



# Pinellas County Schools ESOL Family Outreach

## ESOL Community Advisory Meeting

Thursday, September 6, 2018

---

**Location:** Pinellas Technical College, Clearwater Campus

**Room:** Nursing Lecture Hall

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Number of community partners present: 35

Number of ESOL families present: 03

---

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Ericka Reckenwald -Pinellas County Schools ESOL Family Outreach Coordinator opened the meeting by welcoming the ESOL families and community partners. She thanked Jennifer Weaver -Pinellas Technical College for making all the arrangements to hold the ESOL Community Advisory meeting at PTC, and providing a delicious breakfast for all the participants.

#### ESOL Parents:

Ms. Bruto, parent of two students at Azalea ES, she came from Venezuela. She has been living in the country for 4 months. She expressed that she wanted to participate in the meeting to learn about the community resources available for newcomer families in Pinellas County.

Ms. Bastidas, parent of a student at Azalea ES, she is from Venezuela. She has been living in the United States for four years. She was interested in learning about the community and resources available for families in our County.

Ms. Pepe, mother of a high school student at Gibbs HS. She is from Dominican Republic. She wanted to participate in the meeting to learn about what resources were available in the community.

#### Community Partners introduced themselves and briefly described their programs

Jennifer Waiver, Pinellas Technical College (PTC)  
 Yaridis L. Garcia, Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB)  
 Edward Tumber, Clearwater East Library  
 Alen Janjus, Refugee Youth Program  
 Brenda Clark, City of Largo  
 Brooke Pair, Pinellas County Schools Guidance Office  
 Christine Cantrell PCS HEAT Program (Homeless Education)  
 Karen Dydzuhn, Barnes & Noble  
 Kyesha Robinson, Pinellas Technical College (PTC)  
 Doug Haskitt, Pinellas Refugee Education Program (PREP)  
 Victor Otero, Largo Public Library  
 Arelys Escalera, Pinellas County  
 William Ward, Palm Harbor Public Library  
 Alex Pena Rosado, Pinellas County SOE  
 Caroline Brown, High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC)  
 Margaret Ringl, Palm Harbor Literacy Council  
 Joe Benavides, St. Petersburg College (SPC)  
 Branka Prodanovic, Pinellas County Schools Adult Education Program  
 Daise Castillo, Clearwater Public Library System  
 Andra Geler, Pinellas Support Team Children Home Network  
 Michele Rankins, Boley Center  
 Nashlie Mena, Boley Center

Elizabeth Felix Discussion, St. Petersburg Library  
Alyn Reyes, Early Learning Coalition Pinellas  
Eliza Brumbaugh, UMCM Suncoast  
Claudia Gonzalez, Clearwater Public Library System (CPLS)  
Diana Perez, Hispanic Outreach  
Lisa Freeman, Pinellas County Humane Services  
Paula Keyser, Early Steps  
Karen Coale, League of Women Voters  
Victoria Posada, Gulfcoast Legal Services  
Cencio Minson, High Point Neighborhood Family Services (HPNFC)  
Evelyn Davila, Boley Center  
Lina Garcia, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida  
Jakub Prokop, Director at Pinellas Technical College

## II. Group News

**Caroline Brown**, High Point Neighborhood Family Center -Program Director, introduced Cencio Minson, new full time staff member who will be assisting the Hispanic families going to the center. Caroline shared information about the Build Bee Hive, a free event organized for families and the community at HPNFC on Sat, Sept 15.

**Ed Tumber**, Branch Manager Clearwater Public Library System introduced Daise Castillo, new Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for Clearwater Public Library System.

**Doug Haskitt**, Director of Pinellas Refugee Education Program (PREP) talked about the Refugee Day Celebration event coming on June 2019, and he invited all the community partners to join to the event.

## III. Presentation(s):

**Ericka Reckenwald** shared the ESOL Family Outreach Outcomes from 2017-2018 School Year. She explained that the support provided to PCS ESOL families and students increased significantly in comparison with the previous year. More ESOL families and students participated in ESOL educational workshops, community resource fairs, and college/ career events for EL students in high school. Ericka also shared the ESOL Family Outreach 2018-2019 Action Plan, and showed the schedule of the workshops for EL families.

**Jennifer Weaver** Pinellas Technical College Occupational Specialist expressed that PTC is open to partner with the community to support events that benefit PCS students and their families. She expressed that PTC can provide the venue to invite people in the county to provide information about the first-rate career and technical education programs at PTC. Jennifer talked about the Pinellas Technical College Signing Day event on February 2019, a great event for students in Pinellas County. She offered the PTC facility to hold any ESOL community event for ESOL families and students.

**Yaridis L. Garcia**, Juvenile Welfare Board Community Planning Manager, shared the High Point Community Bus Ride project, an event coordinated to connect High Point families with resources available in the community. Yaridis shared the flyer of the event and asked for venders.

#### **IV. ESOL Community Resource Fair/Event Plan Discussion**

Ericka thanked all the community partners for their partnership and participation in the ESOL Community Resource Fairs every year, and for supporting the ESOL families and students with available community resources and social services in Pinellas County.

Ericka gave special thanks to the High Point Neighborhood Family Center, St. Petersburg College, the Hispanic Outreach Center, Largo Public Library, and Clearwater East Library for partnership with the ESOL Family Outreach and hosting events for PCS ESOL families and students.

Ericka talked about the planning of the ESOL Community Resource Fair 2018-2019 school year. She asked for ideas on how to improve the event for the ESOL families, and asked for a good location for the resource fair in mid-county.

Joe Benavides -SPC Clearwater Campus and Jennifer Weaver -Pinellas Technical College offered their campus facility to hold the ESOL Community Resource fair.

The community partners shared ideas and proposed the formation of a committee to discuss details about the planning of the ESOL fair.

The formation of a committee was agreed. The community partners interested in being member of the committee signed a list provided by Ramona Zambrano, PCS ESOL Bilingual Specialist. Ramona will follow up with the committee to go over the details for the fair.

Volunteers to be part of a committee for ESOL Community Resource Fair:

Caroline Brown, High Point Neighborhood Family Center (HPNFC), Claudia Gonzalez -Clearwater Public Library System (CPLS), Brenda Clark -City of Largo, Victoria Posada -Gulfcoast Legal Services, Jennifer Waiver -Pinellas Technical College (PTC), Diana Perez (HOC), Eliza Brumbaugh, UMCM Suncoast, Evelyn Davila -Boley Center, Arelys Escalera -Pinellas County, Elizabeth Felix Discussion -St. Petersburg Library, Alex Pena Rosado, Pinellas County SOE.

#### **V. Closing**

Ericka Reckenwald thanked the community partners for attending the meeting, and shared the date of the next ESOL Community Advisory meeting, on February 6, 2019. Location of the meeting was going to follow up.

Mr. Jakub Prokop, Director at Pinellas Technical College thanked the community partners for attending the ESOL Community Advisory meeting. He talked about the new remodeling of the PTC buildings, Clearwater Campus. He talked about PTC employment opportunities.