



**North County  
Community Council**

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**Council Officers**

**Beth Hovind**  
Chair

**Carmen Wilson Lake**  
Vice-Chair

**Michael Arendall**  
Secretary

**Mark Hopkins**  
KidsFirst Representative

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**Council Members**

Deputy Daniel Mattox  
Ellen Navarro Anderson  
Eric Clark  
Dawn Handley  
John White  
Deputy Martin Guzman  
Mary Sharrow  
Nadine Spring Nickeson

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**Joanne Reich**  
Community Engagement  
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**Minutes April 4, 2024, JWB North Community Council**

I. Call to Order. The April 4, 2024 meeting of the North County Community Council, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, was called to order by Chair Beth Hovind at 6:03 p.m. at the Hispanic Outreach Center, 612 Franklin Street, Clearwater, Florida.

In attendance were: Council Members Beth Hovind, Carmen Lake, Michael Arendall, Eric Clark, Dawn Handley, Nadine Nickeson, Dawn Handley, Ellen Anderson, Daniel Nocera

Other guests included: Joanne Reich – JWB, Angela Chaney – Champions for Children, Andrea Vendetti – Hispanic Outreach Center, Curtis Crawford – Boley, Doug Griesenauer – United Way Suncoast, and Adriana Palacio – Mattie Williams

Absent were: Council Members Mark Hopkins, John White, and Mary Sharrow.

Introductions: Council Members and guests introduced themselves.

I. Presentation

The Council was pleased to receive a presentation by Mr. Douglas Griesenauer of the United Way of the Suncoast regarding ALICE family data and the United Way of the Suncoast's important work in supporting and bringing awareness to ALICE families. Mr. Griesenauer offered to provide the Council with updated ALICE data when it becomes available later this spring, and he invited Council Members to access ALICE information at [www.unitedforalice.org](http://www.unitedforalice.org).

II. JWB Updates

- A. Joanne again thanked the Council for its support of the North County's GrandFamilies Event in March. There will be an evaluation team assembled to evaluate the three council Grand Families events, followed by a presentation to the Board. The South County Council's event is April 6 in St. Petersburg, and the Mid County Council's event is May 4 in Pinellas Park. Beth offered the Council's continued thanks to Joanne for her great work on the North County GrandFamilies event.
- B. Joanne updated the Council on two Community Events Funding Initiative events occurring: (1) Caprice Edmonds' organization hosted a well-attended Books Blocks event at the Palm Harbor Library earlier today, primarily for children in the 0-5 year age range, with very good community partner support, and Caprice will be visiting the Council at its June meeting to talk about the organization and the event; and (2) Dawn's non-profit, Speak Up, will be hosting a community Spring Fling event at the Tarpon Springs Boys & Girls Club on April 20, 2024

from 10am to 1pm, an event also funded by the Community Events Funding Initiative.

- C. Joanne invited Council Members to attend the KidsFirst Luncheon on April 26, 2024 in downtown St. Petersburg. As of now, Mark has confirmed his intention to attend, but others are welcome. JWB is offering a discounted luncheon cost for Council Members.

### III. Council Business

- A. New Members Initiative: Beth updated the Council regarding some positive feedback received through the surveys done at the most recent meeting. All Council Members expressed a desire to engage in a membership push with young adults 18-25. Carmen, Dawn, and Eric each will reach out to their contacts at St. Petersburg College to explore interest and encourage interested students to apply to join the Council. Beth shared that one survey idea was to invite a retired judge to join the Council, perhaps one who had been on the Unified Family Court division. Andrea will inquire of a retired judge friend regarding the opportunity. The Council also discussed how to approach the business community to generate interest for potential members, and the Council agreed to bring ideas back at future meetings.
  - B. Bylaws Committee: Michael updated the Council that the Bylaws Committee stands ready to convene after General Counsel Colleen Flynn provides the councils with guidance.
  - C. Eric moved that the Council's March 2024 minutes be approved, and Nadine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - D. Joanne discussed the Council's upcoming meeting schedule and agreed as follows:
    - May: Meeting to be held at the Hispanic Outreach Center.
    - June: Meeting location to be announced
    - July: The Council agreed to not convene in July
    - August: The Council agreed to not convene in August
    - September: The Council agreed to engage with Eagle Lakes Apartments in Tarpon Springs regarding the opportunity to conduct its meeting at its community room.
    - October to December: Meeting locations to be announced.For future meeting locations, the Council discussed Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Mease Dunedin Hospital, where the Council has met previously.
- Joanne announced that the Council's speaker for May or June will be a member of JWB's Collective Impact team to share details on that focus area, specifically the fatherhood component.
- E. Beth suggested that the Council invite JWB's Communications Team to provide us with information and guidance for strengthening our

“Elevator Pitch” about JWB so that we can share information about JWB clearly and effectively. Joanne will interface with Communications.

#### IV. Community Updates

Angela Chaney of Champions for Children shared that the organization, established in Hillsborough County, has expanded to Pinellas County and is working in three specific areas of the county to support families with children, particular for the prevention of child abuse. Champions for Children currently is spending one day per week at each of the following Neighborhood Family Centers: CAP, High Point, and Sanderlin, in each of the geographic regions of the county. The organization shares best practices with parents to foster early learning and development.

The Baby Cafe is open providing support for breast feeding mothers and nutrition information generally.

Curtis Crawford provided an update to the Council of Boley’s summer program for youth 15 to 17 years old who meet select criteria. Youth selected to the program have the chance to earn several thousand dollars over the course of the program, and Boley would like to work with the Council to increase its exposure and presence in North County.

Dawn shared that Speak Up has had great partnerships at the Mattie Williams Center and the Boys and Girls Club. It also has supported an initiative with the Largo Police Department to train a canine named “Pension” to help support officers’ mental health after challenging calls.

There being no further business, on a motion by Carmen that was seconded by Michael, the Council adjourned without objection at 7:22 p.m. The Council’s next meeting is Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hispanic Outreach Center, 612 Franklin Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Arendall  
Secretary