



**North County
Community Council**

Council Officers

Beth Hovind
Chair

Carmen Wilson Lake
Vice-Chair

Michael Arendall
Secretary

Mark Hopkins
KidsFirst Representative

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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Minutes March 7, 2024, JWB North Community Council

I. Call to Order. The March 7, 2024 meeting of the North County Community Council, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, was called to order by Chair Beth Hovind at 6:00 p.m. at the Advent Health North Pinellas Hospital Board Room, 1395 South Pinellas Avenue, Tarpon Springs, Florida.

In attendance were: Council Members Beth Hovind, Carmen Wilson Lake, Michael Arendall, Mark Hopkins, Eric Clark, Dawn Handley, Nadine Nickeson, John White, and Deputy Daniel Nocera; JWB Community Engagement Advocate Joanne Reich; and guests Charles Ponella of Boley Centers, and Adriana Palacio of the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center.

Absent were: Council Members Mary Sharrow and Ellen Navarro Anderson.

Introductions: Beth passed around a survey for Council members to indicate their experience on the Council and some of their community connections. Council members were invited to introduce themselves and individually share one challenge they perceive are being faced by families and children in North Pinellas County.

II. JWB Updates

- A. Joanne provided an update on the Community Councils Grand Families initiative, and the Council's north county event for Grand Caregivers on March 14, 2024 at Clearwater Hall Rentals in Dunedin. Beth, Nadine, and Dawn will be volunteering and representing the Council at the event, and JWB is very pleased to have received about 130 RSVPs, almost 40 of which are children. Significant registrations at our north county event came from outside of JWB funded agencies, demonstrating that JWB's communications and messaging were effective. There will be an evaluation team assembled to evaluate the three council Grand Families events and then there will be 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 vocalized the feelings of the entire Council by complimenting and thanking Joanne on her outstanding planning work on the upcoming north county event.
- B. Joanne announced that Caprice Edmonds' HELP ME GROW will be hosting an event at the Palm Harbor Library on Thursday, April 4, 2024, an event funded by the Community Events Funding Initiative. Caprice will be visiting the Council at its June meeting to talk about the organization and the event.

- C. Dawn shared that her organization, Speak Up For Mental Health, will be hosting an 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. The event will include vendors and access to resources, as well as entertainment for attendees, and visits by the Tarpon Springs Fire Department and Tarpon Springs Police Department.

III. Council Business

- A. Data Meeting: Joanne and Beth met with Michael, a member of JWB's staff, to ask for the assembly of some granular data regarding our Council's geographic region, reporting where there was increase or decrease by at least 1 gauge year over year, including but not limited to poverty figures, proximity to healthy food, health insurance coverage, TANF/Food Stamps enrollment, adult employment status, transportation access, and ALICE families. The expected delivery of data and metrics is several months.
- B. Bylaws Committee: Michael volunteered to serve as chair of the Council's Bylaws Committee. Eric also volunteered to serve on the Committee, which will convene after public notice after receiving some feedback from JWB's General Counsel regarding provisions of the Bylaws that must remain unaltered due to applicable laws or policies. Michael moved that he and Eric be appointed to the Bylaws Committee, and Nadine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. The Council discussed its Work Plan, which was adopted at the last meeting. The Council discussed the initiative to have members visit a funded agency in the Council's geographic area at least once per year, and Joanne asked that Council members work through her to make arrangements for the visits so that the agency can be apprised and will not misinterpret the visit. The Council will work to identify at least three new community representative members, and the survey responses will help identify some community connections and areas that may be ripe for membership recruitment. The Council would love to recruit at least one young person, and Joanne reminded the Council that any members will need to go through the Board approval process, with parental approval required for any teens under age 18. The Council agreed that the membership initiative should be a Council-wide effort. Eric moved that the Membership Committee in the Work Plan consist of a committee of the whole Council, and Carmen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. John moved that the Council's February 2024 minutes be approved, and Mark seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Community Updates

Joanne announced that the JWB Collective Impact Initiative flyer is available (the flyer was passed around).

Mark updated the Council regarding the Kids First Awards process, and he shared that nominations are full of tremendous, inspiring statements about the nominees, making the ranking process very challenging. He wanted the Council to have a small glimpse of what is being said about the people doing important work in our community.

Eric shared that his company, Honeywell, is doing a pack event for the Turbo Babies initiative, with over 50 volunteers at Honeywell who have committed to the event.

Carmen reminded the Council of tax preparation opportunities available.

Adriana shared Mattie Williams NFC 2024 calendars with Council members.

Charles provided an update to the Council of the application process for Boley's summer program for youth 15 to 17 years old who meet select criteria. The youth seem very excited for the opportunity to be a part of something, and youth selected to the program have the chance to earn several thousand dollars over the course of the program.

There being no further business, on a motion by Carmen that was seconded by Dawn, the Council adjourned without objection at 7:02 p.m. The Council's next meeting is Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hispanic Outreach Center, 612 Franklin Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arendall
Secretary