

I. Call to Order. The May 1, 2025 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 Advent Health North Pinellas Training Center, 247 E Curlew Place, Tarpon Springs, Florida.

In attendance were: Council Members Beth Hovind, Carmen Lake, Michael Arendall, Mark Hopkins, Mary Sharrow, Niko Stergiotis, and Maria Amado, as well as guests Millicent Battle & Michele Brown of United Way Suncoast, Andy Duong of Children's Home Network, Dorothy Shipe of R'Club, Gabbi Tomaselli of Boley Centers, Ron Haddad of Tarpon Springs Rotary, Allie Chandler Baier of the City of Clearwater, and Adrian Murray of Advent Health North Pinellas.

Absent were: Council Members John White, Nadine Nickeson, Dawn Handley, and a representative of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Eric Clark remains on Leave of Absence till September 2025.

A quorum of the Council was present.

Introductions: Council Members and guests introduced themselves briefly.

II. Special Presentation by Adrian Murray, Mission and Ministry Advent Health North Pinellas: Adrian introduced himself and described briefly his journey to the ministry at Advent Health North Pinellas. He described a strong culture of family and mission at the hospital, beyond the medical care that the hospital provides. Advent Health invests \$1.6 billion into community events, and the corporation is looking to partner with others to strengthen the communities that they serve. Adrian shared that the ministry team tries to visit with patients at the hospital within 48 hours of their admission, and he mentioned the challenges of helping patients who are without housing and some who return regularly to the hospital. Adrian shared that some of the service standard banners that help train staff members on daily tasks in service of the hospital's mission. Adrian may be reached at 727-943-3497 or Adrian.Murray@adventhealth.com

III. JWB Updates

- A. Beth reminded the Council of JWB's KidsFirst Cooperman Bogue award program, and our Council's representative is Mark Hopkins for questions.
- B. Beth vocalized her concerns over budget challenges at the Federal and state levels, and she suggested advocacy to encourage legislators to protect dollars that support families and children. Joanne reminded the Council that JWB's budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2025 is already underway and there are opportunities for individuals to advocate before the JWB Board through that process.
- C. Joanne shared that JWB CEO Beth Houghton has announced her resignation due to retirement, with a departure date in July, and the JWB Board will be meeting in the next two weeks to set its executive search schedule. Adriana Palacio, who has attended our meetings regularly, will be nominated to join the Council at the Board's May 2025 meeting. Eric Clark is taking a leave of absence through the summer while he and his wife adjust to life as foster parents.

IV. Council Business

- A. The Council received a report about the Grand Families Event held in Tarpon Springs last Saturday, April 26, 2025. Beth volunteered outside at the event. Approximately 100 persons passed through the Event, and most of those families were from zip codes who did not attend

last year's event. Congratulations was shared with Joanne for her excellent planning work and for everyone who contributed to the event. Special thanks to Dawn and Adrianna who led the children's activities for those who attended the event.

- B. JWB was contacted by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services to help locate places in our county where supply distributions can be centralized in the event of future natural disasters. JWB has identified a church in Clearwater and Feast Palm Harbor's location as North County locations that may be able to serve as central supply distribution points.
- C. Beth mentioned that the Council will review its work plan at the June 2025 meeting, including following up on unfinished business. Some of the unfinished business included data maps that Beth had requested from JWB Data Staff following their presentation earlier in the year. Beth asked Members to consider what we accomplished, what we did not accomplish, and what we would like to accomplish in the future, as well as what Members may need in support to facilitate their service.
- D. Michael moved to approve the April 2025 minutes, and Mary seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.

V. Community Updates

Joanne announced that the Book Bus will be in Tarpon Springs during Monday June 30 and Tuesday July 1. Joanne will get the full schedule to the Council when it is available.

Joanne said that the Guided Page in Tarpon Springs was instrumental in organizing the Literacy Street Fair held in Tarpon Springs this past weekend, with guests attending from outside of Tarpon Springs. Everyone was impressed with the event, including the city, and there will be more organization and planning invested in the future.

Joanne asked that if any Members wish to walk with JWB at the NAMI walk beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, 2025 in England Brothers Park in Pinellas Park. Beth agreed to participate.

Mary shared that the next Peace for Tarpon meeting on May 30, 2025 will include a focus on human trafficking and the impact it has having in our community.

Andy spoke about his work building connections among multiple organizations and local government on behalf of Children's Home Network and other service providers. He invited partnerships and connections to build networks.

Allie mentioned that the Clearwater Citizens Academy has upcoming opportunity for Clearwater residents interested in learning behind the scenes at the city.

Ron shared about being inspired by the goodness of people in Tarpon Springs, including an anecdote about a partnership helping a local elderly couple who were facing code violations at their home.

Maria shared that Empath Health is hiring RNs, including seeking a bilingual nurse, and there are open positions for van drivers. A county fund of \$813 million from HUD has been established to help support housing, mitigation, and small business needs to recover from last year's hurricanes.

Gabriella shared that Boley's summer program will begin soon, with work readiness and college readiness support continuing to be focus areas for the program.

Michael shared information about SB 584 and SB 112, which have passed both chambers of the Legislature, impacting former foster children who have aged out and families of children with autism.

Carmen mentioned that there will be a clothes giveaway on the last Saturday of May, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at Mt. Moriah AME Church in Tarpon Springs.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mary that was seconded by Maria, the Council adjourned without objection at 7:22 p.m. The Council's next meeting is Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Advent Health Training Center, 247 E. Curlew Place, Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arendall
Secretary