

MINUTES

April 6, 2023

Council Members Present: Richard Rock, Julianne Pérez, Heather Cameron, Harold M. Paxton, Fidel Johnson, Donna McGill, Cheko Carter, Carlos Mercado

Council members Absent: Carol Bumiller, Marilyn Walker, Jeanne Lafler, Neil Brickfield, Christine Britt, Carol Weideman, Deputy C. Studt, Keith Sabiel Jr. Sara Bleattler

Guests: Janelle Bermudez (LSF-Head Start); Scott Gill (High Point NFC); Maria Pepe (Empath Health); Jessica Conway (Learning Empowerment); Maura Medernach (Banyan Pediatric Care Centers); Fred Green (High Point NFC); Millicent Battle (Pinellas County School); Genesys Nichols (Generation Church)

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia & Beth Houghton

- I. **Call to Order- Richard Rock, Chair** at 6:07pm
 - a. Welcome- Members & Guests
 - b. Approval- March minutes; quorum was not present to approve minutes.
- II. **JWB Updates**
 - a. CEO, Beth Houghton shared updates on:
 - i. JWB's procurement process.
 - ii. Increase in Vacancies across Agencies: JWB has also noticed an increase in vacancies in funded agencies, saw several agencies not spending all the grant funds and lapse their contract dates. Looking to address this challenge with a Workforce Stabilization effort, customized to each agency. Agencies sending proposals with needs such as: new team member, salary increase or bonuses to support retention, etc. JWB and agencies to monitor outcomes.
 - b. Yaridis Garcia shared updates on:
 - i. Turbo Babies campaign. Has been successful and well-received by community. Recently at the Evara Health Fair. Reminder that partners can request collaterals and learn more on TurboBabies.com.
 - ii. Kids First Luncheon with awards is Friday, April 28.
 1. **Key consideration for ALL:** Reserve your spot at luncheon.

III. Presentations:

- a. **Rotary Club Clearwater East:** Judge Moore has shared experiences in the justice system with children and families. Rotary Club wants to collect basic need items to present to Judge Moore (clothing, hygiene, etc.). Hand-written notes for youth and families would also be appreciated. Plan to present on April 21, Friday at Johnny's (email for more details).
 - i. **Key consideration for ALL:** Gather items, cards, and coordinate with Cheko Carter to drop-off.
- b. **Banyan Pediatric:**
 - i. Maura from Banyan Pediatric presented. Banyan is a medical daycare (PPEC). Must have Medicaid and skilled nursing need. Serve ages newborn to 21.
 - ii. Open to referrals and available for tours at any of the facilities (New Port Richey, St. Petersburg, Sarasota).
 - iii. Transportation support may be available for families ~30 min away for so.
 - iv. Bilingual (Spanish/English) staff in St. Petersburg facility.
 - v. Questions?
 - 1. Maria Pepe (Empath Health): Post-hurricane, Empath had many pediatric hospice patients, some have been at facility up to 20 years. Will share this resource with families, they often do not have social networks.

IV. Council Business:

- a. **Work Plan** (Coral Heights Survey, Youth Leadership Committee, Turbo Babies Events, Mental Health Collaboration)
- b. **Coral Heights:** Yaridis shared updates, group discussed needing to shift to a different approach and plan to visit the community in-person to connect with individual residents rather than coordinating mailers or working through local organizations.
 - i. A community leader who had lived in the community and recently moved back was in attendance, Genesys Nichols, and expressed a desire to help with any of these efforts and noted residents are seeking some services at local churches and encouraged continuing to coordinate with those groups.
 - ii. **Key consideration:** Richard and Yaridis suggested we plan in-person engagement with sub-group of council.
- c. **Youth Leadership Committee:** Have some representatives from family centers. Yaridis will provide support for group, then Kelley. Changing approach, a bit to allow for virtual participation and less formal structure.
- d. **Turbo Babies:** Mentioned earlier in meeting.
- e. **Mental Health Collaboration:** Richard Rock shared an update. Focus on Zero Suicide Awareness for 8–11-year-olds. The first day the flyer was posted, the workshop registration was full. Workshop focused on managing anger. Evara Health will be hosting another workshop (completed one recently at Girls Inc.).
 - i. **Key consideration for ALL:** Reach out to Zenita Ellison if interested in workshops for youth.

V. Open Agenda:

- a. Maria Pepe (Empath Health, Board for 211, Hispanic Leadership Council) shared:
 - i. Upcoming Embracing Community Conference. Will be virtual again. Theme: The Power of Words.
 - ii. Seeking high school senior by May 20 to receive a small scholarship. Will need a letter from faculty, report card, etc.; so, need to have time to request those things before school break. Will be sharing with North and South County Councils as well.
- b. Scott Gill (High Point Neighborhood family Center) shared that they are planning a neighborhood clean-up for May 4. Want to start with a brief stakeholder discussion. Looking for advice on neighborhood beautification efforts, community building, block parties and any contacts council members may have in the area to be involved.
 - i. Council members share some local stakeholder ideas to connect with in High Point including: High Point Village MHP, Hernandez Market near Pinellas Technical College.
 - ii. Yaridis shared that the Florida Dream Center has had success with an adopt-a-block program through Keep Pinellas Beautiful.
 - iii. Julianne shared that Gulfport has a “Food Forest” and neighborhood beautification gathering often on Sundays.
- c. Fidel Johnson (UMA) shared about their upcoming Resource and Career Fair on May 10.
 - i. **Key consideration for ALL:** Invite students seeking education in dental, medical assistant, patient assistant, etc.
 1. Banyan Pediatrics noted they are always looking for more medical assistant team members for facilities.

VI. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

1. KidsFirst Luncheon Award: Friday, April 28 @The Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N. St. Petersburg
2. Mid-County Community Council: Thursday May 4, 6:00 PM @ Pinellas Park Public Works Building
3. Mid-County Community Council: Thursday June 1, 6:00 PM @ Ultimate Medical Academy, 1255 Cleveland St. Clearwater, FL 33755

VII. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Julianne Pérez, Secretary of Mid-County Community Council