Business & Economic Development Committee Meeting

November 19, 2026
3:00pm

Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/214884382941350 1?p=Xpgw6lGrgG0w86aO3j
Meeting ID: 214 884 382 941 350 1
Passcode: C44Su6hC

Agenda

Public Comment

Meeting Minutes

Industry Sectors & Occupations

The Pillars & Strategic Plan

Open Forum

Adjournment

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment

III. Approval of August 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

IV. Industry Sectors & Occupations

V. The Pillars & Strategic Plan

VI. Open Forum

VII. Adjournment

Public Comment…

CareerSource Southwest Florida
Special
Business & Economic Development
Committee Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Members Present:

John Talmage-Chair	Brent Kettler
Kimberly Clement-Virtual	Adrian Llanes
Keitha Daniels-Virtual	Laura Schmidt
Sarah Harrington-Virtual	Michael Wukitsch

Members Absent:
Sloan Nagy
Lucienne Pears

Guest Present:
Tatum Walker. Lee County Economic Development Office
Brian Willard, Junior Achievement

Staff Present:

Bill Welch	Rebecca Sandholdt
Peg Elmore	Lyntoria Thomas

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair, John Talmage. Lyntoria Thomas confirmed quorum was met.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT-None

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 28, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Brent Kettler made a motion to approve the July 28, 2026 meeting minutes; Adrian Llanes seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Guests and committee members introduced themselves and their organizations, including CareerSource Southwest Florida staff and leadership. Chair, John Talmage, thanked everyone for coming.

V. PERFORMANCE

Bill Welch, CareerSource Southwest Florida, Business Services Director gave an overview of the federal government required program year 2025 employer- related performance measures that includes indicators of performance, letter grades, repeat business, and year-over-year business penetration. Bill explained employer's repeat business and year-over-year business penetration are exceeding goal expectations. CareerSource Southwest Florida serves approximately thirty-five hundred employers annually.

VI. STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE PILLARS

The committee reviewed the internally set three-percent year-over-year employer goal. Board of Directors, Chair, Mike Wukitsch explained the goal was set with the intention of a reasonable number for the CareerSource Southwest Florida region to grow.

Peg Elmore, CareerSource Southwest Florida, President & CEO introduced the two-year plan modification to the four-year plan and its alignment with the five pillars of the Americas Talent Strategy. The committee's discussion focused on industry-driven strategies including employer engagement, targeted sectors, credentials, apprenticeships, internships, and workforce responsive training.

Peg gave an overview of the compressed schedule for completing the strategic plan and two-year modification including public comment, board review, and county submission requirements. Peg asked the committee to review and provide comments and action steps for the strategies that will be led by the committee, with a particular focus on the targeted sectors. The drafted strategic-plan pillars will be compiled and sent to committee members for review and feedback.

VII. OPEN FORUM-Next meeting 9/24/26 at 3pm-conduct a deeper dive into the five pillars.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm

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Industry Sectors & Occupations

Industry	Employment by Industry	Current Job Vacancies	Projected Annual Openings	Representative Demand Occupations
Health Care and Social Assistance	93,460	8,919	10,852	Registered Nurses; Medical & Health Services Managers; Physical Therapists; Medical Assistants; Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
Construction	83,328	1,314	8,025	Carpenters; Construction Managers; Electricians; Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters; HVAC Mechanics and Installers
Manufacturing	17,218	67	1,878	Industrial Machinery Mechanics; Aircraft Mechanics; Machinists; Welders; Medical Equipment Repairers
Transportation and Warehousing	20,041	743	2,379	Heavy Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; Bus and Truck Mechanics; Aircraft Mechanics; Logisticians; Transportation Supervisors

Southwest Florida's priority sectors are both large employers and essential parts of the region's economic infrastructure.

- Healthcare and Social Assistance supports 93,460 jobs and an estimated 10,852 annual openings, reflecting demand created by population growth, an older resident profile, worker turnover, and continuing care needs.

- Construction employs 83,328 workers and is expected to generate 8,025 annual openings.

- Manufacturing employs 17,218 workers and is expected to produce 1,878 annual openings, with regional strengths that include medical devices, marine products, construction-related products, aerospace components, and other advanced production.

- Transportation and Warehousing employs 20,041 workers with 2,379 annual openings and connects employers, residents, visitors, airports, ports, distribution activity, and supply chains.


AMERICA'S TALENT STRATEGY
INDUSTRY-DRIVEN STRATEGIES
WORKER MOBILITY
INTEGRATED SYSTEMS
ACCOUNTABILITY
FLEXIBILITY & INNOVATION

Pillar I
Industry-Driven Strategies

- **Expand apprenticeships and work-based learning -BED Committee & Education & Industry Consortium**
- **Increase number and quality of youth worksites- Youth Committee**
- **Targeted industry sectors- Validate and Identify Key Occupations- BED Committee**
- **Career Pathways- Career Services Committee**

Pillar I
Industry-Driven Strategies

- **Reaffirm or validate the Targeted Industry Sectors for SWFL. (refer to Analysis of Need and Available Resources sheet)**
- **Identify three to five critical shortage occupations within each sector.**
- **Identify In-Demand occupations for each sector. (Are they different than critical shortage occupations?)**
- **How to conduct outreach to increase employer engagement within those sectors?**
- **How to expand apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities for both employers and customers?**

Open Forum…

Adjourned…

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