

**PINELLAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING MINUTES**

March 2, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Pinellas County Extension, Magnolia Room
12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774

Call to Order - Jody Armstrong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Roll Call –

Present

Jody Armstrong, Chair (Disability Achievement Center)
Ross Silvers, Vice Chair (Commissioner Eggers)
Connor Carlisle (Commissioner Peters)
Jack Humburg (Boley Centers)
Todd Jennings (Commissioner Scott)
Angel Overly (FL Gulf Coast Paralyzed Veterans of America)
Brian Rothey (Parc Center for Disabilities)
Stuart Strikowsky (Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas)

Not Present - Excused/Unexcused

Jacqueline Wunderlich, Secretary (Commissioner Scherer) - Excused
Doreen Caudell (Commissioner Latvala) -- Unexcused
Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Commissioner Flowers) - Excused
Bradlee McCoy (Commissioner Nowicki) - Unexcused

Others Present

Betina Baron, Director, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights (OHR)
Jay Burkey, Compliance Manager, OHR
Keiah Townsend, Pinellas County Assistant County Attorney
Other interested guests

Approval of Minutes – A quorum was met at this meeting. The minutes from December 1st, 2025, were unanimously approved.

Old Business

Beach Access Mats – Surveys need to be completed so that we can start capitalizing on them. Jay Burkey states all in Pasco County and in Pinellas County, there are 4 parks and one in Clearwater not completed. Indian Rocks indicated that theirs needs to be replaced. Gulfport's is not in place due to beach projects. Clearwater states they removed theirs due to complaints.

Park Accessibility Update – Paul Cozzie, Director and Don Melone, Construction and Trades Supervisory with Parks and Conservation Resources joined the meeting. Paul states he can check on the mats for county locations for the Council. PCR extends the playground contract and also \$1.8 million in funding to continue playground refurbishments. Don states the parks they are looking at this year: Philippe Park, Wall Springs, Tiere Verde, Eagle Lake and Dansville, the County's newest park. The hurricane caused \$60 million in damages to the parks. Many programs in the parks have been shut down as a result.

A request to look into hand cranks at the boat ramps for accessibility to get onto boats. It would require fresh water wash down.

New Business: Office of Human Rights

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Requirements – update regarding the ruling that came out last summer by the DOJ, the Appointing Authorities are working diligently to make sure our websites meet the guidelines provided.

Paula James, Family Care Council – appointed by the Governor in 1993 where the state services are. An individual with development disabilities for services required for independent living. The Family Care Council assists and advises on how to make things better. There is a wait list, or pre-enrollment category, but it is by need, not by how long one has been on the list. The Council meets every other month at Parc Center for Disabilities. There is a need for council members. This council has 15 seats, with only 5 members.

Cheri Hozbacher, MSW-Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas, Inc. – The alliance focuses on housing, homeless services, prevention and crisis homeless services, and is responsible for applying for federal and state funds. They oversee the coordinated entry system. Coordinated entry is a way to go to one place and get on a list to support independent living. Those that need services the most are being prioritized for those services, and housing or permanent supportive housing. They also provide technical assistance.

Cordell Jeter and Scott Jenkins, EcoRover Chairs – Cordell Jeter invented the EcoRover chair. Being out in nature has been proven to provide mental and physical benefits. This chair provides independence. The mats on the beach are great, but only get one so far onto the beach. These chairs can help provide access to all our beautiful parks. The chair can last up to 6 hours on a charge, or 7 miles on a flat surface, cupholders, and a Kevlar comfort track system for a smooth ride. The MSRP is \$15,750 with warranty.

Council Open Discussion – Brian Rothey is replacing Michelle Dietweiler in Parc Center for Disabilities in this Council. AmVets does personal care kits for the homeless. The AmVets would like to have a flyer of what OHR does (outreach opportunity).

Jay Burkey is now a part of the OHR as Compliance Manager, was previously at CareerSource for around four years, and is active in the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.