



## SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**DATE/TIME:** October 16, 2025, 9:30am

**LOCATION:** The Landing at MIA  
5-Star Conference Center  
7415 Corporate Center Drive, Suite H  
Key Biscayne Room  
Miami, FL 33126

**Zoom:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wjgml0TtSEu4r3ERRDichg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wjgml0TtSEu4r3ERRDichg)

- CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairman del Valle called the regular meeting of the South Florida Workforce Investment Board to order at 9:33 AM on October 16, 2025.

**ROLL CALL:** 22 members; 12 required; 14 present: Quorum

SFWIB Members Present	SFWIB Members Absent	SFWIB/CSSF Staff
1. Brown, Clarence 2. Chi, Joe (Zoom) 3. Clayton, Lovey 4. del Valle, Juan Carlos, Vice Chairman 5. Ferradaz, Gilda 6. Garza, Eddie (Zoom) 7. Glean-Jones, Camela 8. Loynaz, Oscar, MD 9. Mantilla, Rene' 10. Palacios, Carol 11. Perez, Andy 12. Pintado, Kirenia 13. Rod, Denis 14. Scott, Jr., Kenneth	15. Bridges, Jeff 16. Whitaker, David  <b>SFWIB Members Excused</b> 17. Brecheisen, Bruce 18. Canales, Dequasia 19. Datorre, Roberto 20. Gibson, Charles, Chairman 21. Grice, Sonia 22. Rolle, Andrei	<b>SFWIB Staff</b> 1. Beasley, Rick 2. Bennett, Renee 3. Morgan, Ebony 4. Parson, Robert 5. Perrin, Yian 6. Petro, Basil 7. Smith, Robert 8. Washington, Jarvis  <b>SFWIB Administration</b> 9. Gonzalez, Yoandy 10. McFarland, Casandra <b>Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office</b> Gallo, Melissa
<b>Guest Attendees</b>		
1. Cambronne, Robert, Youth Co-Op, Inc. 2. Diaz, Lupe Dr., Miami-Dade County Public Schools 3. Gonzalez, Joel, Youth Co-Op, Inc. 4. Mitchell, Carlena, Miami-Dade County Public Schools		

Minutes Prepared by: Ebony Morgan

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**Status: APPROVED**

**Approval date:** December 18, 2025

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5. Mumford, Ronald, CareerSource South Florida
6. Reboucas, Felipe, Youth Co-op, Inc.
7. Wilson, Erin, Equus Works

Agenda items are displayed in the order they are discussed.

## **2. Public Comments**

*Public comments should be two minutes or less.*

The Executive Office has not received any requests to speak.

Vice Chairman opened the floor for comments from the public. None were presented.

Item closed.

## **4A. Executive Directors Report**

Vice Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley advised that the United States Department of Labor approved the request to increase employer on-the-job training (OJT) reimbursements to 100% for workers living in designated Opportunity Zones nationwide. He also shared that he will be participating in a Opportunity Zone Work Group for the state of Florida which aims to offer policy recommendations to the governor. This group includes various state and regional organizations, such as two workforce boards, CSSF, and representatives from the Florida Panhandle. Their focus will be on redesignating Opportunity Zones for the 2026-2027 program year, prioritizing rural areas and those with high child poverty rates, while also ensuring that workforce education aligns with job creation.

Mr. Beasley emphasized the importance of protecting and optimizing high-need areas. He highlighted the necessity of gathering evidence to either retain or redefine Opportunity Zone designations in Miami-Dade, aiming to direct capital toward fostering inclusive growth in distressed neighborhoods. Additionally, he discussed the significance of using available funding to synchronize resources, which would accelerate job placements and increase wage levels.



He further explained why it is essential for the CSSF to participate in the state workgroup and to establish a specific group for Miami-Dade County. He mentioned his plans to coordinate efforts with the mayor's office and other stakeholders, including economic developers, education partners, and chambers of commerce, to create a Miami-Dade Workgroup. This group will focus on protecting and optimizing high-need areas, gathering evidence to retain or redefine Opportunity Zone designations in our regions, developing project pipelines, identifying operating businesses and tangible property opportunities linked to local industries, integrating the workforce, pairing Opportunity Zone investments with available tools, and building rural partnerships, particularly in South Dade.

No questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

**Agenda Addition:**

Miami Dade County Public Schools Summer Youth Employment Program Presentation

Dr. Lupe Diaz, Administrative Director, Career and Technical Education, presented performance results of the Summer Youth Employment Program. Some of the key ideas discussed includes:

- In the 10-year history of the program, over 23,000 students have been serviced.
- This past summer had the highest number of student participants: 3,663 began, 3,661 successfully completed.
- Approximately 572 students received dual enrollment credit (3 college credits) thanks to Miami Dade College.
- The program is open to any high school student, including charter schools. This year's program had 29 charter schools represented.
- It is a five-week program, students receive \$1,500.00, divided into two payments: the first \$500.00 payment after 2 weeks, the balance at the end of the program after all documentation has been completed and submitted. This equates to approximately \$10.00 per hour for 150 hours and academic credit.
- Students ready for interviews: 5,219; approximately 4,000 students have received the proctored exam and have received the Florida Ready to Work credential.
- Goal for next year: Minimum 4,000 students



There was ongoing discussion on needed soft skills employers that employers are searching for.

