

MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2026

Council Members Present: Angel Addison, Julianne Pérez, Christine Britt, Jeanne Lafler, Deputy Anthony Borbonio, Fidel Johnson, Jessica Conway, Caterina Tassara, Maribeth Hepburn, Camille Hebting

Council Members Absent: Keith Sabiel, Harold M. Paxton Jr., Cheko Carter, Carlos Mercado, Alicia Ponds, Fred Green, Brenda Carvalho, Carol Weideman

Guests: Cpl. Alex Siem (Pinellas Co. Sheriff's Office), Sa, Isabella Mouradian (Bella's Book Bridge), Jillian Rose (City of Pinellas Park), Ericka Reckenwald (Pinellas County School)

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia

I. Call to Order

- Julianne Pérez called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm and welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.
- Approval of Council Minutes – Camille Hebting motioned to approve the minutes, Deputy Anthony Barbonio seconded. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

II. Open Agenda - Community Partners Updates

- Police and Kids Foundation welcomed Community Council members and guests to their organization, located in Pinellas Park. The Police and Kids Foundation was founded in 2011 to serve children and families, and law enforcement. As a part of their impact, they provide funding for families of first responders who have passed. These funds legacy projects. In the past, other non-profits like the Patty Johnson Farm have also been the recipients of the organization's grants. They also give out diapers to the community along with school uniforms, and the community is open to visit the memorial garden on the Foundation grounds. If members are interested in purchasing fallen officer license plates, they can do so on their website at www.Policeandkidsfoundation.com. The Council is grateful to the Police and Kids Foundation for their hospitality and for all that they do for children and families throughout the state of Florida.
- Fidel reported that on June 17th there will be a career resource fair from 10 am – 12 pm at the Clearwater UMA campus. Please spread the word to any young people interested in careers in health care.

- Jillian reported that on Sat. July 18th at the Skyview Pool in the City of Pinellas Park, there will be a sensory swim class for children with autism, and water safety goods will be distributed to children and families in need. If there are water sensory toys to share, please contact Jillian. On July 4th from 9am -12 there will also be a 4th of July event for kids at the Police and Kids Foundation. Everyone is welcome.
- AMI Kids in Highpoint will be having a free Youth Police Initiative event from June 22-June 25th. When youth complete the program, they become eligible to obtain a \$100 incentive.
- At Heritage Village in Largo on Saturday, June 22nd from 12-2pm, there will be a youth Civic Day honoring the 50th anniversary of the village and the 250th anniversary of the USA. If anyone has a group of youth who would like to attend the event, please refer to the City of Largo website. They accept registrations for groups up to 10 people.
- A positive “Teen Takeover” educational event will be held next Weds. at the Studio in St. Petersburg at 7 pm. The focus of this event is on the 5 keys to End Gun Violence. Flyers with more information will be provided for council members to share with others.
- JWB-sponsored Keshawn Korner Foundation will have a panel on youth gun violence. on Sat. June 15th. More information to follow via email.
- Largo Police reported that there may be a possible teen takeover at the Skycenter on Saturday, June 6th – please be aware. There was a discussion about there being a lack of 3rd spaces - places where teens can just be. As a community, there appear to not be many no cost 3rd spaces across the County. This is a gap in some parts.
- Kudos to Julianne for the incredible opening of the new Largo City Hall. The ribbon-cutting at Horizon West Bay was a beautiful event!
- Pinellas County Schools outreach representative updated everyone about the Summer Multilingual Family Workshops being offered this summer for multi-lingual families. For more information contact Ericka Reckenwald, coordinator of multilingual family services at reckenwalde@pcsb.org. There is also Summer Bridge happening throughout the County for students starting with rising Kindergarteners.
- Bella’s Book Bridge will be donating to 30-35 sites in need of books. Bella inquired if the Council wanted to do a book drive during the holidays. No vote was taken. The organization is currently looking to become a 501c3. They may want to partner with another non-profit instead of starting another non-profit. It was suggested that perhaps Seniors in Service might be willing to be a lead administrative partner. Yaridis will share contact information with Bella.

III. Council Business

- **Grand Families - Celebrating the Heroes of Caregiving Event Debrief**
 Accolades: There were 323 people who attended the event, and 433 in attendance overall – including volunteers and providers. The number of volunteers was exceptional and made a huge difference. Thank you to everyone for participating. 101 surveys were turned in for analysis. Yaridis passed a handout with the zip codes served. The biggest needs reported were health, housing, and employment. The Derby Lane resulted in bringing a lot of new families. Others found out about the program from social media and mailings. Camille, Julianne, Yaridis, and others did some of that recruitment. Other feedback included that the Lealman and Asian Family Center’s grandfamily recognized was sweet and emotional. The Sheriff’s truck was amazing. The City of Pinellas Park

knocked it out of the ballpark. The families of the volunteers were also amazing. Anthony reported that he was very proud to be a part of this event. Providers felt very welcome at the event. Jessica played an important role, and we are grateful for her work. The 80th anniversary postcards regarding what JWB meant to them were also a success. The donation of food was also well received. Corey did a great job with the music. The umbrellas were the cherry on top.

Challenges: None reported - other than moving the event to an earlier date, not so close to the Memorial Day weekend. Next year, the Council will look at May 1st and see if we can join forces with the County's hurricane preparedness event.

- **Derby Lane Market Debrief** - JWB hosted a resource table on May 23rd from 10 am – 1 pm to share the Celebrating the Heroes of Caregiving event in St. Petersburg. This was a great outreach opportunity. Event leaders also shared that they would be willing to let us hang a banner there for outreach. Please let Yaridis know if you would like to volunteer in the future.
- **Book Bus** – Mid-County Coral Heights does not have a family center. 6-8 volunteers are needed on July 11th from 8:30 am – 10 am to pass out flyers door to door to over 400 homes. Deputy Anthony volunteered along with Julianne. Any others interested in volunteering, contact Julianne. Camille and Jean are also volunteering along with Yaridis. This year, a flyer will also go out to households to include information on the book bus and food distribution.

IV. JWB Updates

- Please refer below to the upcoming meeting notices for the Board of Directors meeting
- agendas and minutes.
- At the last Board meeting, Ms. Karen Boggess was appointed as interim CEO for the next 8 months. Ms. Boggess has been actively involved with the Community Councils for years. June 25th will be the next JWB Board meeting. Upcoming topics will include JWB's strategic planning process and budget. There is also continued reflection on the impact that the statewide property tax proposals will have on Counties, if the resolutions go through. The City of Largo reported on how it would impact them. The impacts are devastating on local governments and will affect children and families on many different levels. This was concerning to the mid-county council members present.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 7:49 pm by Chair Julianne Pérez.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Caterina Tassara

Future Meetings/Notices

JWB Board Meeting: June 25, 2026, from 9-11:00 AM
JWB 14155 58th Street N, Clearwater, FL 33760 & YouTube

- Mid-County Council Meeting: Thursday, July 2nd, 6:00-7:30 PM