



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Children's Services Council, 101 SE Central Parkway, Stuart, FL 34996

- Present:** Dan Romence (President), Lauren Abbott (President Elect), Steven Hartz (Treasurer), Susan Rabinowitz (Past President), Joey Pistone, Eric Kiehn, Ron Rose, William 'David' Snyder, Mayor Carmine Dipaolo, Commissioner Blake Capps, Commissioner Laura Giobbi,
- Excused:** Angela Browning, PhD (Secretary), Brian Bauer, Marshall Critchfield, Ransom "Reed" Hartman, Wyatt Knight, Patrick Gleason, David Powers, Tyson Waters
- Others:** William Corbin (Executive Director), Troy McDonald (Director, Business Retention and Expansion), Lauren Bevins (Office Administrator), Ken Norman (Counsel), George Stokus, Ike Crumpler (Communications)

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Dan Romence – President-Elect, BDBMC- Dan Romence called the meeting to order at 8:47 AM. A quorum was established by roll call.

2. **Comments**

a. Public-None

b. BDBMC Partners

c. Executive Director Report – William Corbin (Executive Director) went over the Executive Director Report and discussed several topics:

I. REACH Center Ribbon-cutting

- a. The REACH Center will celebrate its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, February 18 at 2:00pm. County elected leadership and other officials will be present. BDBMC staff would like to encourage all board members and affiliated stakeholders to please join at the event.

II. Martin Loan Fund

- a. The Martin Loan Fund has its first official recipient. Old Havana Café is the first local business to benefit from the fund. It is located at 2225 SE Ocean Blvd, across from the Fresh Market plaza.



The announcement was made in the BDBMC's January newsletter with a story about the restaurant and its entrepreneur owner, Mr. Chuchi Rivero. The loan amount is \$25,000.

III. PSM Ribbon-cutting

- a. On December 11 Power Systems Manufacturing officially opened its new 185,000 square foot facility in Stuart, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local officials, community leaders, media representatives, and company leadership.

As most of you already know, PSM is a leading company in the building and servicing of gas turbine engines. Their goal is to continue increasing their presence in the aerospace sector.

PSM's Stuart facility is expected to bring more than 100 jobs at an average wage of \$74,000+ and result in approximately \$17.1 million of capital investment (\$5.8 million in tenant improvements; \$11.3 million in equipment).

IV. HOG Technologies Career Pathways event

- a. On January 9, HOG Technologies hosted a workforce development-related event at their headquarters in Stuart. The event was an opportunity for Martin County School District students to connect with and become more exposed to the different types of career pathways available to them, with an emphasis on manufacturing at this particular event.

Panelists included staff from HOG Technologies (e.g. Floor Production Manager) as well as representation from IRSC's Advanced Manufacturing Center.

V. Workforce Development (Strategy & Approach)

- a. The BDBMC and Martin County meet on a regular basis at least once per month, with the goal of staying connected and in good communication.

The Executive Director represents the BDBMC at these meetings. Likewise, Commissioner Capps, the designated liaison on behalf of the BOCC, and Assistant County Administrator George Stokus, and county-



appointed BDBMC board member Joey Pistone, usually represent the county at these meetings.

During the last meeting we had a lengthy discussion about attracting the bigger, more mature/sophisticated types of companies (e.g. companies that are publicly-owned, for example) to the area – and more importantly, how the BDBMC can help create an environment whereby Martin County is able to attract and retain talent the type of talent that these types of sophisticated companies are looking to find.

Based on this conversation, BDBMC staff is going to plan a workshop/strategy session and form a committee/work group tasked with developing an approach to this topic.

Please let us know if you are interested in joining the conversation, and we will include you in our communication.

VI. Meeting with Port of Palm Beach

- a. BDBMC staff met with representatives from the Port of Palm Beach in mid-December – District Clerk Jackelin Machado and the Director of Contract Compliance & Tenant Relations Tacaria Anderson Jones.

The goal was to learn more about Foreign Trade Zone 135 and how Martin County companies can take advantage of it. The meeting went very well, and we now have a direct contact who we are able to follow up and connect with Martin County businesses or entrepreneurs who might benefit directly from the Foreign Trade Zone as a resource to help save their company money and time.

VII. Treasure Coast Legislative Conference Week

- a. BDBMC Executive Director William Corbin and Director of Economic Development Troy McDonald joined the Stuart/Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River chambers and stakeholders last week at this year's Legislative Conference Week, where they spent several days in Tallahassee at the start of the legislative session.

The goal of the trip was to stay abreast of any economic development-related proposed legislation that could (positively or negatively) affect



the business climate and economic environment for Martin County companies and entrepreneurs.

Some of the bills/topics we learned about and are following include the potential elimination of property taxes; housing law that would enable and allow “by-right” construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs); a reduction of the ceiling on business taxes; and the formalizing/creation of a new statewide position of Chief Manufacturing Officer.

VIII. Speaking Engagements

- a. BDBMC Executive Director William Corbin had the pleasure of speaking with two organizations since the last board meeting, and he is scheduled to be a featured speaker with another two groups:
 - a. Martin County Business Exchange (12/10)
 - b. Illustrated Properties Commercial Team (1/26)
 - c. MIATC Economic Impact Breakfast (2/6)
 - d. CCIM Lunch Panel Event (2/10)

3. Approvals

a. Meeting Minutes

I. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 3, 2025:

Due to Quorum not being met, the Board of Directors was not able to approve the Meeting Minutes. Will be reviewed at next meeting.

b. Financials

I. December 2025

Due to Quorum not being met, the Board of Directors was not able to approve December Financials. Will be reviewed at next meeting.

4. Reports & Presentations

- a. Employment Report – Christina Coble, CareerSource
- b. Business Attraction Update – William Corbin, BDBMC
- c. 2026 Calendar (Programming & Events)
- d. 2026 Annual Awards Event Update
- e. BRE Update – Troy McDonald, BDBMC
- f. Martin Co Supervisor of Elections


5. Board Member Items & Discussions:

- a. Board of Directors has requested that the BDB explore different venues for the 2026 Event.



- 6. **Comments:**
 - a. **BDBMC Partners:** None

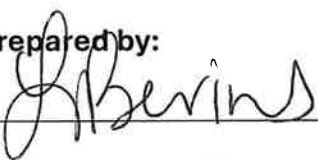
- 7. **Adjournment:** 10:13am

Approved by: 

Dan Romence, Chair

2/25/24

Date

Prepared by: 

Lauren Bevins, Office Administrator

2/25/24

Date

Minutes Approved on 2/25/24