

MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Introductions. The March 5, 2026, meeting of the North County Community Council, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, was called to order by Secretary Michael Arendall at 6:07 p.m. The Council convened at the Dunedin Mease Hospital, 601 Main Street, Dunedin, Florida.

In attendance were Council Members Michael Arendall, Nadine Nickeson, Mary Sharrow, Dawn Handley, Thomas Payne, Carmen Lake; and Joanne Reich, JWB Community Engagement Advocate.

Guests: Linda Sauter of Help Me Grow; Darice Flournoy of Boley Centers; and Kyrce Sellman, Neighborhood Coordinator for the City of Clearwater.

Absent were Council Members Beth Hovind, Maria Amado, Adriana Palacio, Niko Stergiotis, and a deputy with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

A quorum of the Council was present.

Introductions: Council Members and guests introduced themselves briefly.

II. Council Business

- A. February Minutes: Dawn moved that the Council's February 2026 be approved, and Nadine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. Data Committee Report: Joanne shared that Beth was ill and not able to attend. Beth, Dawn & Adriana comprise the Data Committee. During the Joint Meeting of the Community Councils last fall, we all received a presentation on the Kids Data Center program being developed by JWB. Because the Kids Data Center rollout has been slightly delayed, the Committee has asked Michael Havelka, of JWB, to assist in gathering data points that the Committee is developing. The Committee will report further to the Council.
- C. Strategic Planning: Joanne mentioned that the Council shared excellent feedback during the strategic planning portion of the Council's February meeting. She distributed with tonight's agenda the notes taken during the strategic planning session. The JWB Board is moving ahead with developing JWB's next strategic plan, likely to be a 2-to-3-year strategic plan.
- D. Bylaws Committee Report: Michael shared a summary of the work done with JWB and Bylaws Committee chairs of each of the three Councils during the latter half of 2025. A

proposed new comprehensive, unified Bylaws of the Community Councils has been prepared. Michael gave a very short summary of one proposed change. In order to allow for discussion, Michael asked unanimous consent that the pending Bylaws report be postponed to the Council's next meeting.

III. Open Agenda - Community Partner Updates

- A. Kyrie announced that Clearwater will celebrate a Citywide Neighborhood Day with community-chosen celebrations, including block parties, on March 28, 2026. The event dates back to the early 2000s, and this year will feature 40 neighborhoods throughout the city. City elected officials and staff members will be involved and this year's theme is "Building Community within Community." There is a neighborhood association map tool on myclearwater.com.
- B. Darice shared that Boley is celebrating with graduating seniors who are receiving acceptance letters from higher education institutions and programs. Boley is seeking applicants from teens for its next classes.
- C. Carmen announced that there will be an AARP Care Giver Symposium in Wesley Chapel and she sought ideas for service providers who may be able to participate. She also announced that Mt. Moriah's roof project made a recent issue of Suncoast News.
- D. Linda announced that Help Me Grow, a part of the Early Learning Coalition, has regular community screening programs offered, with some virtual and some in person. The screening events offer play areas for kids and resources for families.
- E. Dawn shared that Speak Up for Mental Health will host an event on March 28, 2026, themed as the "Bag the Stigma" purse auction fundraiser. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Wild Rover Brewing in Westchase, with high tea style service. Speak Up has been invited by First Presbyterian Church to provide another training for parents on how to talk to kids and signs to look for that kids may be facing mental health challenges. The training is planned for April.

IV. JWB Updates

Joanne summarized the status of the JWB Board's consideration of finalists for Chief Executive Officer, as well as the focus groups and interview process used by the Board. The Board might take a vote on approving a new Chief Executive Officer at its March 2026 meeting, but likely will do so at the Board's April 2026 meeting. Joanne also shared that JWB has promotional materials for the Parent Protect program, designed to help instruct families on safe internet practices. Finally, Joanne reminded the Council about funding opportunities through the Community Funding Program, along with some details about the application criteria and process.

There being no further business, on a motion by Carmen that was seconded by Dawn, the Council adjourned without objection at 7:14 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dunedin Mease Hospital, 601 Main Street, Dunedin.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arendall
Secretar