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Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1965 - 1966

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Our Nineteenth Year
of Service
to Children

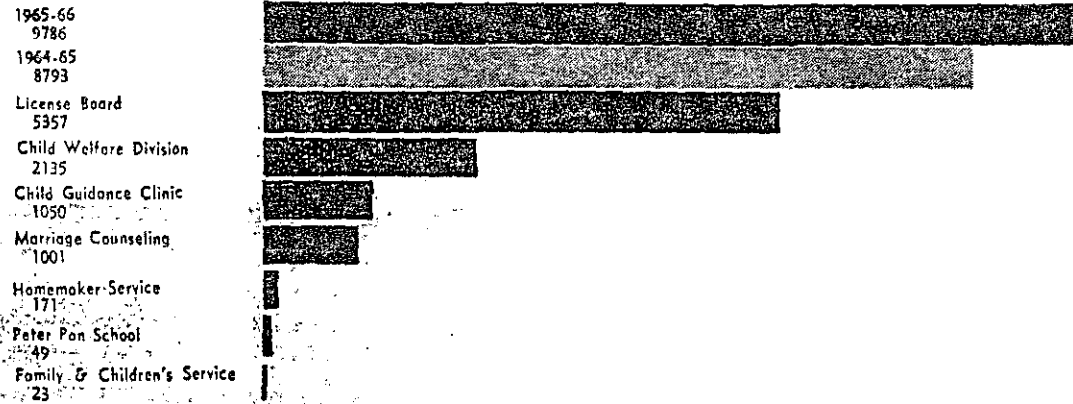
PINELLAS COUNTY
JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
3455 FIRST AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA



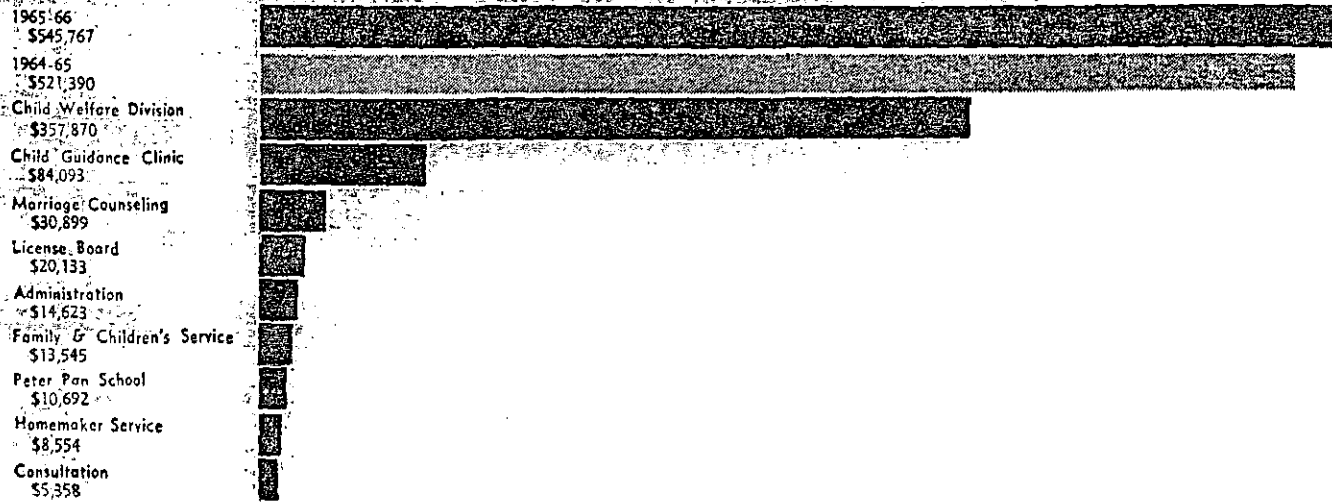
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 1966

Number of Children Aided by Juvenile Welfare Board Funds



Expenditures 1965-66



CHAIRMAN'S Message

Now that the Juvenile Welfare Board has completed nineteen years of service to children, it is especially fitting and proper that we render our annual accounting to the people of Pinellas County. We have a responsibility to administer a law which was originally passed in 1945 and was confirmed by a County-wide referendum in 1946. This law and this referendum are the County's own decision to levy a tax for needed services to children.

