

Regular Meeting 05/08/2003

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members
 FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director
 H. Browning Spence, Director, Community Planning & Research *HBS*

Community Councils Semi-Annual Report, October 2002 – April 2003

The Community Councils have focused on community mobilization, increasing council visibility, support and involvement in target neighborhoods, education, public policy, and increasing their knowledge of the neighborhoods in the areas that they represent. The Council members attended Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) meetings, training center workshops, and received presentations related to their areas of concern. Members organized two semi-annual combined council meetings. Representatives from staff, board members, Pinellas schools, funded agencies, and the Children’s Service Committees were in attendance.

Council Presentations were received from:

[*Combined Community Council (CCC); Combined Community Council Youth Committee (CCCYC); Mid County Community Council (MCCC); North County Community Council (NCCC); South County Community Council (SCCC)*]

Starr Silver, Manager, JWB Research and Evaluation Center, Drug Prevalence Survey (CCC)	Mike Stone, A.S.S.E.T. (Agency Self-Study Efficacy Tool) Coordinator, Overview of the A.S.S.E.T. Tool and Process (MCCC)
Debra Prewitt, JWB Special Assistant, Legislative Priorities (CCCYC)	Herbert A. Marlowe, Jr., Consultant, Strategic Plan Update (CCC)
Karen Braun, Director of Children’s Services Salvation Army, Overview of Agency Services (SCCC)	Tanya Sowell-Sessoms, Program Director, Family Resources, (OCIP) On Campus Intervention Program and Team members, Overview of Program Services (MCCC)
Shirley Johnson, Program Specialist, Coordinated Child Care Adopt A Family Project, Overview of Program Services (MCCC)	Dawna Sarmiento, Community Facilitator, Devereux Kids, Inc., Organizational Asset Mapping for Council (MCCC)

Neighborhood Assets, Initiatives and Needs

Hiram Estremera, Executive Director, Highpoint NFC (MCCC)	Michael Quinlivan, Executive Director, Lealman Family Center (MCCC)
Phongun Day, Executive Director, Asian NFC (SCCC)	Cherin Stover, Asian NFC (SCCC)
Louell Britt, Executive Director, Sanderlin NFC (SCCC)	Glendine Davis, Program Director, Union Academy NFC (NCCC)
Joe Marshall, Greenwood NFC (NCCC)	Peggy Roche, Foundation Village NFC (NCCC)
Lorina Padgett, Executive Director, Campbell Park NFC (SCCC)	Victoria Schaus, Executive Director, Safety Harbor NFC (NCCC)
Tracie White, Senior Planner, Greater Ridgecrest (MCCC)	

Youth Related Crime Indicators and Neighborhood Assets, Initiatives and Needs

John Capra, St. Petersburg Community Police Officer (SCCC)	Dave Gerardo, St. Petersburg Community Police Officer (SCCC)
Chris Kirby, St. Petersburg Community Police Officer (SCCC)	

Combined areas of involvement and interest were:

Members planned and attended the fall semi-annual Combined Council meeting during which the Councils provided input into developing the JWB Strategic Plan Update and the 2002-2003 Legislative Priorities. Herbert A. Marlowe, Jr., Facilitator for the Strategic Plan, and Debra A. Prewitt, JWB Special Assistant to the Executive Director, were the presenters. Members recently participated in the March 6, 2003, spring semi-annual Combined Council meeting during which the Councils received a presentation on the 2002 Prevalence of Substance Use Among Pinellas County Students from Starr Silver, Manager, JWB Research & Evaluation Center. Jim Dean, Research Specialist, Pinellas County Schools, provided information about areas of focus from the Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB). Consultation was received from Mark Varso and Jackie Griffin Doherty, Operation PAR, Inc. Council members and guests gave input into developing strategies for reducing substance use by Pinellas County youth during focus groups and large group discussion.

The Councils continued their focus on organizational issues of developing goals that are reflective of community needs. In an effort to align their goals and interests with that of the Board, members of the three Councils have continued their focus on the update to the JWB Strategic Plan by attending the Strategic Plan Workshops and participating in the February 25, 2003, public comment on the Strategic Plan Update. A Combined Executive Committee meeting was held January 30, 2003.

The current Community Council membership is 40 members, including youth. The membership reflects end-of-the-year resignations. Staff submitted a release to the media requesting volunteers and applications are being accepted for new members. The response by the media release has been positive with articles in the Weekly Challenger, the St. Petersburg Times, and neighborhood newspapers. Kathy Helmuth, Director of Communications, also participated in a public service interview with WQYK-FM 99.5, Rita Ciccarello. Public response has also been positive and we have received requests for applications. Appointment of new members will be effective August 2003, for a one-year period of service.

