

# 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:** 3/31/2025

**Report prepared by:** Julia Dattolo CEO

**Local workforce development board contact:** same **Date:** 3/31/2025

## B. ATTENDANCE

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

## C. SUMMARY REPORT

1. Summary analysis of the local labor market based on the industry representative needs and education offerings. (Provide summary)

A review of our local labor market situation was presented at the meeting. Unemployment in Palm Beach County is 3.7%, or 26,000+ persons are seeking employment, but likely hampered by a skills mismatch. Healthcare having the largest need in the County. This need is amplified by the lack of faculty to teach the

courses required, along with 4 new hospitals being built in our county requiring thousands of workers and healthcare providers.

The local healthcare industry saw a growth of over 5100 jobs and at the same time is our current healthcare workforce start to lose its numbers to retirement. We expect over 27K retirements of workers 55 and up soon.

There are 9,105 Health Care and Social Assistance businesses in Palm Beach County, and the health care industry adds \$9B to the local gross regional product annually.

The largest projected growth in health care occupations from 2023-2031 by growth percentage is Nurse Practitioners 46.1%. By projected job openings, Health Support Occupations 33,730, then Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations 26,100.

## 2. Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area. (Provide summary)

### Focus: Healthcare Industry

This meeting built on the momentum of adding curriculum and evaluating enrollments to meet the needs of industries. Several local hospital and medical centers are expanding as well as building new facilities with needs. The meetings brought together representatives from Palm Beach County educational institutions to address the critical needs of the healthcare industry in Palm Beach County. The meeting emphasized the importance of keeping talent local and highlighted the role of workforce as a convenor and collaborator with education and industry. The focus today was to address the needs of the educational institutions to meet the demands was on reviewing local labor market information, discussing learner pathways, and exploring ways to interpret and utilize data to address the needs of the healthcare industry.

The meeting, led by CareerSource Palm Beach County brought together leaders in workforce education to address the critical needs of the healthcare industry. It was convened to collaborate and provide information on curriculum and how to educate students to meet industry needs.

The Learner Pathway was shown to all, with number of graduates in most of the healthcare programs ascertained. These numbers will be shared with industry partners when completed.

The key problems identified in today's meeting were: Lack of instructors at both high school and college level. Aging of instructors and instructors unable to grasp new technology. Discussion revolved around getting retired professionals to rejoin workforce as instructors. Potentially call the event Operation 'Come Back'.

High School CAPE funding was another issue as this course work was not approved for the MCL. In the discussion, HHA and phlebotomy were the primary coursework in healthcare not approved. Consensus was to elevate the HHA credential to CNA if possible and offer phlebotomy as an add-on stackable credential not as a standalone course. The School District will consider those recommendations.

### 3. Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations. (Provide summary)

The Learner Pathway for Healthcare outlining the curriculum of study in our county from middle school to colleges and university were discussed and outlined with the number of graduates pending graduation this year. Course work was updated to reflect the new Dental Aide program in high school, and two new degree programs at Keiser University in Billing and coding.

EDUCATION & INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM OF THE PALM BEACHES  
(FOCUS) HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY MEETING  
03/31/2025  
ATTENDEES CONTACT INFORMATION

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