This law specifically requires us to provide homes for children — neglected, abused, dependent, deprived children who have been removed from their own unsatisfactory homes by orders of the Juvenile Court. Another duty is the support and maintenance of a Child Guidance Clinic for children with mental or emotional problems. Consultation with other children's agencies is specifically provided in the Law.

In addition to these duties, the Board is empowered to provide such other services for children as we consider necessary for the general welfare of the County. These provisions now include: marriage and family counseling; licensing of day care facilities for children; foster care payments for children difficult to place for adoption; homemaker service for

families with children; and day care for retarded children.

We are specifically enabled to allocate funds to other agencies, public or private, which are operated for children. Because it is our responsibility to prevent duplication of services to children, we have, wherever possible, chosen other already existing organizations to act as our agents for many of these services. Our direct operations are limited to marriage and family counseling and to consultation with children's agencies. With the organizations that act as our agents we have annual written agreements which set forth the terms of our allocation of funds on the basis of specific children assisted or designated salaries and expenses paid.

The following pages review the services to children which we have provided directly and indirectly during the year 1965-66. With continued support from the citizens of Pinellas County, we look forward with confidence to another year of service to our children.

Robert B. Coleman, Jr.

Foster Homes for CHILDREN

The paramount need of a neglected or abused child is for a home and parents who can help and heal with tender, loving care. When the Juvenile Court must legally remove children from their own inadequate homes and incompetent parents, they are placed by the Child Welfare Division of the STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE in foster homes. The cost of supporting these children is the responsibility of the Juvenile Welfare Board.

In 1948, the State Department of Public Welfare was chosen as the agent of the Board in order to consolidate child welfare services and to insure the availability of State and Federal funds. In 1965-66, approximately 58 per cent of the administrative costs of the Child Welfare Division, including the Protective Service and Foster Care Units, were paid from State funds and 42 percent from Juvenile Welfare Board allocations.



The Protective Service Unit provides for early intervention if a child is neglected or abused. When a complaint is received from police, neighbors,

schools or social agencies, an investigation is made to determine if intervention is needed. Sometimes the child's own parents can be helped to remedy the situation; sometimes a relative can be located who will accept the child; and sometimes the child is placed in a foster home by order of the Juvenile Court. Prompt, skilled service has been made available to 1552 children in danger during this first full year of operation. Also the Protective Service has been the major factor in the reduction of the number of children in foster care from 649 to 583.

The Juvenile Welfare Board in 1965-66 paid \$288,335 for the board of children in foster care; the State \$13,752. These State funds are currently allocated to the counties on school population, not on the number of children in foster care or on the availability of local funds. Furthermore, the Federal government makes no direct contribution to the care of children in foster homes. These inequitable situations require legislative remedies in Tallahassee and Washington.

CHILDREN with Mental or Emotional *Problems*

Children with mental or emotional problems need scientific diagnosis and professional treatment. These services are provided by the Board through its agent, the CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC OF PINELLAS COUNTY, INC. During 1965-66, \$84,093 was paid directly in salaries and other services. This sum represented 60 per cent of the Clinic's total expenditures which provided services to 1050 children.

The Child Guidance Clinic was established in 1944, four years before the Board began operations. The Board chose the Clinic as their agent to provide child guidance, psychological, and psychiatric services as required by the Juvenile Welfare Board Law.

Consultation and referral between the Clinic and the Board is a continuing process. The Clinic

provides space and secretarial service for marriage and family counseling in Clearwater. The Psychiatrist-Director gives bi-weekly consultation to the counseling staff. Regular monthly conferences are held for the mutual discussion of common problems between administrative and supervisory personnel of Clinic and Board.

The Clinic has a two-fold program of direct service to patients and mental health education for parents and other persons who work with children. The discovery, the diagnosis, and the early treatment of the mental and emotional problems are proven ways of helping children to grow into creative, productive citizens.

