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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1951 : 06 : 14 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting of June 14, 1951

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

The minutes of the May 24th meeting were read and approved.

There was some discussion of the work of Miss Lovely who feels that she is overworked, but who, in the opinion of the members of the Board, does not carry a sufficient case load to warrant this feeling. There have been complaints from the Juvenile Judge and the Probation Officer of lack of cooperation on the part of Miss Lovely in carrying out instructions and in taking care of emergencies when requested to do so. Mr. Patrick who was present at a part of the Board meeting stated that in his opinion Miss Lovely's work and cooperation was not satisfactory. Mr. Patrick reported that Miss Lovely carried over from April a case load of two delinquent children and seven neglected children. During the month no delinquent children were added and sixteen neglected children were added who had not been known to the court. In addition three delinquent cases and six neglected cases of children were re-opened by Miss Lovely. After the four delinquent and nine neglected children's cases were closed, Miss Lovely had a carry over at the end of May of one delinquent and twenty neglected children. After the discussion the Board recommended that Mr. Patrick write Miss Lovely giving her specified reasons why he and the Board feel that she is not meeting the requirements of her position. Following this action the Board requested that Mr. Patrick bring Miss Lovely before the Board for a discussion of her work in order to determine whether she is willing to and can carry out the responsibilities of her position.

There was some discussion regarding the appointment of the Juvenile Judge with special emphasis upon doing whatever is possible to secure the appointment of Mr. Ben Krentzman who has been recommended to the Governor for appointment. It was suggested that an effort be made to appeal to the Governor through the press for the appointment of the right person regardless of any political considerations.

Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Strickland seconded a motion that expenditures from the General Operating Fund of the Juvenile Welfare Board as covered by Checks Nos. 2130 through 2156 and in the School Counseling Fund as covered by Checks 179 through 185 be approved for payment. The motion carried.

Dr. Williams explained the need for another tape recorder for use in dictating and transcribing case records and other materials in the court and in the Juvenile Welfare Board. Mrs. Meador moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion that the Director be authorized to purchase another tape recorder for the use of the Juvenile Welfare Board office. This motion was carried.

The Director pointed out the need for an alternate to sign checks when Mr. Christian or Judge Marshall are out of town. Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion that the representative on the Board from the Board of County Commissioners be authorized to sign checks for the Juvenile Welfare Board and be bonded accordingly. This motion was carried.

A report was made to the Board by members who attended the Budget Board Hearing on the budget of the Juvenile Welfare Board. The approval of the Budget as submitted by the Juvenile Welfare Board with changes in the Juvenile Judge's salary as required by law was secured from the County Budget Commission.
Mr. Patrick, Probation Officer for Pinellas County, was invited into the meeting and gave a detailed report of the case load of each of his workers and of himself during the month of May. According to his report he began the month with 23 delinquent and 17 neglected children in his caseload. A total of 46 delinquent children were added during the month, but of this number 40 were traffic cases and did not require probationary work, leaving only 6 new delinquent cases with whom the probation officer had to work. There were 37 new neglected cases added to his case load during the month and three old cases in this group were re-opened. Mr. Patrick reported that 3 of his 37 neglected children cases were requests for admission to the Crippled Children’s Hospital and 3 were adoption cases. These did not require casework services. In addition, there was 1 delinquent case re-opened. During the month 51 delinquent cases including the 40 traffic cases were closed, and 40 neglected cases were closed, leaving a carry over to the first of June of 19 delinquent children and 17 neglected children in his case load. During the month he made two trips to Marianna, one of which included also a trip to Ozark, Alabama and a return by way of Ocala with a girl who had run away to Ozark.

Mr. Patrick reported that Miss Lovely began the month with two delinquent children and 7 neglected children in her case load. During the month there were no new delinquent cases added to her case load but there were 16 new neglected cases added to her caseload. There was also 3 delinquent cases and 6 neglected cases re-opened and added to Miss Lovely’s caseload. During the month she closed 4 delinquent and 9 neglected cases. This left a carry-over of 1 delinquent and 20 neglected cases at the end of the month. Mr. Patrick reported that Mr. Summers began the month with 39 delinquent and 34 neglected children in his case load. During the month there were 6 delinquent and 3 neglected new cases added to Mr. Summers’ case load. He had no delinquent cases to be re-opened and only 2 neglected cases were re-opened during the month. He closed 7 delinquent and 26 neglected cases. This left him with a carry over at the end of the month of 38 delinquent and 13 neglected cases in his case load.

The Board invited Dr. Thelma Voorhis and Mrs. Wyatt Dame to report on the activities of the School Counseling Service during the past year. According to the report given by Dr. Voorhis, the In School Counseling Service had referred to it 270 children from 3 schools. Dr. Voorhis reported on the public relations activities of Mrs. Dame and herself and told of the number of meetings and number of radio talks, the number of conferences, and forums in which they had participated. She also told of the number of tests which she had helped to give.

In the discussion which followed this report the Board showed particular interest in the division of the case load in so far as carrying the extensive work with disturbed children was concerned. Members of the Board expressed surprise at the number of cases which had been accepted for treatment and raised some questions regarding the program for the future of the In School Counseling Service. It was generally agreed that the activities of the staff in terms of public relations and in terms of an open-door policy for the first year was essential in developing good relationships between In School Counseling staff and the school staff. But it was felt by some members of the Board that the program should now begin to become more intensive and should do a more careful followup on cases accepted for study and followup. It was suggested that a more intensive followup on cases which have not been followed up due to lack of time be undertaken during the summer months to the extent that this is possible.
Dr. Voorhis urged that a full-time secretary be employed to act as receptionist so that uninterrupted testing and interviewing could take place with a freedom from telephone and other interruptions. It was pointed out that no funds were available in the budget for a full-time secretary and that it would be necessary to use volunteers wherever possible in this service.

Dr. Williams reported on the Juvenile Court Act which was passed but which makes it permissive for county commissioners to adopt the law as passed by the legislature.

Dr. Williams also reported that the foster home funds were being rapidly depleted and that it would be necessary to request of the Budget Board a transfer from Juvenile Homes to Foster Homes later.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on the second Thursday of July in St. Petersburg.

Nancy Meador

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