9-27-1951

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1951: 09: 27: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.
Minutes of September 27, 1951

Present were Mrs. Bartlett, Chairman, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Strickland, Mr. Christian, Judge Gardiner, Mrs. Meador. Also present was Dr. Williams, the Director.

The minutes of the September 13 meeting were read and approved as read.

Upon motion by Mrs. Holland, seconded by Mr. Christian and passed by the Board, expenditures covered by Checks 2288 through 2329 in the General Operating Fund were approved. Also approved under the same motion were expenditures from the School Counseling Fund covered by Checks 214 through 221.

Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded the motion authorizing the Director to purchase two chairs for the stenographers in the St. Petersburg Office. This motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bartlett reported on a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and with the Budget Commission. She stated that the Board of County Commissioners had approved the request of the Juvenile Welfare Board that the Board of County Commissioners meet the deficit between the amount of taxes collected and the $75,000 allowed in the Budget of the Juvenile Welfare Board. She stated that the request to the Budget Commission that the Board of County Commissioners be allowed to transfer these funds from the General Fund of the Board of County Commissioners to the Juvenile Welfare Board had been approved at a meeting of the Budget Commission. Also approved at this meeting was the transfer of $1,500 from the item entitled JUVENILE HOMES to the item entitled FOSTER HOME CARE.

Dr. Williams was asked to check on the payment of the amount due from the Board of County Commissioners to see that the check is properly drawn.

The Director reported on Special Funds which had been donated to the Juvenile Welfare Board for special purposes. Judge Gardiner reported that these funds were in the nature of escrow funds and could not be used for operating or other expenses contrary to the specific request of the donor of the funds.

The Chairman requested a report on the objectives outlined for the fiscal year 1950-51 and the degree of accomplishment of these objectives. The Director reported that the following objectives had been attained.

1. Persuading the Children's Service Bureau to undertake adoption placement service.

2. Persuading the Child Welfare Unit to consider temporary detention care as a part of their shelter care program for which state funds could be used and thus eliminating the need for local Juvenile Welfare Board payment of the board of children in these temporary detention homes. The subsidy for the beds is still a charge against the Juvenile Welfare Board.

3. Beginning of a study of results of treatment given the children through the In School Counseling Service.

4. The passage of legislation providing for the licensing of foster homes and day nurseries to insure that children receive proper care in such facilities.
5. The working out of arrangements for extension courses in case work and personality development in the County. Arrangements are being completed by the universities through the Extension Division to give courses during the coming year in Pinellas County.

6. The organization of orientation courses for the chairmen of welfare committees of the various clubs, groups, and other organizations interested in projects has been undertaken in a preliminary way through the Day at College which was quite successful. It is hoped that this effort will be continued.

Among the objectives which have not been realized were:

1. Inability to establish an organization for Marriage Counseling with its own board and staff at least on a demonstration basis for a period of three years.

2. Interest some club or group of clubs in financing a worker for family casework problems to be added to the Children's Service Bureau's staff.

3. Helping the Department of Public Instruction to find teachers with proper qualifications for teaching exceptional children.

4. Secure a change in the law relating to the admission of children to places where liquor is served so that they cannot be exposed to beer halls, bar rooms and other destructive public influences.

Judge Gardiner reported on efforts to improve the driving habits of children in cooperation with the public schools.

Mrs. Holland suggested that churches be approached about the possibility of setting up a nursery service for young couples so that they would be able to go out occasionally in the evening together and have a place where the child or children could be left with some degree of security.

The Director was requested to take up this suggestion with the Ministerial Association in Upper Pinellas County and with the United Churches of Greater St. Petersburg and see whether some plan could be worked out to meet the needs of this very large number of young married people. Mrs. Holland made a motion to this effect which was seconded by Judge Gardiner and carried unanimously. Mrs. Holland suggested that a Nurses' Aide might be secured for each of the churches undertaking this type of service.

Mr. Patrick met with the Board and discussed his probation report. He was congratulated on the clarity of the report which was arranged in an understandable form.

The Director reported on the In School Counseling Project and indicated the desirability of working more intensively with this project to insure that a type of quality service was performed rather than a superficial mass handling of children. He stated that he was acting as a final arbiter in whether the psychologist and the social worker should take on new and more extensive types of work. He was trying to limit it to an intensive types of careful study of real problems with the view to demonstrating the degree of success which could be attained in such a program.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was scheduled for October 11 in the St. Petersburg Office of the Board.

Nancy Meador