.
- These efforts directly support the goal of helping youth achieve **self-sufficiency and sustainable employment**, empowering them to become active participants in the workforce



Out-of-School Youth – Work-Based Learning Services


- “We continue to deliver **Work-Based Learning (WBL) services** to the **Out-of-School Youth (OSY)** population in alignment with WIOA program requirements.
- **During Program Year 24–25**, CareerSource Southwest Florida served 40 OSY participants through placements with nonprofit and for-profit employers utilizing Work Experience (WEX) and On-the-Job Training (OJT) activities.
- **In Program Year 25–26** to date, more than 50 OSY participants have been enrolled in WBL activities, representing an increase of over 25 percent year-over-year.
- These paid work-based learning opportunities support the WIOA priority of “earn-and-learn” by allowing participants to gain occupational skills, work readiness competencies, and exposure to real-world employment settings.
- As a result, OSY participants are better positioned to transition into **unsubsidized employment** and achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency.”


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- The Summer Youth Employment Program officially launched on March 2, 2026. Since its start, we have successfully hired enrolled and begun program activities, marking a strong start to this year's initiative.
 - We have also successfully hired 10 Summer Youth Mentors to support participant recruitment and assist in securing additional worksites. The Youth Mentors have quickly mobilized and are actively supporting the eligibility and enrollment process.
 - The program is already making meaningful progress by providing youth with valuable work experience, skill development opportunities, and exposure to career pathways. We will continue to build on this momentum as additional participants are enrolled and placed throughout the program period.
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Summer Youth Employment Enrollments by Centers
2026 Goal = 315 Participants

Center	Enrolled SYEP Participants
Fort Myers	51
Clewiston/Labelle/Moore Haven	22
Immokalee	39
Naples	5
Port Charlotte	4
Key West/Tavernier	0
Total	121





**2026-2027
Committee Meeting
Schedule
4pm**

- July 30, 2026
 - October 29, 2026
 - January 28, 2027
 - April 29, 2027
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Open Forum...





Adjournment...

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711. 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.