Support for JWB Activities:

- Members attended meetings of the Board and the Strategic Plan Workshops.
- Representatives served on the Community Mobilization Task Force
- Representatives served on the Safe Start Leadership Council.
- Members supported the Cooperman Bogue Awards Program with a representative from each Council serving on the selection committee program.

Other Highlights Include:

MCCC (Mid County Community Council)

The MCCC officers are Bruce Cherkas, Chair; Richard Riley, Vice Chair; Carol Bumiller,

Secretary; and Elise Schallert, Neighborhood Liaison.

Highlights include: neighborhood involvement and support for the Mid County Neighborhood Family Centers and community development initiatives in Coral Heights and Ridgecrest. The MCCC worked during this six-month period to develop goals for 2002-2003. Ongoing concerns that were continued from last year include meeting the needs of the diverse citizens in the mid county community, increasing the diversity of the council, and providing more information to the community about JWB and the Community Councils on the JWB web site.

Goals 2002-2003

- Support the youth committee in its goals.
- Increase Council diversity and develop strategies to attract new members while addressing issues of new member orientation, and retention.
- Support Neighborhood Family Centers by holding at least two meetings at the NFC's, inviting family centers into council meetings (vice versa), and focusing on areas needing support such as: neighborhood needs, service delivery, management, human resources, family literacy, and identifying existing resources to reach children who are left out of existing programs.
- Gather information and make recommendations regarding children and teen issues such as; pregnancy, drugs, mentors, and safe haven. This may be enhanced by requesting guest speakers with expertise on these topics.
- Organize/support voter registration and awareness programs.
- Actively market and publicize JWB and its services to familiarize community with the organization.
- Implement a Community Council asset-mapping program to establish a human resource database starting with Mid County Community Council members and advocate that this program extend to the other Councils.

The MCCC has 11 members including one youth.

NCCC (North County Community Council)

The NCCC officers are Lisa Mansell, Chairperson; Tamsen J. Martin, Vice Chair; Beryl Cummings, Secretary; and Chris Assed, Assistant Secretary.

Highlights Include:

The Council focused on gathering community input into needs and using that input to determine its focus and setting goals for 2002-2003.

Goals include:

- Locate groups in North County that are not currently being funded by JWB that are effectively addressing the needs of youth and their families.

- Establish a process to recognize these groups for their contributions.
- Provide a link between these groups and JWB to make them aware of available assistance from JWB, if needed.
- To focus on its mission to be a voice for the North County Community, advocating for children, youth, and families.
- To focus on its function of staying abreast of community needs and making recommendations to JWB regarding needed changes in policy
- To develop and provide recommendations to JWB and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition with strategies to reduce the prevalence of substance use by North County youth and their parents.

The NCCC has 13 members including 2 youth.
Mrs. Sandra Faulkner is the Board liaison to the NCCC.

SCCC (South County Community Council)

The SCCC officers are Charlotte D. Hughes, Chairperson; Henry Kwoh, Vice Chair; Karen Bolin, Secretary; and Ashley Elliott, Assistant Secretary.

As part of their neighborhood involvement initiative, the SCCC held its Neighborhood Family Center and the December 2002, and February 2003, meetings at the Salvation Army. The Council received a presentation from the Director and toured the facilities including the Sally House and the Family Village. The SCCC also held a youth health education forum on October 12 at the Campbell Park Recreation Center.

The Council is in the process of finalizing goals for 2003 that are community-driven, including information and concerns identified during meetings with NFC representatives and Community Police Officers from targeted neighborhoods of Palmetto Park, Childs Park, and Central Oak Park.

Board member Van C. Saylor attended the December 2002, SCCC meeting.
The SCCC has 16 members including 5 youth.

Combined Community Council Youth Committee

The youth committee was very successful in sponsoring the Florida Children's Campaign Pinellas County "Teens Take On Politics" Candidate Debate on October 30, 2002. Participating in the debate were Mary Brown and Tiffany Todd, School Board Candidates and Lee Cannon, State Senate Candidate. Media coverage included an article in the March-April 2003 edition of Impressions Teen Magazine.

Members are currently focusing on developing goals related to leadership development and the three results areas of the strategic plan with specific concerns about substance use. The youth committee has eight members and five applicants.

Staff Resource Person: Dorothy Whitlock