
Pasco Hernando Workforce Development Consortium

Consortium Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: *Meeting Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams*

Consortium Members Attending: Commissioner Kathryn Starkey, Andrew Taylor, David Lambert, Nicole Hughes

Consortium Members Absent: Commissioner John Allocco

Staff Attending: Nicole Beverley, Brenda Gause, Theresa Miner, Kenneth Russ, Jerome Salatino, Jessica Weightman

Others Attending: The Hogan Law Firm – Jarrod Prater; PHWB Non-Board Member – Aaron Deberry

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Commissioner Starkey.

Public Comments

Commissioner acknowledged members of the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Development Board members attending the meeting in a joint forum. Everyone introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

Action Item 1 – Minutes from April 3, 2025, Consortium Meeting

The Consortium members reviewed the minutes from the April 3, 2025, Pasco Hernando Workforce Development Consortium meeting. For Action Item #4, David Lambert declared a conflict and abstained from voting due to his role as Chairman of the Pasco County Housing Authority. The motion was made by Andrew Taylor and seconded by Nicole Hughes.

MOTION was made by Andrew Taylor to approve December 2, 2024, Consortium meeting minutes.

MOTION was seconded by David Lambert. Motion carried 4-0.

Action Item 2 – Budget Approval 2025-2026

The Consortium reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 annual operating budget for CareerSource Pasco Hernando. The budget was previously reviewed and approved by the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board's Executive Committee on August 14, 2025. Board staff explained that CareerSource Pasco Hernando receives Hope Florida funding for participants eligible under the TANF program.

MOTION was made by David Lambert to approve the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

MOTION was seconded by Nicole Hughes. Motion carried 4-0.

Action Item 3 – Board Candidate – Timothy Hellmers

The Consortium reviewed for approval the appointment of Timothy Hellmers to the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board of Directors. Mr. Hellmers represents the Department of Veterans' Affairs that provides healthcare services in the Pasco and Hernando region(s). It is recommended to add Mr. Hellmers to class 3 of staggered terms with the proposed term ending, June 30, 2031.

MOTION was made by David Lambert to approve Timothy Hellmers as a Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board of Director under the Labor/Apprenticeships sector as a Class 3 of staggered terms and a end date of June 30, 2031.

MOTION was seconded by Nicole Hughes. Motion carried 4-0.

Action Item 4 – Board Candidate – Stefanie Pontlitz

The Consortium reviewed for approval the appointment of Stefanie Pontlitz to the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board of Directors. Ms. Pontlitz represents the accounting/finance industry sector in the Pasco and Hernando region(s). It is recommended to add Ms. Pontlitz to class 2 of staggered terms with the proposed term ending, April 11, 2030.

MOTION was made by Andrew Taylor to approve Stefanie Pontlitz as a Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board of Director under the Business sector as a Class 2 of staggered terms and a end date of April 11, 2030.

MOTION was seconded by David Lambert. Motion carried 4-0.

Action Item 5 – Non-Board Candidate – Aaron Deberry

The Consortium reviewed the nomination of Aaron Deberry for consideration as a Non-Board Member for the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Development Board's Standing Committees. Mr. Deberry attended virtually and was available to answer questions or provide additional context. He shared that he has over 20 years of experience in education and is working to introduce blockchain technology into local education systems.

Andrew Taylor inquired whether the organization was considered a school. Mr. Deberry clarified that it is not a school, but rather a technology infrastructure and marketplace platform that partners with educational institutions to host their courses.

David Lambert commented that the concept was innovative and new to the region.

MOTION was made by David Lambert to approve Aaron Deberry as a Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board Non-Board Member as a Class 3 of staggered terms and an end date of June 30, 2033.

MOTION was seconded by Nicole Hughes. Motion carried 4-0.

Open Discussion

Jerome Salatino provided an overview of the 50% Individual Training Account (ITA) waiver, noting that CareerSource Pasco Hernando has not previously applied for the waiver. He explained that the State Board recently approved most waiver requests submitted by other workforce regions, including Pinellas and Hillsborough, which allows that region to allocate up to 15% of their WIOA funds toward staffing and infrastructure.

Mr. Salatino emphasized that CareerSource Pasco Hernando is not afforded the same opportunity, as all available funds are utilized in alignment with federal intent and program requirements. He further reported that the organization experienced a reduction of approximately ten positions during the current program year. Mr. Salatino stated his intention to raise these concerns at the next State Board meeting, as CareerSource Pasco Hernando has been advised that, even if eligible, the region would likely receive no more than a 5% waiver.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.