



# JWB Children's Services Council of Pinellas County

14155 – 58<sup>th</sup> Street North; Clearwater, FL 33760-3715  
Phone: (727) 547-5600 \* Fax: (727) 530-7416 \* Web: [www.jwbpinellas.org](http://www.jwbpinellas.org)  
Senior Planner / Council Liaison: Delquanda S. Turner, 727-547-5647

SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Gulfport Neighborhood Center; 1617 – 49<sup>th</sup> Street South; Gulfport, FL 33707

## Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 3:30pm MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees:** Judy Hall, Regina Booker, Patti Nagel, Lounell Britt, Cherin Stover, Rev Rainey, Philip Harris, Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Patsy Buker, Deputy William Lawson, Deputy Cheko Carter, Javontae Wright, Donna Welch, Theresa Jones, Robin Mobley, Nicole DiBenedetto-Clifton, and Delquanda Turner.

### I. Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Judy Hall, Chairperson

A. Welcome and Introductions – Judy welcomed all to the meeting. Self-Introductions were given. A farewell card (Donald Taylor Jr) and get well card (Mary Stull) was rotated for all to sign.

### II. Presentation by Cherin Stover, Wealth Building Coalition (WBC)

Cherin passed around materials about how EITC went for tax filing year 2009. AARP sites were also VITA sites and included in the report as of 4/19/10. There were increases in the numbers refunded compared to last year. WBC is currently planning for next year with other partners and will have 17 interns to help with tax preparations. Sanderlin NFC earned the most EITC dollars out of all countywide sites...this is a great achievement. The Bank On St. Pete program is providing financial education classes. Look forward to a five year strategic plan and website to share more information. Phil inquired about the faith based organizations being VITA sites...this is possible but a lot of work is required. Cherin may be reached at 727-455-5792 and is available for presentations in the community.

### III. Business Items/Updates .....

- A. Approve May 2010 Minutes – Judy noted that there is currently no quorum to vote on the Minutes.
- B. JWB May Board Meeting – Judy noted that the Board Agenda went as stated on May 13<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion of the referendum action regarding what JWB could have done in light of legislation. In 2016, taxing authority of JWB will be on the ballot. If this happens, JWB will need all Community Councils to help letting the community know where the tax dollars are going. Patsy added we should not wait until then but get the word out now. Elder Rainey recommended more discussion to implement strategies of what to do; communicating better; and raising visibility. Judy noted that the SCCC mentioned this at the last Joint Community Council Executive meeting.
- C. Upcoming Trainings (Hispanic Leadership Conf & FL Neighborhood Conf) – Delquanda asked for any members that are interested in attending upcoming Hispanic Leadership Council on July 30<sup>th</sup> & the FL Neighborhood Conferences July 9-11<sup>th</sup>, to please advise ASAP. Phil Harris noted that the St. Pete Mayor's theme this year is crime prevention for the FL Neighborhood Conference and everyone is encouraged to attend. Care Fest 2010 (collaborative day of caring) is September 25<sup>th</sup> this year and will kickoff at Azalea Park. Care Fest is anticipating over 2500 volunteers this year and would like to complete a project at Jameson Elementary School and possibly a middle and high school as well. Please identify any special projects that you are aware of and let Phil know. This includes projects for seniors, organizations, etc. Last year, St. Petersburg was internationally awarded the City of Compassion for the most volunteers. Phil lasted noted that the "I Can" initiative was recently launched by the Mayor of St. Petersburg to recognize and work with more volunteers.
- D. Approve New Member Applications – Delquanda noted that there have been several applications submitted for the SCCC membership: Mary Stull (Community), Deputy William Lawson (PC Sherriff's Office/Resident), Deputy Cheko Carter (PC Sherriff's Office/Resident), Nicole DiBenedetto-Clifton (PCS Asst. Principal), Regina Booker (PC Housing Authority), Donna Mainguth (Jr. League), Deborah Figgs-Sanders (YMCA), and Javontae Wright (PCS/Resident). Deborah noted that she has been with the Childs Park YMCA as Executive Director for 4 weeks to date. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the community and looks forward to being an active member of the Council. JaVontae stated he is the Pinellas County Schools 5000 Role Models

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Coordinator. He is also a father and active member in the community. He would like to join the Council to help in making a difference. Delquanda noted that according to the SCCC Bylaws, the SCCC must approve applicants prior to JWB Board approval. There was a motion to move forward and approved for the applicants as listed.

- E. AmeriCorps Literacy Advisory Committee – Delquanda passed around an update and application on the AmeriCorps literacy project, courtesy of Veronica Ettel of JWB. Interested members were asked to complete the application to be on the Literacy Advisory Committee. Veronica will attend a future meeting to provide additional updates.