*Our 19th Year
Of Service
To Children*

CHILDREN

threatened with *Family Break-up*

A thousand and one children faced the possible break-up of their homes during the past year. The marriage and family counselors of the JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD worked with 655 parents of these children to try to avert the disruption of 429 families. A total of 2651 interviews were held with or about these families, plus group counseling sessions with a total attendance of 79.

To strengthen family life for children, the Board began the marriage and family counseling service in 1949. Over the years since then it has been apparent that, as counseling achieves an improvement of husband-wife relationships, parents increase their ability to cope with the problems of their children. For example, marriage



counseling enables parents to understand how their firmness and consistency and agreement are vital to the emotional growth and development of children.

The marriage counseling staff continued their professional growth and development with the publication of "Conflict in Marriage Following Premarital Pregnancy" in the January 1966 issue of *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. Requests for reprints of this article have been received from many parts of the world. This article was also used as source material for a subsequent publication in *Redbook*, entitled "The Pregnant Bride." All Counselors are members of the American Association of Marriage Counselors, as well as the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

CHILDREN

needing *Protection in Day Care*

Children away from their own homes and their own parents need guarantees of safety and health. For this reason, all children's centers (kindergartens, nursery schools, and day nurseries) and family day care homes are inspected and licensed by the PINELLAS COUNTY LICENSE BOARD FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS AND FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES. During the past year, 86 children's centers with a capacity of 4264 children, and 326 family day care homes with a capacity of 1093 children were licensed.

Since the passage in 1951 of the first legislation to license day care facilities for children, the Juvenile Welfare Board has supplied funds to finance the program. The seven member License Board includes a

representative of the Juvenile Welfare Board who currently serves as Chairman. For efficiency and economy the License Board shares the Juvenile Welfare Board offices.

License Board activities in the past year have included consultation services to the year-round Head Start Program. In addition, the staff has participated in university training programs for summer Head Start teachers and has been instrumental in arranging extension courses for both public and private preschool teachers. Services of the staff have also been sought for training programs and consultation in many other areas of the State and nation.

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CHILDREN Hard to *Place for Adoption*

*P*ermanent and secure homes are needed for those children whose parents have legally surrendered their natural rights. The matching of these children with prospective adoptive parents is a skilled process best carried out by professional social caseworkers. When this process is concluded, the courts legally declare the parents the father and mother of the child.

Some children, however, present greater than usual problems in proper placement. These children have physical, emotional, or racial handicaps which make adoption more difficult and the necessary stay in foster care more extended. Children of the same family, brothers or sisters, should not be separated through adoption, but it is often difficult to find prospective adoptive parents who can accept more than one child. Con-



sequently, ways of assisting parents adopting more than one child have been tried.

Where children are difficult to place for adoption, the Juvenile Welfare Board has entered into an agreement with the FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE, INC. to pay the costs of this extended foster care. If this agreement were not in force, these children would be transferred to the foster care program of the State Department of Public Welfare where their chances of adoption would be less. During the year, Juvenile Welfare Board funds were used to pay for the extended foster care of 23 children at a cost of \$13,545. Twelve of these children were placed for adoption during this period. Since it costs about \$1000 a year for the foster care of one child, the savings resulting from the placement of these 12 children almost equaled the total yearly cost of the program. Moreover, these placements are permanent so that no additional costs are incurred. But most important of all is that the child has a father and a mother and a home of his own.

Day Care for Retarded CHILDREN

Children who are mentally retarded need the same services as other children. These services, moreover, must be separate and special so that attention can be given to the greater individual needs of the retarded child. Particularly do retarded children need opportunities to be trained and to learn in groups where the other children are similar to them.

A children's center affords an opportunity for retarded children to have experiences away from their own homes and parents. Oftentimes this day care helps overburdened parents to maintain retarded children in their own homes or until such time as space is available in one of the Sunland Training Centers. Also, day care makes possible the early evaluation of a child's capabilities, so important in formulating a remedial program, which may be the difference between a useful and productive citizen and a life-long inmate of an institution.

