

MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2026

Council Members Present: Angel Addison, Julianne Pérez, Brenda Carvalho, Christine Britt, Jeanne Lafler, Deputy Anthony Borbonio, Fidel Johnson, Carol Weidman, Jessica Conway, Fred Green, Caterina Tassara, Maribeth Hepburn, Camille Hebling

Council Members Absent: Keith Sabiel, Harold M. Paxton Jr., Cheko Carter, Carlos Mercado, Alicia Ponds

Guests: Sara Lossaso (Stop the Movement), Cheryl Morales (PPLC), Alicia McShea (JWB Board Pinellas), Carmen Cruz (PCSB), Isabella Mouradian (Bella's Book Bridge); Jillian Rose (City of Pinellas Park)

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia

I. Call to Order

- Julianne Pérez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed all members and guests to the meeting. In particular, she welcomed JWB Board Member Alicia McShea who is attending today's meeting.
- Approval of Council Minutes – Jessica motioned to approve the minutes, Deputy Anthony Barbonio seconded. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

II. Open Agenda - Community Partners Updates

- Ultimate Medical is hosting their resource fair: career/community resources event for active students. They are also hosting an Open House at the Clearwater campus. Everyone is invited to learn more about the Clearwater Medical Assistant program. They have an on-the-ground and online campus, and one in Tampa.
- Julianne connected with NAMI regarding previously shared concerns for youth mental health in the Ridgecrest area. They can come out and provide resources for youth via Text chat for teens and other resources.
- The library and High Point Neighborhood Center will be partnering to bring library resources to the neighborhood family center.
- Deputy Anthony Borbonio is still looking for a site in the High Point area for summer youth camp. Please reach out if you have any leads. M-Thursday 8:00 - 4:30 pm. Look to Boley for some experiences, USF St. Pete for school orientation, Evara Health,

Eckerd College (may also have a community farm), SPC ICOT campus or Pinellas County Economic Development.

- Thank you to members for helping to get the word out for the City of Pinellas Park's Drowning Prevention Program. There were over 200 registered at the event and they focused on land education and water education. They are also looking to host an Autism Awareness program coming soon!
- Police and Kids Foundation - Funding for families of first responders and legacy projects. The Paty Johnson Farm was also the recipient of the organization's grants. They also give out diapers to the community along with school uniforms. They also have a memorial garden open to the community. Diapers were offered to members to bring back to their agencies. Thank you Police and Kids Foundation!
- LANFC – Leadership St. Pete's boots on the ground project is this Saturday. The journey to this point has been long and full of planning and hard work but everyone is super excited to help us revive our playground and deck for the children and families served.
- Bella's Book Bridge is looking for more volunteers. They are looking to serve Pinellas Park and Largo and looking for those who want to help and volunteer. Seniors in Service sends retired executives who are background checked to volunteer – if interested. In August, Bella will be a part of the USF HPAC initiative, and she will help launch a health education program and books will be distributed. Suncoast Kiwanis has an annual event in July, and they may be a good partnership opportunity for Bella's Books.

III. Council Business

- **New Council Members** - Welcome to Summer Pineda from Evera Health Institute who will be joining the Mid-County Council. Welcome to Camile Hebling from NAMI Pinellas.
- **Grand Families - Celebrating the Heroes of Caregiving Event - Saturday, May 30th**
The planning committee has been meeting. The flyer has gone out in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. There are 40 organizations signed up. Baycare will do blood pressure checks, DJ Corey, and food will be distributed through the Child Hunger Initiative, Parent Pro-Tech and more. All Council members should be promoting the event. The goal is 500 families. All Pinellas Park families received the flyer with their bills. Please let Yaridis know if there are any Grand Families who are going above and beyond. They will recognize the family at the event. JWB Board member Alicia shared her experience at the South-County event and thanked Mid-County members for coordinating this event. Signup sheets to work on the event were handed out.
- **Book Bus** – A handout of all the Mid-county stops was handed out. This year food will also be handed out at each stop. July 16th at the Barbara Ponce Public Library the Book Bus will be serving families, and City dignitaries will be invited to raise awareness of the importance of literacy. Julianne asked about the need to promote the Book Bus more in the community of Coral Heights. This will be added to the June agenda. The Mariner's Cove Mobile Home Park also will be another site.

- **NAMI Walk** – Mid-County Council will be supporting this effort on May 16th from 8:30 – 11:30 am, with JWB having a kids’ corner. If members want to walk, they can sign up at NAMIwalks.org/Pinellas. The Kid’s Corner will also have a face painter. There will be a DJ. Those raising \$100 will receive a free shirt. For future note, the Danville Community Park in Largo would be a great location for the walk.
- **Derby Lane Market** – JWB hosted a resource table on May 23rd to share from 10 am – 1 pm the Celebrating the Heroes of Caregiving event in St. Petersburg. Please let Yaridis know if you would like to volunteer. There is another market on 110th and 19th that may be another great outreach opportunity, and another on 66th and 126th near Ulmerton.

IV. My Leadership Umbrella -

Yaridis attended the Child Welfare League’s conference in Washington DC. This is the 10th year of Yaridis representing JWB. She shared the concept of the Leadership Umbrella, and a beautifully reflective Leadership Umbrella activity was shared with Council Members, all participating. We have 42 active community members but there are 161 additional affiliations because of our connections in Pinellas County.

V. JWB Updates

Please refer below to upcoming meetings for the Board of Directors. Council members were encouraged to attend these meetings.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 7:30 pm by Chair Julianne Pérez.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Caterina Tassara

Future Meetings/Notices

- JWB Board Meeting: Monday, May 21st, 9-11:00 AM

JWB 14155 58th Street N, Clearwater, FL 33760 & YouTube

- Mid-County Council Meeting: Thursday, June 4th, 6:00-7:30 PM

At the Police & Kids Foundation Headquarters located at 5959 102nd Avenue N, Pinellas Park 33782