

### MINUTES

**I. Call to Order and Introductions.** The September 3, 2026 meeting of the North County Community Council, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, was called to order by Chair Beth Hovind at 6:07 p.m. The Council convened at the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center, 1003 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street North, in Safety Harbor, Florida.

In attendance were: Council Members Beth Hovind, Carmen Lake, Michael Arendall, Adriana Palacio, Mary Sharrow, and Deputy Harris of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office; and Joanne Reich, JWB Community Engagement Advocate.

Guests: Jennifer Riegel - Eleos, Becca Gross Tieder - JWB and Dorothy Shipe - R'Club

Absent were: Council Members Maria Amado, Nadine Spring Nickeson, Dawn Handley, and Niko Stergiotis.

A quorum of the Council was present.

Introductions: Council Members and guests introduced themselves briefly.

By unanimous consent, the Council took the Legislative Update and Proclamations presentation next in order.

### **II. Legislative Updates and Proclamations**

Rebecca Gross Tieder, JWB's Chief Public Awareness Officer, presented an update to the Council on recent legislative actions and JWB's ongoing effort to appear before municipalities throughout the county to celebrate JWB's 80th anniversary with municipal proclamations. Upcoming municipal visits include the City of Safety Harbor on September 21 at 6:00 p.m., the Pinellas County Commission on October 13 at 10:30 a.m., and the City of Tarpon Springs on October 27. The municipal visits have proven to be meaningful to all participants and an excellent opportunity to deepen relationships and to share awareness of JWB throughout our communities. JWB has used the municipal visits to share municipal-specific data and programming successes with elected officials, including demographics of the local families and children who are benefiting from programs. JWB is also using the visits to help gather feedback and information from municipal leaders about their observations of where resources are focused and where gaps may exist. We are blessed in Pinellas County to have tremendously unique and diverse municipalities.

Rebecca shared that there will be opportunities for advocacy by the Council and other JWB stakeholders in the coming months, particularly as the election approaches and the people of Florida evaluate the proposed constitutional amendments. Rebecca distributed some printed materials for Council Members containing resources. The Council had a short dialogue about current events impacting the state. Beth suggested that advocacy is vital during campaign season as candidates visit the communities they seek to represent.

### **III. Council Business**

- A. May Meeting Minutes: Carmen moved that the Council adopt the May meeting minutes, and Michael seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- B. 2027-2028 Council Workplan: After a short discussion, Carmen moved that the Council adopt the draft Workplan for the 2027-2028 biennium beginning October 1, 2026. Adriana seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Open Agenda - Community Partner Updates**

- A. Carmen announced a Community Connections event on September 12, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Mt. Moriah.
- B. There is a Splash Festival event at the Tarpon Springs Recreation Center on September 19, 2026.

### **V. JWB Updates:** Joanne shared the following on behalf of JWB:

- A. The JWB Youth Leadership Committee has openings for new members and is actively recruiting.
- B. On September 17 at Morton Plant Hospital, JWB will host a Readathon event in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- C. Make a Difference Day will be celebrated on the last weekend in October. There are opportunities throughout the county, including at the Mattie Williams NFC.
- D. JWB asks that Council Members complete a survey, on paper or using a QR code, to gather data points.
- E. In the coming weeks, JWB intends to update the Network Map for the Councils, and all Council Members are invited to update their personal connections and networks with Joanne.
- F. The KidsFirst Awards Event will be held on Friday, October 23, 2026.

There being no further business, on a motion by Carmen that was seconded by Adriana, the Council adjourned without objection at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center, 1003 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street North, in Safety Harbor, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arendall  
Secretary