

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: 1/23/2024

Report prepared by: Julia Dattolo CEO

Local workforce development board contact: same **Date:** 1/24/2024

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, the current non-agricultural employment in Palm Beach County is 691,700 which is up 7,400 workers as compared to December one year ago. The labor force participation rate in Palm Beach County has increased 4.8% since 2021.

Unemployment in Palm Beach County is 3.0%, or 23,430 persons are seeking employment, but likely hampered by a skills mismatch.

We have over 96K persons employed in the local healthcare industry, currently we see 2,430 posted open positions, and over the last 12 months 29K open positions were locally advertised. Based on the age of our current healthcare workforce, 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

The meeting brought together representatives from Palm Beach County healthcare organizations and 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 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 workforce and education to address the critical needs of the healthcare industry. It was convened to collaborate and provide information, with a focus on matching talent with business needs and discussing local labor market information.

The Learner Pathway was shown to all, with number of graduates in most of the healthcare programs. Healthcare providers took note of graduating talent. Many stated having the students perform clinical in their respective institutions, however had bigger needs to fill. The education partners shared a need for increased clinical opportunities to increase their cohorts. This was not known by institutions. Discussion revolved around increasing opportunities for volunteering, clinical preceptorships, and increasing clinical site mentoring.

Health care institutions expressed a need for surgical technicians, sterile processing technicians, sonography, and other related fields. Colleges shared they will increase capacity for more spots in their classes, and one college is adding surgical technician to their coursework starting in 2025. Medical Assistant is a large need in private medical practices. Classes are available, however not full. Education partners will increase opportunity to attend job fairs, and recruit for these in need jobs.


Both educators and health care HR directors had excellent conversation about talent, in developing talent, recruiting talent as well as holding onto talent. Concerns were shared.

Business Development Board has a n event named ***Claim you Future Showcase*** where the School District buses youth to the Palm Beach Convention Center. This is a large fair with employers showcase their industry, businesses and jobs. A couple of the healthcare providers signed up to be present.

Following the meeting, many stayed to share business contacts and form new relationships.

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. Industry partners discussed their needs to match the graduates, and also shared what additional graduates and programs they required to fill additional and future needs.

The talent pipeline for the following professions was highlighted as high wage, high demand:

Nursing

Surgical technicians

Sonography technicians

Radiology technicians

Paramedics /EMT

Medical assistants

Respiratory Care

Surgical services

Physical therapy and Physical therapy assistants

EDUCATION & INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM OF THE PALM BEACHES
(FOCUS) HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY MEETING
01/23/24
ATTENDEES CONTACT INFORMATION

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