CareerSource Heartland
5901 US Hwy 27 South, Suite 1
Sebring, Florida 33870

Youth Council Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
MINUTES

Committee Chair, Gary Ritter led the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Gary Ritter, Council Chair. Mr. Ritter inquired if any Requests for Public Comment had been made and was advised that none had.

II. Introductions

Roll was called to identify and confirm committee members present in the room and attending virtually. Staff and others present were identified. Quorum was established. See end of minutes for all attendees.

III. Amend the Agenda:

A. Chair Ritter asked to amend the agenda and called for a motion to move the Youth Chair Information Item up to the Action Items, so that a nomination and election of a new Committee Chair could be made.

- A motion was made by committee member, Mr. Glenn West, to approve moving the Youth Council Chair Information Item to an Action Item in the Agenda.
- Motion seconded by committee member, Ms. Emily Roesner
- Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Presentations:

A. CareerSource Heartland WIOA Youth Program Youth Council Report Presentation

CSH Program Coordinator, Eddie Cuencas, presented data on enrollees and closures for in and out of school youth. He provided details on the participants' challenges, achievements, and successes. He highlighted the strong and productive community partnerships in all counties. He provided details about the summer programs being held in all counties and thanked the Committee and the Board for their guidance and support for the program. In closing, Mr. Cuencas said that the program builds a solid foundation that supports the growth of the participants and the region and that the established communication channels are an important key to the program's success.

Robust discussion was had, touching on many elements of the program, such as keeping the youth engaged, how the program is marketed, and the kinds of conversations held with the youth as they enter and navigate through the program.

Committee Chair Ritter, along with other members, thanked Mr. Cuencas for being so committed to youth and community.

V. Action Items:

A. Youth Council Meeting Schedule FY 2026 – 2027

CareerSource Heartland Board's Youth Council (YC) members have requested that a meeting schedule be established to enhance planning and promote regular attendance. The YC meets at

least twice a year to review performance of the Youth program, as well as to define strategies that promote successful entry into the workforce. After brief discussion and review of calendars, Chair Ritter called for a motion to accept the schedule.

- A motion was made by committee member, Mr. Glenn West, to approve the proposed FY 2026 - 2027 YC Meeting Schedule as presented.
- Motion seconded by committee member, Ms. Emily Roesner.
- Motion carried unanimously.

B. **Appointment of Youth Council Chair**

The current Chair of the Youth Council, Gary Ritter, has announced his retirement, to take effect in July 2026. Upon his retirement he will no longer be eligible to serve on the Board or Youth Council. CSH staff respectfully requested that nominations and a vote be taken to elect a new Chair of CSH's Youth Council, to be effective upon Mr. Ritter's official retirement.

Stating the bittersweetness of his retirement, Mr. Ritter offered the nomination of Mr. Raymond Royce. With no other nominations given, he called for a motion.

- A motion was made by committee member, Mr. Glenn West, to elect Mr. Royce as the new Youth Council Chair.
- Motion seconded by committee member, Ms. Debbi Mancini.
- Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Other

No other business was brought before the Youth Council.

VII. Adjourn

Council Chair, Gary Ritter, adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Committee members present and participating: Gary Ritter (Chair), Leigh Ann Bellamy, Christen Johnson, Deborah Mancini, Emily Roesner, Raymond Royce, Glenn West, Trudy Williams, Amanda Wilson.

Committee members absent: Joshua Exendine, Skylar Harrison, Christina Martin, David Royal.

Community Committee Members: None **Public attendance: None**

CSH staff present: Michele Arena, Eddie Cuencas, Donna Doubleday, Matthew Horkan, Ann Martin and Nica Morgan