



# Regional Workforce Council

May 21, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

**Purpose:** Through organized facilitation understand current gaps, challenges, and partnerships. The intention of this meeting is to open doors of communication to learn ways to leverage support from one another.

**Discussion:** The desired outcomes of this meeting is to discuss and approve the 2019 Regional Workforce Public Policy Agenda for advocacy and advance our community efforts around workforce development goals.

Present:

Holly Bullard, Florida Policy Institute (phone)  
Martha Meyers, Manatee Technical College  
Corey Naeger, UnidosNow  
Jay Riley, USF Sarasota-Manatee  
Shauna Donahue, CareerEdge Funders  
Margie Genter, Goodwill  
Elizabeth Cordes, Bradenton EDC  
Amy Diss, JFCS  
Toni Ripi, USF-SM  
Ron DiPillo, Suncoast Technical College  
Christina Russi, GSHSC  
Casey Welch, USF-Sarasota-Manatee

Ann Hardy, Sarasota County Libraries  
Carolyn Griffin, United Way Suncoast  
Jackie Perez, UnidosNow  
Heather Kasten, Sarasota Chamber of Commerce  
Mireya Eavey, Sarasota Chamber of Commerce  
Ashley Brown, Woman’s Resource Center  
John Annis, Baranick Foundation  
Deborah Chapman, Women’s Resource Center  
Linda Demello, Ringling College  
Kathy Drotar, Keiser University

## Recap & Next Steps

Recap:

- Mireya Eavey with CareerEdge welcomed the group and invited everyone to introduce themselves. She then turned it over to Casey Welch at USFSM who provided background on the public policy agenda of the workforce council.
- Holly Bullard with the Florida Policy Institute shared that lawmakers have expanded eligibility for the Florida Healthy Kids Program which is part of the Affordable Care Act. She also shared that \$115 million from the affordable housing trust fund has been moved to support counties impacted by Hurricane Michael. This left \$85 million in the affordable housing trust fund for the entire state. Both funding allocations have been approved by state lawmakers and are waiting for action by the Governor (sign or line item veto).

- Elizabeth Cordes with the Bradenton EDC shared that everyone should encourage businesses to register with <https://floridadisaster.biz/> as it is difficult for the federal government to determine revenue loss for Florida businesses.
- Mireya Eavey explained CNA testing delays have been reduced because the Red Cross and STC are now pre-registering CNA students for the exam. Representatives Good and Gregory are working on amended language that will allow licensed nursing schools to perform onsite CNA testing. The language has been provided to them so that their staff can work on the statute revision over the summer, prior to session.
- Casey Welch said Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten will remain a topic, as the formula funding is disproportionate. Ashley Brown with WRC said volunteers are still needed for the summer reading program. Casey Welch reminded the group that legislative session starts January 14, 2020 and committee meetings for this fall are scheduled.
- HB 7071 was the 2019 Legislative Session workforce bill; with 65 pages it covered many different topics. A few the bill included are:
  - Creation of a College and Career Decision Day – signing day at high schools
  - Career and Education planning for 6,7,8 graders to develop a plan for attending college or technical school, which can include apprenticeships
  - Credits toward high school diploma for students working in the trades or in technical school
  - Increasing the talent pipeline for 60% of older adults by 2030
  - Florida Career pathways grant to provide grants to high school students
  - Important to note that the above programs do not have funding allocations
- Casey asked the group to provide topics for the upcoming workforce summit. Mireya and Casey are finalizing the agenda and speakers, with an official invitation to go out this week. John Annis with the Baranick Foundation suggested reaching out to the representatives and start conversations with each around their policy interests. John said conversations with lawmakers should be high level while the summit attendees can work out the details.

Next Steps:

- The Institute for Public Policy and Leadership at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, in partnership with the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce/CareerEdge Funders Collaborative, are hosting a Regional Workforce Solutions Summit on June 21, 2019, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM to identify actionable policy issues for consistent advocacy efforts by workforce stakeholders with local, state and federal decision makers.