For these reasons, the Juvenile Welfare Board decided in 1964 to help needy retarded children with day care at the PETER PAN SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN. During the year 1965-66, 49 different children were supplied with tuition paid in whole or in part with Juvenile Welfare Board funds. The need of these children was determined by the use of an income scale graduated according to family size.

Since Peter Pan School is located in Pinellas Park and is accessible to the southern part of the County, the Board has agreed in the year 1966-67 to furnish tuition reimbursement on a similar basis to the Play Parc School for Retarded Children in Clearwater. In this way, day care will be available to all needy retarded children throughout the County.

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CHILDREN

Needing Care in *Their Own Homes*

When illness strikes or when mothers must go to the hospital, the most effective care that can be given children enables them to remain in the familiar surroundings of their own homes. A homemaker, or temporary substitute mother, can care for the children and keep the house while the father continues working and supporting the family. This plan, also called a Home-Help-Aide, is administered by the VISITING NURSE AND HOMEMAKER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER ST. PETERSBURG with funds from the Juvenile Welfare Board. During 1965-66, 43 families with 171 children received 5225 hours of homemaker service at a net cost of \$8554. Families pay in whole or in part for this service as they are able.



Homemakers are also available for families without children or for single persons in need of the service, but

Juvenile Welfare Board funds can be used only for families with children.

Homemaker service to prevent the break-up of families was begun in 1953 and was operated for many years by the Board. In 1964 the Visiting Nurse Association of Greater St. Petersburg agreed to administer a Homemaker Service that would be available to persons of all ages. Negotiations have now been completed to extend the Homemaker Service that would be available to the upper part of the County by merging the existing Visiting Nurse Associations. It is expected that in 1967 the Homemaker Service will be County-wide and available to all the children of Pinellas County.

Planning Services for CHILDREN

One of the legally prescribed duties of the JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD is to consult with other agencies concerned with children in order to prevent the duplication of programs or the lack of services. The process of consultation is a continuing one in order to create the teamwork necessary for the efficient and economical operation of services for children. Systematic communication and careful cooperation affect not only agencies using Juvenile Welfare Board funds, but also other tax-supported and voluntary organizations, including the Pinellas County Schools.

This process of planning services for children has been aided during the year by the merger of the Community Welfare Council of South Pinellas and the Community Council of Upper Pinellas into a County-wide Services Council. The merger of the three United Funds in the County has encouraged a greater development of County-wide service. For example, the Visiting Nurse Associations have

decided to merge and their programs, including Homemaker Service, will be available County-wide in 1967.

An important aspect of consultation and planning is pointing to areas of children's services which need additional State and Federal support. The arbitrary limit of \$85.00 per month for any family receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children is a shocking example of Florida's deficiencies, together with the amount and distribution of child welfare funds. The lack of any Federal matching for children in foster care reflects the failure of the United States Congress to consider the needs of children who have been removed from their own homes and parents. The Board is considering appropriate action to inform the State Legislature and Federal Congress of the ways in which these deficiencies affect the welfare of children in Pinellas County.

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Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board

BOARD

Robert E. Coleman, Jr., D.D., *Clearwater*
Chairman

Mrs. Glen L. Keys, *Tarpon Springs***
Secretary

James F. Gollattscheck, Ph.D., *St. Petersburg*
*Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Mrs. Baya Harrison, *St. Petersburg*

Mrs. H. W. Holland, *St. Petersburg*

William A. Patterson, *St. Petersburg*
*Judge of the Juvenile Court**

Robert L. Weatherly, *Clearwater*
*Vice-Chairman, Board of County Commissioners**

STAFF

George H. Finck, ACSW, Ph.D.
Director

Nenabelle G. Dame, ACSW
Marriage and Family Counselor

Ruth G. Mayos, ACSW
Marriage and Family Counselor

Brady O. Smith, ACSW
Marriage and Family Counselor

Frances M. Carnegie, *Secretary*

Katherine J. Jones, *Administrative Secretary*

*These members are stipulated in the Juvenile Welfare Board Act
Other members are appointed by the Governor

**Resigned

Cover Illustration: Courtesy of the artist, Lillian Kelsey Stellmach