## IV. The Report/Committees .....

- A. FBO Program Update – Donna Welch, Coordinator at Sanderlin NFC, reported that everything is going well despite some transitions. Southside Tabernacle replaced Prayer Tower for the literacy and technology services. Galilee has decided not to participate and their children will start at Rock of Jesus for the summer. Mt. Zion PMB Church has decided to participate, serving about 30 youth, initially for the technology program. Other sites are gearing up for the summer and doing outreach to fill their slots. Also, additional FBO are being contacted to find out what type of youth programs are being held at their sites. Elder Rainey asked about the service area and to understand the process. Delquanda advised that last year, the area expanded to south St. Petersburg to serve all kids that were participating at the Childs Park sites, regardless of their residency. Donna added that she has made several unsuccessful contacts to other FBO in Childs Park. Delquanda will meet with Elder Rainey and Donna for further updates and to share resources. Lounell Britt added that if FBO are not willing to partner, then they will expand in other areas, so long as there is interest and the kids are being served. Elder Rainey asked the SCCC to consider Focus Group recommendations as they relate to FBO program itself. Patti clarified Donna's role as the coordinator as well as the FBO program curriculum (none), ages served (school agers), and outreach efforts (individually done) to engage kids into their programs.
- B. Joint Executive Committee Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> – Judy noted that she and Elder Rainey attended a Joint Community Council Executive meeting. Marcie Biddleman, CNS Director, called the meeting to hear collective thoughts from the Councils. Judy suggested that the Community Council should be a part of the planning process for the meetings with the JWB Board. There is also a Fairmont Elementary project to determine if students test scores improve if surrounded by resources. A pre-school model may be developed at PTEC with the same partnerships (Pinellas County Schools and City of St. Petersburg). There was no discussion on the amount of funding JWB is contributing, however, there are partners and other contributors in place. JWB's Children's Neighborhood Services (CNS) department and staff are refocusing their efforts to get more out into the community. Elder Rainey was extremely pleased with the opening of the meeting and agreeing to continue to meet with Marcie with an open door basis. A main issue is the saturation of wonderful programs and the lack of knowing of the grassroots programs.
- C. Review and Approve SCCC Report – Judy noted that the draft Report is attached to the Agenda to summarize the Council work. The format needs to be reviewed with bolds and comments because the JWB Board may not be able to look at everything. Patsy suggested using numbers instead of bullets. Also, there are not enough resources for funders to work in isolation but a greater need to advise the community, not of just JWB-funded programs. Patti noted not all parents have access to computers and hopefully 2-1-1 will revert to live agents. Delquanda added that Donna advised that the FBO technology sites will be accessible to parents for Parent Connect and other services. Attendees were asked to review and send any comments to Delquanda. Elder Rainey hopes that a strong consideration will be given to strategies to stronger communication.

## V. Open Discussion / Announcements

- Quorum/Attendance – SCCC asked Delquanda to review membership attendance and report it to the Council on a quarterly basis. If a member is nearing six absences in a fiscal year, Delquanda will notify them. If a member has missed six or more meetings, a letter will be sent.

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- Deputy Lawson – Passed out brochures on Protecting Yourself against Mortgage Fraud. Also, the Community forum by the Pinellas County Sherriff's Office is to advise everyone of what is going on through the budget crunch. Many residents did not know why the Sheriff department do what they do.
- Elder Rainey – The NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet is on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at the St. Pete Hilton at 7pm. There will be a dynamic 14-year-old speaker who is a sophomore in college. Please encourage youth to attend.
- Nicole – Attended recent Cluster meeting at the NAACP and Lakewood Elementary School staff is meeting more. Administrators are not aware of all the resources, for example free counseling with Central Florida Behavior Health Network (CFBHN).
- Regina – The Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) was awarded a HUD self-sufficiency grant and will develop a coordinating committee to provide services in which partners were sent letters. A home ownership center just opened and voucher program has been re-implemented. Vouchers are available to working families and the elderly...50 slots are available. There is a utility allowance to help families reach self-sufficiency and eligibility requirements must be met. A computer learning center will be opening soon at French Villas with free labor from Work Net.
- Theresa – Kids ages 16 to 21 SPYP at Boley will start June 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 to 10 weeks, 150 slots with eligibility. Also a job readiness program, ages 14 to 24, 55 slots, 4 hours per day, with a \$500 stipend. Work Net has a program for youth ages 14-21 years, \$500 stipend. St. Petersburg appreciates the \$300K and Work Net for funding summer youth.

**VI. Adjourned at 5:10 p.m.**

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