

OFFICERS

Cheko Carter
Chair

Harold M. Paxton
Vice Chair

Laurel Kosharsky
Secretary

Carol Weideman
KidsFirst Representative

MEMBERS

Carol Bumiller
Deputy Alex Siem
(Sheriff Department)

Marilyn Walker

Sara Bleattler

Neil Brickfield

Donna McGill

Keith Sabiel

Luis Pérez

Carlos Mercado

Richard Rock

Zully Millan

Heather Cameron

Asia Clermont (Pending
Board Approval)

**Juvenile Welfare Board of
Pinellas County**

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*Investing in children
Strengthening our Community*

AGENDA

Meetings are the 1st Thursday of each month

Thursday Sept. 3, 2020
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order-** Cheko Carter, Chair
 - A. Welcome- Members & Guests
 - B. August minutes

- II. JWB Updates-** **Beth Houghton**, JWB’s Chief Executive Director
Judith Warren, JWB’s Chief Operating Officer

- III. The Not my Son Campaign/ Men & Women in the Making-**
Reverend Kenny Irby, Director of Community Intervention & Juvenile Outreach

- IV. Regional Update:**
 - a) Coral Heights
 - b) High Point
 - c) Ridgecrest
 - d) Lealman
 - e) Pinellas Park
 - f) Kenneth City

- V. Open Agenda**

Future Meetings/Notices

- September 15, 3:30 PM-JWB Board Meeting
- September 15, 5:15 PM- JWB First TRIM Hearing
- September 29, 5:15 PM- JWB Final TRIM Hearing
- October 1, 6:00 PM- Mid-County Community Council Meeting

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does.” Margaret Mead, Anthropologist

MINUTES
Tuesday August 4, 2020

Council Members Present: Cheko Carter, Laurel Kosharsky, Marilyn Walker, Deputy Siem Richard Rock, Donna McGill, Harold Paxton, Carol Weideman, Carlos Mercado, Neil Brickfield, Heather Cameron

Council members Absent: Carol Bumiller, Sara Bleattler, Luis Perez, Keith Sabiel, Zully Millan

Guests: Chris Mathews (Kinship Care); Arelys Escalera (Pinellas County Communications); Asia Clermont (ReadStrong); Julian Perez (City of Largo); Ericka Reckenwald (Pinellas County Schools)

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia, Beth Houghton, Judith Warren, Millicent Battle and Jaime Peele

- I. Yaridis L. Garcia, Community Planner Manager and Council Liaison, stated the JWB Mid-County Community Council Meeting on August 4, 2020 is being held via Zoom Webinar and telephone conference due to the current State of Emergency in Florida caused by the outbreak of COVID-19. Governor Ron DeSantis extended Executive Order 20-69 which suspends the Sunshine Law requirement to have all meetings in a public location and have a quorum in person. Script was read and proceed to roll call.
- II. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheko Carter at 6:05 pm; members and guests were welcomed. Cheko shared with the members the assistance provided by 211 for some residents from his apartment complex. He stated that families are getting great resources to assist during this difficult time and asked members to keep working and collaborating.
- III. **Juvenile Welfare Update:**

Beth Houghton, JWB CEO, informed the council members about JWB's current operation; staff are working remotely and it seems that will continue to the end of this year. Staff have been able to successfully accomplish their day to day activities and the work has not been impacted. She also spoke about the recent JWB's Board Strategic Workshop and the strategic goals discussed during this workshop. Tomorrow, JWB's Executive Leadership & Councils' Executive Leadership will meet to discuss these strategic goals and the role of the councils moving forward.

Judith Warren, JWB COO, informed that some of our summer JWB-funded programs have been impacted by COVID-19. We are in constant contact with our programs and are

providing technical assistance and resources as needed. Community Councils have been instrumental in sharing resources and keeping our communities connected.

IV. Pinellas County Schools Reopening Plan:

Ericka Reckenwald, ESOL Family Outreach, provided council members with an overview of the County's Schools Reopening; this presentation provided resources and details about all the safety protocols followed by the schools to assure low incident of COVID-19. This plan also detailed the 3 available options for students: On school campus, MyPCSONline, and Virtual School. Parents have been contacted to make sure they choose the right options for their children. More families have opted for virtual learning instead of on campus. Various workshops have been facilitated in order to keep families informed about all of these options and available resources. Will share upcoming workshops with council members in order to promote more parental participation.

V. Community Engagement Conversation:

Council members discussed the need to keep engaged in spite of the current situation. Members are concerned about the current climate and the impact this is having in our youth; they want to start a conversation about creating a conversational bridge between our youth and the police officers. Deputy Siem, Council member will assist the council with this initiative. Marilyn Walker, council member, suggested to invite Reverend Kenny Irby to our next council meeting to know more about his initiative in St. Petersburg and how Mid-County can start an initiative in the region.

VI. Regional Updates:

All programs are getting ready to distribute school items. PAL will have its Back to School Drive-thru event, in collaboration with Adopt-a-Block and the Lealman Asian NFC, on Saturday August 7. High Point NFC is also having a drive-thru Back to School event, as well as a Virtual Baby Shower. The City of Pinellas Park will have a drive-thru back to school event at the end of the month; will send flyer when it is available. JWB will support some of these efforts as we want to make sure our children are ready to begin this school year. Carlos Mercado requested assistance from the Council in order to provide backpacks and school supplies to the Coral Heights Community; PAL & The City of Pinellas Park will assist with this project. Details about these events will be discussed at the next council meeting scheduled on Thursday September 3 via ZOOM.

Resources shared during this meeting will be sent to the members for distribution in the community

Respectfully submitted by: Laurel Kosharsky, Secretary