



Regular Meeting 05/10/2001

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
H. Browning Spence, Director, Strategic & Community Planning 

Community Councils Semi-Annual Report, October 2000 – April 2001

The seventy-one members of the three Community Councils have enjoyed an active six months. Council activities have included: participation in community mobilization efforts in the three results areas: neighborhood support and involvement, support for teen center development, education issue identification, public policy, promotion of community knowledge of JWB and the councils, and increasing knowledge of diversity issues. New areas of focus are mental health care and youth involvement in politics. The Councils have also worked on internal restructuring including reviewing bylaws, electing new officers, setting goals, establishing new committees, and orienting new members.

Presentations were received from:

Julie Goetz – JWB Research and Evaluation Department, Drug Prevalence Survey
Keith Knowles – Director, Safety Harbor NFC
The Honorable Calvin Harris, Chairperson - Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
Jeanne Malchon, JWB member and Coordinator, St. Petersburg League of Women Voters,
Take Back the System Project
Bill Johnson, City of Clearwater Community Development Board
Heather Samuelson, Secretary, County Commissioners Youth Advisory Committee
Jennifer Pedraza, Coordinator, Tampa Bay's Million Moms' March
Shannon Baldwin, Participant, "Teens Take on Politics"

The Councils are actively involved in the Community Mobilization campaign. Representatives from each of the Councils assisted with the Helping Children & Youth Succeed 2nd Annual Summit. The South County Community Council received an award for coordinating a Helping Children and Youth Succeed Community Education Forum at the USF Bayboro Campus in October 2000. The Youth committee received recognition for their advocacy in the area of developing teen centers.

The semi-annual Combined Community Council meeting was held on April 19 at the Largo Southwest Recreation Center with Joan Byrne, Recreation Program Manager, Southwest Recreation Complex – MCCC Member as hostess. The Council received a presentation on the Drug Prevalence Survey from Julie Goetz, JWB Senior Research Consultant.

Following the presentation, Council members from throughout the County, JWB members, and JWB Staff participated in small group discussions. Their task was to provide input into developing a plan for disseminating the information throughout the County, improve the survey process and work toward the goal of substance free youth.

Members of the Council serve on various committees for the Safe Start Initiative and they have continued their involvement with the Cooperman-Bogue Awards Selection Committee. Staff has released a request for volunteers to recruit members for the 2001-02 Council year with an emphasis on recruiting youth and young adults.

Mid County Community Council (MCCC)

The MCCC officers for 2000-01 are: Bruce Cherkas, Chairperson, Laura Woodruff, Vice Chair, and Carol Bumiller, Secretary. Mrs. Norma Rienhart is the Board Liaison to the MCCC. The MCCC has 22 members.

The MCCC established eight goals for the 2000-02 period. (See attached report)

Other activities include:

Neighborhood involvement by identifying and supporting under-served communities in the MCCC area continues to be a major focus of the Council. Council members are actively supporting the neighborhoods of Coral Heights, Ridgecrest, Lealman, and Kenneth City. The neighborhood committee chairperson has established a relationship in the Coral Heights neighborhood and is working with JWB Mid-County Community Planner, Patty Van Alstine, to begin the development of a community assessment/mobilization.

Carol Bumiller chaired the annual Adopt A Family Project. This year the Council adopted a mid county family through Coordinated Child Care.

North County Community Council (NCCC)

The NCCC officers for 2000-01 are: Sally Bruynell, Chairperson, Claudia Nelson, Vice-Chair, and Heather Samuelson, Secretary. Mrs. Sandra Faulkner is the Board liaison for the Council. The NCCC has 22 members.

The Council has an ambitious agenda with eleven goals for 2000-02 with emphasis on the community mobilization results areas of violence free youth and substance free youth, increasing Council visibility and membership, coordinating and increasing intergenerational activities and relationships, and providing opportunities and support for children, youth, and families throughout the North County area. (See attached report)

Other activities included:

The annual holiday team-building dinner meeting in December was a success. Council member Lottie Ellis coordinated the event, which was held at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium with Council Member Scott Swaim as host. It was combined with a project to adopt-a-family for the holidays.

The Council decided to continue support of the family with a Christmas-in-July to provide back to school supplies.

Meetings were held at the Morton Plant Mease/Palm Harbor Wellness Center while the regular meeting location was under renovation.

South County Community Council (SCCC)

The SCCC officers for 2000-01 are: Margaret Redvict, Chairperson, Tanya Muhlstadt, Vice-Chair, and Karen Bolin, Secretary. Mrs. Smith-Carroll, Board Chairperson is the liaison to the SCCC. The SCCC has 27 members.

The SCCC established goals for the year. (See attached report)

Other Activities Included:

The Council sponsored a community mobilization forum in October. The South County Community Council continued its annual adopt-a-family holiday project. Meetings were held in community locations including the regular meeting location at PTEC, St. Petersburg.

Combined Youth Committee

The Youth Committee meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at JWB. The committee rotates facilitators. The committee has focused on education and increasing awareness and participation in the legislative process and community mobilization.

The Committee organized the Youth Involvement in Politics symposium that was held on January 25, 2001, with over 35 youths in attendance. Shannon Baldwin, NCCC youth member, represented JWB at the Florida Children's Campaign Tampa Bay Teen Challenge. There are currently 15 teen members on the Combined Youth Committee.

