



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

**Youth Council Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
MINUTES**

Gary Ritter led the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 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. Attendance did not establish quorum. See end of minutes for all attendees.

III. Presentations:

A. CareerSource Heartland WIOA Youth Program Youth Council Report Presentation

CSH Program Coordinator, Eddie Cuencas, presented in-depth data on enrollees and closures for in and out of school youth, all closures were positive. He provided details of the transition of the program and how the youth were served seamlessly. He stated that in all counties, community partnerships and relationships remain strong and productive. He illustrated how the different challenges that many of the youth face are being supported through this program. Mr. Cuencas shared achievement stories on current and formerly enrolled youth. He thanked the Committee and the Board for their guidance and support for the program. In closing, he said that the program builds a solid foundation that supports the growth of this four-county region.

Committee member, Glenn West, thanked Mr. Cuencas for being so committed to youth and community.

IV. Action Items:

A. None

V. Other

No other business was brought before the Youth Council.

VI. Adjourn

Council Chair, Gary Ritter, adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m.

Committee members present and participating: Gary Ritter (Chair), Deborah Mancini, Emily Roesner, and Glenn West

Committee members absent: Leigh Ann Bellamy, Joshua Exendine, Skylar Harrison, Christen Johnson, Katherine McAuley, David Royal, and Amanda Wilson

Community Committee Members: Christina Martin

Public attendance: None

CSH staff present: Michele Arena, Eddie Cuencas, Donna Doubleday, Caleb Henderson, and Nica Morgan