



**North County
Community Council**

Council Officers

Beth Hovind
Chair

Carmen Lake
Vice-Chair

Michael Arendall
Secretary

Mark Hopkins
KidsFirst Representative

Council Members

Eric Clark
Dawn Handley
John White
Mary Sharrow
Nadine Spring Nickeson
Pinellas County Sheriff's Off.

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Minutes September 5, 2024, JWB North Community Council

I. Call to Order. The September 5, 2024 meeting of the North County Community Council, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, was called to order by Vice Chair Carmen Wilson Lake at 6:03 p.m. at the at Eagle Lakes Apartments Community Room, 745 Mango Circle, Tarpon Springs, Florida.

In attendance were: Council Members: Carmen Wilson Lake, Michael Arendall, Mark Hopkins, John White, Mary Sharrow, Nadine Nickeson, Dawn Handley, JWB staff: Joanne Reich and guests: Christina Garcia of Dunedin Cares Food Pantry, Ron Haddad of Rotary, Adriana Palacio of Mattie Williams NFC, Shakerah Molligan of R'Club, Maria Amado of Empath Health, and Nico Stergiotis of the Children's Home Network.

Absent were: Council Members Beth Hovind, Eric Clark, Ellen Navarro Anderson, and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

Introductions: Council Members and guests introduced themselves.

I. Special Presentations

Although Ms. Robbin Redd of the Tarpon Springs Housing Authority was not in attendance to share a presentation on the Cops & Kids program, Vice Chair Carmen Lake provided a short summary of the Tarpon Springs Housing Authority's footprint in the city, including the Cops & Kids building and other Housing Authority facilities. The Eagle Lakes Apartments is a newly redeveloped community as a program of the Housing Authority.

II. JWB Updates

- A. The November 2024 NCCC meeting will not be an ordinary Council meeting, but instead will be a special focus group in support of JWB's Strategic Plan for the next 5 years that is currently in development. The meeting will be held at the Community Room of the Hispanic Outreach Center in downtown Clearwater on November 7, 2024 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Joanne will try to provide the Council with an outline of questions or topic areas in advance of the November meeting so that Council members can consider the topics thoughtfully.
- B. Joanne presented the Council members with an update on the Youth Leadership Council, and efforts underway to identify young adults interested in joining the council for at least a one year commitment. The Youth Leadership Council has been active in several focus areas, including the Childhood Hunger Initiative and teen food insecurity. There is an open information session scheduled for September 16, 2024.

III. Council Business

- A. Joanne asked Council members to notify her if they need a JWB shirt or name badge.
- B. Grand Facilities Program: Joanne asked Council members to consider joining the planning committee for the Spring 2025 Grand Families Event in North County. The 2024 event was in March, during Spring Break for district schools, though there is no requirement that the 2025 event be held in any specific month. Results and feedback will be provided to the JWB Board by Staff during the Board's upcoming September 23, 2024 meeting, and Staff will make the feedback available for planning committees of the various Community Councils to utilize. Many attendees at the North County event this past spring found out via radio, newspaper, and some advertising methods that were new partners to JWB.
- C. Mark moved that the Council's June 2024 minutes be approved, and Dawn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. The Council is reminded that its October and November 2024 meetings will be held at the Hispanic Outreach Center in downtown Clearwater.
- E. Council Member Ellen Navarro Anderson has moved so will no longer be an active member of North County Community Council.

IV. Community Updates

Dunedin Cares is collecting dry goods, sugar, flour, etc. as it works to supply fresh food to over 2,100 households per month. Donations help offset the costs that Dunedin Cares incurs to buy foods for its food pantry. Dunedin Cares will host a Gala on February 22, 2025 at the Dunedin City Hall, and tickets are on sale. All proceeds will benefit the food pantry.

Children's Home Network includes Kinship Care and Respite Care elements of its services, and it is accepting referrals. The Respite Care element offers periodic child care support for families of special needs children or who have acute family challenges, including care so that the parents can accomplish occasional household or family tasks. Children's Home Network primarily serves families with children up to age 13 across the county with free services, and the organization is growing into Pasco County and looking at expanding to Hillsborough County.

Mattie Williams NFC construction remains underway to grow the facility, and staff are operating from various locations in Safety Harbor. The center had a successful Back to School event with supplies given away and serving over 300 students.

Safety Harbor Kiwanis is celebrating 45 years this year, with an October 5, 2024 Craft Beer Festival planned at the Waterfront Park, and the annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show in planning stages.

R'Club will celebrate the opening of the Community Pride Gateway facility on September 13, 2024. There is an open house on September 6, and R'Club is currently enrolling for several programs.

Ron Haddad shared two updates: (1) the Tarpon Springs Ministerial Organization will honor first responder police and fire personnel at the Police Department in Tarpon Springs from 11:00a-1:00p on Wednesday, September 11, and all are welcome to come thank our first responders; (2) The Rotary Club will host a Triathlon on September 21 at Fred Howard Park benefitting youth scholarships.

The Hispanic Leadership Council will host an event on Make A Difference Day, October 26, 2024 from 9:00a-2:00p, near the Hispanic Outreach Center in downtown Clearwater. All are welcome to attend, and the event will focus on providing health and dental services. Empath Health will be providing adult vaccinations beginning September 15, 2024 through a grant for that purpose.

Peace for Tarpon is partnering with Alpha Umi, Inc. to provide training on personal interactions, conflict resolution, tackling difficult project, and resilience for students in high school and universities. Carrie of Alpha Umi, Inc. is offering a training at Peace for Tarpon's next forum, scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2024 from 9:00a-10:30a at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Tarpon Springs. Please let Mary know if you are interested in attending. Peace for Tarpon also is helping with a new resource guide.

Speak Up for Mental Health recently completed its youth summer camp programs and it had over 225 interactions with youth through yoga, art, workbooks, and other media. Speak Up will offer some continuation of programming during after school events, and it plans on focusing on gratitude. The Third Annual Mystery Box Fundraiser/Gala will be held on November 9, 2024 at the Tarpon Woods Golf Course Community Center.

Mt. Moriah will have Food is Health classes for community members every Tuesday from 1:00p-2:00p beginning October 1. There is a food giveaway during the last Saturday of each month, except in November the annual Block Party resource fair will be held in place of the food giveaway. This coming Saturday, September 7, from 10:15a-11:45a, there will be events at three public libraries to emphasize reading as part of the Turbo Babies initiative.

There being no further business, on a motion by Michael that was seconded by Dawn, the Council adjourned without objection at 7:00 p.m. The Council's next meeting is Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hispanic Outreach Center, 612 Franklin Street, Clearwater.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arendall
Secretary