The committee established 13 goals for 2000 –2002. (See attached report)

Combined Education Committee:

The Councils' Combined Education Committee was active with Jean Johnson, SCCC serving as the chairperson. Laura Woodruff, MCCC Education Committee Chair, Sally Bruynell NCCC, Margaret Redvict, and Denise Ford SCCC members, serve on the committee. The committee meets monthly.

The Community Councils are concerned about the equity of resources for each school including the basic educational resources such as: computers, desks, books, and other teaching materials.

In order to learn how these materials are allocated to schools in the districts and provide this information to concerned citizens, the Education Committee decided to develop a questionnaire to get the facts. The committee developed questionnaires for students (4th, 7th, 11th grades), teachers, and parents.

Shelly Smith, JWB Research & Evaluation Consultant, provided technical assistance. These questionnaires have been sent to Dr. Hinesley with a request to administer them to all Pinellas County School System students in the above grades. Once the approval is received, copies and cover letter for each group will be packaged for each school and distributed. The logistics are complex, but doable. Plans are to have the surveys administered in the schools in Fall 2001. The completed questionnaires will be returned to the Councils for analyzing and compiling the data.

Results will be given to the community and the School Board.

Staff Resource Person: Dorothy Whitlock

COMMUNITY COUNCIL GOALS SUMMARY – 2000-2002

Council	GOALS	
North County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore anger management & violence intervention programs • Explore possibility of teen center in North Pinellas County • Increase number of counselors in Medicaid system for County residents for mental health needs • Explore successful parenting skills programs • Explore economic survival skills programs • Literacy • Collaborate with various groups to promote youth summits • Explore use of personal experience speakers re: substance use/abuse – for educational purposes • Distribute data in user friendly form and formats on substance use/abuse • Promote youth development and determine if JWB can broaden youth development funding • Representation at Florida Neighborhoods Conference • Organize annual Oldsmar Care Fair for elementary/middle school students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore scholarship potential for North County students • Explore available activities for special needs students • Explore available resources for required school supplies and disseminate information to parents • Explore availability of teaching aids/learning aids in No. County schools and how to distribute to district schools • Develop intergenerational programs at neighborhood and personal levels • Organize annual intergenerational dialogue “Common Ground” with Sr. citizens and students • Schedule quarterly meetings at a Neighborhood Family Center and attend NFC sponsored community events to increase our NFC knowledge and promote visibility for the Council • Continue support of youth mapping project
South County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support JWB’s strategic plan in areas of responsible sexuality, non-violence, and substance free youth • Identify neighborhoods that need additional resources for families and children • Collaborate with mid/north county councils to survey teachers/students regarding availability of basic educational resources; e.g., computers, books, etc. • Explore how these items are allocated to district schools and disseminate this information to concerned citizens • Remain alert to legislation relative to families regarding JWB’s goals and missions • Council’s Education and Public Policy Committee will work with JWB staff regarding impact of (a) proposed single member districts, (b) School Board local interpretation and implementation of court ordered desegregation/unitary status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council’s Education and Public Policy Committee will examine educational alternatives for suspended youths. • Council will appoint a representative to serve on the JWB Task Force to study this issue • Council will support the Pinellas Safe Start Initiative • Council will support Combined Youth Committee activities, including Youth Center Project and Youth Involvement in Politics Project • Council will continue to adopt a family during the holiday season • Council will participate on the Cooperman-Bogue committee • Council will increase JWB’s visibility by notifying/inviting neighborhood associations and other community groups to meetings and events

COMMUNITY COUNCIL GOALS SUMMARY - Continued

Council	GOALS	
Mid County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold 2 meetings at neighbor centers: Ridgecrest/Lealman by December 2001. • Support Youth Committee in adding necessary teen centers • Explore areas of unsafe situations for children going to & from school in targeted areas • Council will gather information regarding existing resources by inviting School Readiness speakers to 1 or 2 combined council meetings in order to reach children who may be left out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a family literacy task force by March 2001 to report in June 2001 • Develop a resource file of volunteer translators/interpreters • Increase council diversity through “the Culture Bag” with Council members’ sharing at each meeting for the coming months • Support Youth Mapping, invite Beth Tobias to speak at a council meeting by December 2001 regarding data relevant to the mid county area
Combined Youth Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track success of JWB funded teen centers and advocate for teen centers in North County • Make JWB broadly known to interested Pinellas County youth by (a) meetings held in high schools, (b) send applications of teen programs/activities to groups • Recruit college and university students to serve • Recruit members from diverse ethnic/racial groups to better represent Pinellas County youth by (a) applications sent to multi-cultural groups, (b) applications to colleges/universities (c) attend Camp Anytown Program • Support 61C Teen center • Review Drug Prevalence Survey, offer any changes to survey and prevention of substance abuse by youth • Support the special projects of the other JWB committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of the legislative/political process • Provide educational forums so youth will be better informed of the political/legislative process on all levels so Pinellas County teens can make a difference and make their vote count • Increase knowledge of welfare reform, after school programs, substance use and responsible sexuality • Provide forums to increase awareness of Pinellas County youth to dangers of tobacco and other substance use • Organize a presentation on Youth Involvement in Politics during high school assemblies • Retain members who currently attend the combined youth committee