

MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2026

Council Members Present: Angel Addison, Julianne Pérez, Brenda Carvalho, Christine Britt, Deputy Anthony Borbonio, Fidel Johnson, Carol Weideman, Jessica Conway, Maribeth Hepburn, Caterina Tassara, Camille Hebting, Cheko Carter, Isabella Mouradian, Summer Pineda, Vicky Obando, Jeanne Lafler

Council Members Absent: Harold M. Paxton Jr., Fred Green, Jillian Rose, Dr. Alicia Ponds, Keith Sabiel

Guests: Marilyn Walker, Tiffany Newton, Carmen Cruz, Vicky Sosa, Yurimar Garcia, Zoe Turner, Sara Lossaso

JWB Staff: Yaridis L. Garcia

I. Call to Order

Julianne Pérez called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.

Approval of Council Minutes – Carol Weideman moved to approve the minutes with a correction to her name; Camille Hebting seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved with the edit made.

II. Open Agenda - Community Partners Updates

- BayCare is hosting the Kids Family Expo at Mease Countryside Hospital on October 3rd from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. at 3231 McMullen Booth Rd. in Safety Harbor. The event will feature food distribution from Feeding Tampa Bay, free diapers and wipes for new mothers, access to EKGs, flu shots, and health screenings, as well as helmet distribution and fittings. There are still vendor spots available. Flyers were handed out and Brenda suggested that she and Vicky Obando connect to discuss how their organizations may be able to partner to serve Spanish-speaking expectant mothers. BayCare currently offers virtual classes, and United 4 the Community is starting up a group for expectant mothers.
- Ignite Her, a local organization dedicated to helping women through domestic violence and support programs, will be hosting an upcoming self-defense and domestic violence event for women (many of whom are mothers). Please share this information and check out their website to enroll at: www.igniteher.org

III. Council Business

- The Election Committee met to develop a slate of candidates. The slate was presented and elections were held with members voting. The new Executive Committee elected for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 terms are:
Chair, Fidel Johnson, Vice-Chair, Caterina Tassara, Secretary, Jessica Conway and Brenda Carvalho, Kids First Representative, Carol Weideman. Congratulations to our new Executive Committee! The Council also extend a big thank you to Julianne Perez for her leadership as Chair for the past two years and previously as our Secretary. Mid-County is better because of Julianne's leadership. Thank you, Julianne!
- Members of the Work Plan FY 27-29 committee also met and included Dr. Alicia Ponds, Fred Green, Fidel Johnson, and Julianne Perez. Members met to discuss and edit the plan. It was shared and reviewed by the whole Mid-County Council, highlighting new sections and edits. Member, Cheko Carter with High Point Neighborhood Family Center suggested that the NFCs come together to coordinate one collective event centered on the topic of teen takeovers. This could be something that either the Council or JWB or the NFCs work on collectively. There is an opportunity to use existing platforms and relationships to reach families across the County. Yaridis suggested that this be a topic of discussion that can be further vetted at the joint Council meeting in November.
- Youth Leadership Committee applications close next week. Please encourage youth to apply. Thus far, there are about 20 applicants.
- The Quarterly Survey was completed at the meeting. Jomar, JWB evaluator, continues to help the County Councils to measure their work.
- Social Network Map - all members are encouraged to please complete the map so that we can measure the breadth of connections represented on the Council.
- JWB Proclamations continue. Thus far, members have been present at the City of St. Petersburg, City of Largo, Seminole, City of Pinellas Park, and others. Thank you to all Council Members who have been supportive of this effort to celebrate JWB's 80th.
- Coral Heights Trunk or Treat Event will be held in Largo on October 22nd at 5:30 PM. They are anticipating 20-30 children. There will be candy, a photo booth, resources, and more! If members are interested in participating, please let Julianne know. She is also in need of 2 bales of hay. The Sheriff's office will support the event via Deputy Anthony Barbonio, who will bring the Humvee for the kids. Bella's books will bring a car with books to distribute. There may be a need for volunteers to help distribute door hangers and go door to door. Camille and Fidel also volunteered to help. Yaridis will bring the camera that prints.
- KidsFirst Cooperman-Bogue Award event will be held on Oct 23rd from 11:30–2 pm. Council Members are invited to help celebrate all the honorees, including our own Deputy Anthony Borbonio. Everyone will receive an email with a discounted rate of \$25 per person.
- Make A Difference Day will be in October on Saturday the 24th. This year, High Point Neighborhood Family Center will host the event. Bella suggested that maybe the Bell Aire Garden Club be invited to help with the planting of a garden.
- Joint Community Councils Meeting will be held on JWB's 80th anniversary day - Thursday, November 5th. We look forward to seeing all Council Members participating in this meeting.

- Carol Bumiller - Celebrating Our Families event is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th. Members requested an additional day of planning before the event to ensure that everything is ready for the big day. Members should consider the transportation needs of the families they suggest. Deputy Borbonio will again be responsible for bikes, and Brenda will be responsible for getting the dogs to the event. JWB's Hunger Initiative will also be a part of this special event again this year. Our goal is to have 10 families participating. A spreadsheet will be distributed in the upcoming weeks to register families.

IV. Community Events Funding Presentations

- Learning Empowered Social Emotional Summit - Zoe Turner, Infant Mental Health Trainer/Coach presented this successful event for 58 parents who learned more about how to build emotional resilience in children. Everyone received swag bags with items from Lakeshore Learning, and the event was facilitated by Dr. Judy Levine at the new Barack Obama library in St. Petersburg. Participants were given pre- and post-tests and invited back for a lunch and learn.
- United 4 the Community Back to School Event - Vicky Obando, Project Development Coordinator, presented on this successful back-to-school event that had an impact on 120 families and 203 children. 190 backpacks were distributed, and 42 children received vision screenings. There was also face painting, food, the Phillies, and a raffle. This event brought families together for resources and much-needed community connection.

V. JWB Updates

Future Meetings/Notices

- JWB Board Meeting: Thursday October 15th, 9-11:00 AM
JWB 14155 58th Street N, Clearwater, FL 33760 & YouTube
- Mid-County Council Meeting: Thursday October 1st, 6:00-7:30 PM
Public Works Building 6250 82nd Avenue N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 7:05 pm by Chair Julianne Pérez.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Caterina Tassara

Carol Bumiller's Legacy, "Champion for Families"