
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.

Joanne Reich
Community Engagement
Advocate | 973.493.3751
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I. Call to Order. The December 5, 2024 meeting of the North County Community Council, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, was called to order by Chair Beth Hovind at 6:22 p.m. at Mt. Moriah AME Church, 722 S. Disston Avenue, Tarpon Springs, Florida.

In attendance were: Council Members Beth Hovind, Carmen Lake, Michael Arendall, Mark Hopkins, John White, Nadine Nickeson, Eric Clark, Dawn Handley, as well as guests Adriana Palacio of the Mattie Williams NFC, Niko Stergiotis of the Children's Home Network, Maria Amado of Empath Health Community, and a representative from Mt. Moriah AME Church.

Absent were: Council Members: Mary Sharrow, and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

Introductions: Council Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Special Holiday Updates

Council members heard about holiday events happening in the North County region, including a "Snow Place Like Home" event from 5:00-10:00pm on December 6 at the Recreation Center in Tarpon Springs, a Santa event at the CAP Center on December 7, and a December 14 block party at Mt. Moriah AME Church. JWB will participate with its van at the Tarpon Springs MLK Day parade on the Saturday prior to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January. The Clearwater NFC will have a breakfast next month with the NAACP in honor of Dr. King. JWB will be promoting its Turbo Babies campaign during St. Petersburg's annual parade in honor of Dr. King.

III. JWB Updates

- A. The Council is reminded that it may watch Board Meetings on YouTube. The Fatherhood Collaboration presented to the Board recently.
- B. In January, the Council will hear a comprehensive presentation from JWB and the United Way on data collected and analyzed over the last year. In February we will have a presentation on the Fatherhood Collaborative, and in March, the Council will have a presentation from the Youth Council.
- C. Joanne shared with the Council that the JWB Board renewed the Community Events Funding Initiative and increased funding available to community organizations that are not presently funded by JWB. The application can be found at <https://www.jwbpinellas.org/about/funding-opportunities/>.

IV. Council Business

- A. Grand Families Program: Joanne asked Council members to consider joining the Planning Committee for the 2025 Grand Families event in the North Council region. The aim is for the North County event to be held in April or May, in Tarpon Springs (around the Evara Health facility) are under consideration to host an outdoor event. Additionally, the focus for 2025 is to try to increase participation from Grand Families residing in zip codes that had less representation at the 2024 Grand Families event.
- B. Eric moved that the Council's September 2024 minutes be approved, and Carmen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Carmen moved that the Council's November 2024 minutes be approved, and Dawn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- D. The Council is reminded of its workplan component to visit one JWB funded organization in this fiscal year to learn more about the organization and cross-promote awareness.
- E. The Council discussed and agreed to meet at locations throughout the North County region in batches of 4 months, beginning in the first quarter of 2025 with the Dunedin Mease Hospital. The Council will invite a hospital representative to share information relevant to children and families during one of the Council's first quarter meetings.

There being no further business, on a motion by Michael that was seconded by Eric, the Council adjourned without objection at 7:10 p.m. The Council's next meeting is Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Dunedin Mease Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arendall
Secretary