

# CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas Youth Development Committee Minutes

CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas

2/4/2025 2:00 PMEST

@ Hybrid; EpiCenter 13805 58th Street North, Room 1-455 Clearwater, Florida 33760

## **Committee Members**

### **Present:**

Belinthia Berry, Warren Brooks (remote), John Howell, Dr. Brian Mann (remote), Esther Matthews, Shawn McDonnell (remote), Dr. Rebecca Sarlo

### **Absent:**

Members: Roy Sweatman, Scott Thomas, Kenneth Williams, Russell Williams

CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas Staff: Saleema Bennett (remote), Rich Beynon (remote), Jay Burkey, Conchita Canty-Jones, Dr. Byron Clayton, Sheila Doyle, Jason Druding, Leondra Foster, Leah Geis, Chad Kunerth, Keidrian Kunkel, Barry Martin (remote), Steve Meier, Michelle Moeller (remote), Lysandra Montijo, Maritiza Morels (remote), Anna Munro, Mario Rodriquez (remote), Michelle Schultz (remote), Don Shepherd, Tammy Stahlgren, Doug Tobin, April Torregiante  
Hillsborough County Government: Jonathan Wolf (remote)

Others Present: Chase Temple - Youth Participant, Orlando Temple - Parent Participant, Paul Casebolt- EDSI

#### I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Welcome (Presenters: Esther Matthews)

Esther Matthews called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. There was a quorum present.

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### III. Public Comments (Presenters: Esther Matthews)

There were none.

#### IV. Action Items/Discussion Items

##### A. Committee Meeting Calendar (Presenters: Esther Matthews)

Discussion on the timing and frequency of committee meetings.  
Concern raised about the current schedule being inaccessible for youth participation.

Proposal to hold meetings at times that allow for youth involvement, potentially every month instead of every other month.

Action Item: Conduct a poll to determine the best meeting times for committee members and youth participation.

B. Committee Roster & Youth/Parent Representative (Presenters: Esther Matthews)

Introduction of Chase Temple as the youth representative and Orlando Temple as the parent representative.

Chase's involvement in the community and leadership roles highlighted as beneficial for the committee.

**Motion:**

To approve Chase Temple as the Youth representative on the Youth Committee.

Motion moved by Belinthia Berry and motion seconded by Dr. Rebecca Sarlo.

Motion carried.

**Motion:**

To approve Orlando Temple as the Youth representative on the Youth Committee.

Motion moved by Belinthia Berry and motion seconded by Dr. Rebecca Sarlo.

Motion carried.

V. Youth Initiative Planning Topics

Importance of youth input emphasized, with suggestions for virtual participation to increase accessibility.

A. My Journey Career Success Workshops (Presenters: Dr. Byron Clayton)

Overview of workshops targeting high school students and those in juvenile justice facilities.

Statistics shared about students' post-graduation enrollment in colleges and the need for alternative career planning. Success metrics discussed, including positive feedback from students and expansion requests from schools.

B. Summer Hires Program Design and Update (Presenters: Leondra Foster)

Tampa Bay Summer Hires Program – 2025 Overview

Program Goals & Vision

The Summer Hires Program continues to grow with a focus on equity and access for youth ages 15–19 across Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. This

year, the team emphasized streamlining staff training, unifying intake procedures, and expanding opportunities in Pinellas.

#### Key 2025 Highlights

Launched a unified outreach and recruitment process.

Expanded two incentive-based tracks into Pinellas County.

Introduced customized workforce training specific to local needs.

Hosted the first open-market hiring event for Summer Pays participants.

#### Program Tracks

Paid Work Experience (PWE) – 6 weeks, 20 hours/week at \$15/hour, combining hands-on job experience and soft skills training, with milestone incentives.

Career Exploration (CXP) – 4-week virtual program with job shadowing and career exploration, offering \$200/week based on curriculum completion.

Youth Leadership & Entrepreneurship (YLT) – 6-week leadership track with 24–32 hours/week of instruction and a \$300/week incentive. Culminates in a community-focused capstone project.

