

### MINUTES

**I. Call to Order and Introductions.** The February 5, 2026, meeting of the North County Community Council, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, was called to order by Chair Beth Hovind at 6:35 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members Beth Hovind, Carmen Lake, Maria Amado, Dawn Handley, Adriana Palacio, Nadine Nickeson, and Niko Stergiotis.

Absent were: Council Members Michael Arendall, Thomas Payne, Mary Sharrow, and a deputy with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

Guests: Joanne Reich, Jomar Lopez, and Giselle Feliciano of JWB, Stephanie Espier Pinellas County Housing Authority, Jazmyne Hinson of Lutheran Services, Jennifer Riegel of Eleos Wellness, Larissa Jones and Rico Green of the St. Pete Free Clinic, and Lacey Deans of Boley Centers.

A quorum of the Council was present.

Introductions: Council Members and guests introduced themselves briefly.

### **II. Council Business**

Dawn moved that the minutes of the January 2026 meeting be approved, and the motion was seconded by Adriana. The motion carried unanimously.

Dawn gave a report on the success of the Grandfamilies Event and JWB has received the evaluations and are compiling them now but overwhelmingly, they are positive. Many people reflected how busy the vendors were and so many community members took advantage of the free community resources including all the health screenings. It was a great example of non profits coming together with JWB to create a great event. Special thanks to the First Presbyterian Church of Safety Harbor for opening up their campus for our use. Thanks also to the many council members who came to participate and volunteer and to the St. Pete Free Clinic for their food distribution.

Impacts on Federal Tax Credits Seminar – Advocacy efforts was tabled as members didn't have the opportunity to watch the seminar.

### **III. Open Agenda – Partner Updates**

Stephanie from Pinellas County Housing Authority talked about some programs and how best to get the information out into the community. They recently launched a new website Pinellashousing.com and She asked that people talk with her at break to make sure they were getting all the current information from them. Jazmyne spoke about openings for children at Lutheran Services and she stated that she is still learning her position as she only started recently. Speak Up for Mental Health still has some benches being installed and the kids really get a lot out of their mural work. Maria shared a new grief group for children that will be starting up soon.

### **IV. Council Member Group Photo**

### **V. Strategic Planning Focus Group Jomar Lopez**

Jomar led the Focus Group for the council members starting by going over group rules. Then led discussion on questions related to JWB Mission & Purpose, Changing Landscape, Expanding Impact, Setting Priorities, and things for Further consideration. Jomar will be providing a written report based on Giselle's notes of the discussion highlighting themes discussed and taking out any identifying information. This discussion will be used in assisting the JWB strategic planning process.

There being no further business, on a motion by Carmen that was seconded by Maria, the Council adjourned without objection at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting will be held at Mease Dunedin Hospital on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Reich  
Community Engagement Advocate  
JWB Staff Liaison to North Council