

# LWDB 21 Palm Beach County EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM of the Palm Beaches QUARTERLY REPORT

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Report Quarter:** Q 1

**Date of meeting:** 02/25/2026

**Report prepared by:** Julia Dattolo, President/CEO

**Local Workforce Development Board contact:** Julia Dattolo

## B. ATTENDANCE

See attached attendance of Consortium members and industry specific guests below.

## C. SUMMARY REPORT

The meeting reviewed Palm Beach County healthcare labor market data, education outputs, and strategies to align training with employer hiring needs. Presenters summarized local metrics—about 108,000 healthcare jobs, education and health services as the leading growth sector with roughly 6% year-over-year growth, a 5% unemployment rate, and facility expansions including a new facility Alan B Miller Medical Center in Jupiter; two facilities in Palm Beach Gardens in Avenir and Coconut Crossing areas; expansion of Palms West Hospital among them. Industry leaders/Hospital CEOs shared the need for technical staff mostly in radiology to include x-ray techs, u/s techs, cardiac cath techs, MRI, Echo techs and surgical technicians.

Education listed their cohorts, graduation rates and connections with the local hospital recruiters they meet to address the hiring needs of the local hospitals. Discussion addressed upskilling hospital workers into new jobs. CSPBC then explained OJT, IWT and apprenticeships as well as business services to assist them with upskilling and training. Follow-up will take place between the School District and hospitals. CSPBC will provide LMI data, graduation numbers, and updated curriculum offered in PBC. The follow-up will also take place with CSPBC and hospitals to address recruiting staff. School District will look at providing opportunities for technical certification in health care to start in middle school.

Discussion identified primary workforce challenges: frontline shortages across nursing and allied health, high entry-level turnover and burnout, retirements, state licensing barriers, background-check hiring restrictions, limited clinical placement capacity, instructor shortages, and chronic vacancies in CT, MRI, and interventional imaging exacerbated by traveler pay and nonstandard shifts. Education partners reported certification and graduate counts (for example, 813 K-12 certifications and 41 candidates currently in CareerSource's talent pipeline) and noted accreditation and capacity limits that create multi-year imaging waitlists.

The group explored mitigations including expanding clinical slots using freestanding ERs and outpatient sites, creating high-school-to-employment pathways (basic x-ray, EKG, pharmacy tech), promoting apprenticeships and subsidized OJT, and leveraging CareerSource supports such as a county internship website ([internpalmbeach.com](http://internpalmbeach.com)) and a 75% wage subsidy for eligible hires. Participants agreed to share graduate lists, investigate cohort expansion, and compile OJT/apprenticeship materials and learner-pathway data for follow up.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- \* Julia Dattolo will post hospital internship opportunities to [internpalmbeach.com](http://internpalmbeach.com) upon receiving job submissions or will add them if contacted directly.
- \* Meeting participants (educational institutions) will submit updates to CareerSource for the learner pathway slide to ensure accuracy.
- \* Jeraline Johnson will share pre-graduation survey data from the school district showing students' post-graduation intentions.
- \* Meeting participants will share student feedback about shift and scheduling preferences with Ashley Vertuno

- \* Jeraline Johnson will send symposium information to Julia for distribution to meeting participants
- \* Ashley Vertuno will follow up with Jeraline Johnson regarding pathways and potential partnerships between hospitals and school programs
- \* Jeraline Johnson will email Ashley and Elizabeth and coordinate a follow-up with Robert.
- \* Charles Duval will serve as the point of contact for OJT and apprenticeship inquiries and coordination and be reachable at [CharlesDuvall@CareerSourcePBC.com](mailto:CharlesDuvall@CareerSourcePBC.com).
- \* Julia Dattolo will request graduate lists from educational partners for specified clinical and technical fields and provide a learner-pathway breakdown showing who graduates in May.
- \* Julia Dattolo and Charles Duval will assemble and send a packet containing OJT, apprenticeship, and upskilling program information to meeting participants.
- \* Julia Dattolo will work with Dr. Johnson and Palm Beach State College to discuss guiding students into technical roles and cohort planning.
- \* Healthcare participating systems will review clinical volume requirements and coordinate with academic partners to determine appropriate cohort sizes for training programs.

EDUCATION & INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM OF THE PALM BEACHES  
 (FOCUS) HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY MEETING  
 02/25/2026  
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