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

## **5. Consent Agenda Items**

Vice Chairman del Valle presented the consent agenda items for review and invited members to pull any items that required further discussion. None were selected; consequently, the following items were put up for a vote together:

- 5A: Approval - SFWIB Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2025
- 5B: Approval to Accept Additional Workforce Funds

**Motion:** Mr. Mantilla to approve SFWIB Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2025 and the acceptance of \$564,087.43 in additional workforce system funding. Ms. Glean-Jones seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

## **6. SFWIB Executive Committee Update**

Vice Chairman del Valle introduced and presented the following updates from the October 9, 2025 SFWIB Executive Committee Meeting:

- **America's Talent Strategy – Building a Workforce for the Golden Age**  
A comprehensive federal blueprint aimed at reindustrializing the U.S., advancing leadership in artificial intelligence, and modernizing workforce investments.
- **South Dade Rural Workforce Advancement Initiative**  
CareerSource South Florida has submitted a proposal for state general funding to launch the South Dade Rural Workforce Advancement Initiative, a targeted effort to serve 125 residents in rural South Miami-Dade, with a focus on federally designated Opportunity Zones.
- **Reach Act Program Year 24-25 Quarter 3 Update**



SFWIB earned a 103.92 composite score (A+) for Program Year 2024–2025, Quarter 3, ranking as the only Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) statewide to achieve an A+ this quarter.

- **FloridaCommerce Opportunity Zone Workgroup**

FloridaCommerce is launching a statewide Opportunity Zone (OZ) Policy Workgroup to help translate the newly reauthorized OZ framework into practical strategies for state and local implementation. In collaboration with SelectFlorida, the Florida Chamber, CareerSource, FEDC, and regional planning organizations, the workgroup will analyze statutory changes, gather public input, and develop policy recommendations for the Governor.

One item is scheduled for approval: the implementation of the U.S. Department of Labor's 100% On-the-Job Training (OJT) Reimbursement Waiver for businesses located in designated Opportunity Zones. This will be discussed in more detail during the 'Action Items' section of the agenda.

No questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

## 7. SFWIB Finance and Efficiency Council Update

Vice Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Scott provided an overview of the topics discussed during today's SFWIB Finance and Efficiency Council Meeting. Council members reviewed the August 2025 financial report, noting expenditures.

The Council also reviewed the August and September 2025 cash reconciliation report, which aligned and reaffirmed the board's strong financial position.

The recommendation to accept additional workforce system funding in the amount of \$564,087.43 was discussed and approved by the Council.

Ms. Bennett confirmed that the PY 2024-2025 audit with Watson Rice is currently underway.

No questions or comments were presented. Item closed.



## 8. SFWIB Global Talent and Competitiveness Council Update

Vice Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Ms. Ferradaz provided an overview of the items discussed and approved during today's Performance Council meeting. The following agenda items have been reviewed by the Council and will be presented to the Board for approval during the Action Items section of the agenda:

- a. **New Program for an Existing Provider** - Academic Technologies dba The Code Academy offering an AI Engineer Program.
- b. **New Registered Apprenticeship Programs for the following:**
  - Miami Dade College: Maker Professional Alternative, commonly known as Machine Operator.
  - Miami Dade Public Schools:
    - Commercial AC, Reefer Technician
    - Diesel Off-Road Maintenance Technician
    - Medical Assistant
    - Pharmacy Technician
  - College of Business and Technology (CBT)
    - Electrician
    - Refrigeration and Air Condition Mechanic
- c. **Apprenticeship Program On-The-Job Training Employer Reimbursement for the following:**
  - Collins Aerospace for \$81,000
  - Neenah Foundry for \$29,184
  - All current apprenticeship reimbursements not to exceed \$133,559.80
- d. **Paid Work Experience Policy Revision.**

The update clarifies that while PWE agreements generally require proof of full-time employment (minimum 32 hours/week), youth participants enrolled in secondary, post-secondary, or advanced technical training are now exempt from this requirement. This change allows greater flexibility for in-school and out-of-school youth to participate in work experience opportunities without needing to meet the full-time threshold.



No questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

## **9. SFWIB Performance Council Update**

Vice Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Mantilla provided an overview of the items discussed during today's SFWIB Performance Council meeting, including:

- WIOA Performance Update
- The SFWIB Balance Scorecard
- Youth Program Performance
- Consumer Report Card
- The REACH ACT Letter Grade
- Federal Performance Update

No questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

## **10. Action Items**

Vice Chairman del Valle introduced agenda items 10A–10I, Mr. Beasley advised that the board could pull any specific item for further discussion. If none of the agenda items are pulled, the Board can vote on items together.

### **10A. Approval – New Training Provider and Associated Programs**

Vice Chairman del Valle introduced the item; Mr. Beasley presented a recommendation from the Global Talent and Competitiveness Council to approve the addition of the AI Engineer apprenticeship program to the curriculum of an existing provider, Academic Technologies d/b/a The Code Academy.

**Motion:** Mr. Brown recommends approval to the Board for adding the AI Engineer apprenticeship program to the curriculum of an existing provider, Academic Technologies d/b/a The Code Academy. Mr. Chi seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.



None of the agenda items were pulled for additional discussion, as such, items will be voted on simultaneously.

*[Dr. Loynaz is a related party for agenda items 10B, 10E, 10F, 10G, and 10E, as such, he was removed from the meeting during the discussion and board vote.]*

The following agenda items were discussed and voted on together:

**10B. Approval – New Registered Apprenticeship Program: Miami Dade College:**  
Adding the Maker Professional (Machine Operator I) apprenticeship program to the curriculum of an existing provider, Miami Dade College.

**10E. Approval – New Machine Operator Apprenticeship Program OJT Employer Reimbursement: Collins Aerospace:** an allocation not to exceed \$82,000 in WIOA funding to Collins Aerospace for employer reimbursements related to on-the-job training (OJT) with the Machine Operator Apprenticeship program.

**10F: Approval - New Electrical Pre-Apprenticeship OJT Wage Reimbursement: Neenah Foundry:** an allocation not to exceed \$29,184 in WIOA funding to the Neenah Foundry for employer reimbursements related to on-the-job training (OJT) with the Electrician pre-apprenticeship program.

**10G: Approval – Apprenticeship Employer OJT Wage Reimbursements for Miami Dade College Apprenticeship Programs:** An allocation not to exceed \$133,559.80 in WIOA funding to the following employers for 40% OTJ wage reimbursements associated with apprenticeship programs:

- The Palm South Beach Cook Apprenticeship - \$12,776
- Earl's Restaurant Cook Apprenticeship - \$13,600
- Margaritaville Bayside Marketplace Restaurant Manager - \$3,600
- Landshark Bar & Grill Restaurant Manager - \$216.00
- The Carter Academy Teacher Assistant Apprenticeship – 2 New Participants: \$25,200
- The Carter Academy Teacher Assistant Apprenticeship - Participant Dropped: \$713.00
- YWCA Teacher Assistant Apprenticeship - \$12,310
- Shanti Kids Teacher Assistant Apprenticeship - \$12,450
- Hellman Worldwide Logistics, Inc. Customs Broker Apprenticeship (2 apprentices) – \$27,036.80



- Hellman Worldwide Logistics, Inc. Transportation and Logistics Apprenticeship - \$13,348

*Each apprenticeship: 1 participant unless otherwise noted.*

**Motion:** Ms. Glean-Jones to approve agenda items 10B, 10E, 10F, and 10G as so written; Ms. Ferradaz seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed

[Dr. Loynaz returned to the meeting.]

The following agenda items were discussed and voted on together:

**10C: New Registered Apprenticeship Programs: Miami-Dade County Public Schools:** The addition of four apprenticeship programs (i.e., Commercial AC, Reefer Technician, Diesel Off-Road Maintenance Technician, Medical Assistant, and Pharmacy Technician) to the curriculum of an existing provider, Miami-County Public Schools.

**10D: New Registered Apprenticeship Programs: College of Business and Technology (CBT):** The addition of two apprenticeship programs (i.e., Electrician and Refrigeration and Air Condition Mechanic) to the curriculum of an existing provider, College of Business and Technology (CBT).

**10H: Paid Work Experience Policy Revision:** Proposed revisions to the existing Paid Work Experience Policy.

**10I: WIOA Opportunity Zone OJT Waiver Request:** The implementation of the federally approved WIOA Opportunity Zone On-the-Job Training Waiver, authorizing for up to 90% employer reimbursement region wide and up to 100% reimbursement for employers located in or employing residents of Opportunity Zones in Workforce Development Area 23.

**Motion:** Ms. Ferradaz to approve agenda items 10C, 10D, 10H, and 10I as so written; Mr. Brown seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed



### **New Business**

- Mr. Beasley announced an upcoming strategic planning session for the board. Date to be announced.

### **Next Meeting**

The next SFWIB meeting is scheduled to take place on December 18, 2025. The location is to be determined. Notifications will be forwarded to all members in advance of the session.

Being as there were no further questions or concerns, the SFWIB Meeting adjourned at 10:21am.