#### Program Enhancements

Created early career pathway access for younger youth.

Rolled out a virtual service delivery model adaptable to individual skill levels.

Centralized service delivery and staff training to ensure consistency and compliance across counties.

#### Contact

Program leadership is available for follow-up questions, including April Torregiante, Leondra Foster, and Lysandra Montijo.

#### C. Opportunity Youth Summit Next Steps (Presenters: Michelle Zieziula)

##### Youth Opportunity Summit and Future Plans

The Youth Opportunity Summit was celebrated as a success, with plans to expand impact through stronger community visibility and increased access to enrollment and work experience, especially in Pinellas County.

##### Community-Based Organizations and Leadership Development

Leadership development is being strengthened through community engagement, with organizations encouraged to share personal stories, offer support, and help evolve the program into a community-backed initiative.

##### WIOA Opportunity Summit and Disconnection Analysis

Board engagement in the WIOA Opportunity Summit was acknowledged, with discussion focused on addressing county-level disconnection through

collaboration, education, and a planned fall summit informed by recent survey data.

#### Five-Year Action Plan Overview

A five-year strategic plan is in progress with Michelle Schultz, targeting increased youth program awareness, expanded services, high-need neighborhood support, and evidence-based planning using research and metrics.

#### Feedback and Program Outcomes

The program is refining its evaluation approach by balancing input and outcome data, with early attendance tracking used as a predictive measure for improving youth retention and success.

#### Youth Engagement and Mentoring

Youth engagement remains a priority, supported by a 12-month mentoring program, mid-year participation reviews, and proposed annual evaluations to guide program improvements.

### VI. Information Item

#### A. WIOA Youth Primary Indicators of Performance & Youth Monthly Management Report: Q1 PY 24-25 (Presenters: Chad Kunerth)

Program performance was reviewed against other regional boards, with results showing 4 out of 5 federal measures exceeded and one met, including a 6% increase in employment and strong credential attainment rankings.

#### Youth Outcomes and Skills Gain

Youth outcome data was presented, noting a 41.2% positive outcome rate for ages 14–18 and highlighting the need to improve outcomes through stronger connections with job providers.

#### Credential and Skills Gain Discussion

Discussion focused on closing the gap between credential attainment and measurable skills gains by aligning training with industry needs and strengthening ties between training providers and employers.

#### B. SailFuture Program Update (Presenters: Michael Long)

The program continues to support hard-to-reach teens in targeted neighborhoods by offering services such as alternative education, mental health care, transportation, and job placement.

#### Program Highlights

Participants show strong retention and attendance, with employer recruitment often sparked by student initiative and consistently positive employer feedback.

#### Performance & Feedback

Key performance indicators remain strong, including high attendance and professionalism, with employers expressing satisfaction and students receiving continued support through therapy and transportation.

#### Next Steps

The team plans to elevate individual success stories and enhance internal data reporting and processes to ensure more accurate program tracking.

### C. Grant Opportunities for Youth (Presenters: Michelle Schultz)

#### Grant Opportunities and Funding

Discussion on current grants, including the United Way Suncoast -Community Investment grant and a state grant through CareerSource.

The Apprenticeships to Career Empowerment (ACE) program is funded by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

There is a potential opportunity for additional funding from the city of St. Pete, pending further discussions.

The team remains optimistic about renewing existing grants and securing new funding to support their programs.

### D. Youth Success Stories (Presenters: Leondra Foster)

Several inspiring youth success stories were shared, including Jailynn Larry, who earned both his high school diploma and CDL license through program support; Davia Parchman, who transitioned from limited job experience to county employment after completing a PWE; and Damari Hawkins, a high school student who thrived in his first job and is eager to return after a highly engaging summer experience.

These stories reflect the program's impact on education, employment readiness, and personal growth.

## VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m. Minutes submitted by Tammy Stahlgren, Executive Administrative Assistant.