

3-22-1951

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1951 : 03 : 22 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Minutes of March 22, 1951
Meeting Held in Clearwater

Attending were Mrs. Bartlett, Chairman, Mrs. Holland, Judge Marshall, and Mrs. Meador. Also present was Dr. Williams, the Director.

The minutes of the March 8th meeting were read and approved.

Dr. Williams reported that no compensation could be made for mileage for members of the Juvenile Welfare Board, according to the legal opinion of Mr. Leonard Cooperman, the attorney for the Board.

Judge Marshall reported that he was attending a meeting of the Probation Officers and Judges of the Juvenile Courts of Florida in Jacksonville on March 31, and would stop by to see the Superintendent of the Florida Farm Colony and also visit Forest Hill so that the Board could be more adequately informed about this building through a report from a personal inspection by a member of the Board. Judge Marshall also plans to discuss with the other judges and probation officers in Florida the matter of children being admitted to jook joints and bars where alcoholic beverages are sold.

Mrs. Holland moved and Judge Marshall seconded the motion that Mrs. Margaret Pinkston be paid for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days of accumulated vacation and sick time in compensation for overtime and other valuable services rendered during Mrs. Pinkston's employment with the Board. The motion was carried.

Mrs. Meador moved that General Operation Checks No. 2026 through 2046 covering expenditures from the General Fund be approved for payment, and that expenditures as represented by Checks 149 through 155 in the School Counseling Fund also be approved for payment. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Holland and carried unanimously.

The Board discussed Activities Reports from the Child Guidance Clinic, the Children's Service Bureau, the Child Welfare Unit of the District #4 Welfare Board, the Juvenile Court, and of the Director. The reports were approved and ordered filed.

It was agreed that the various agencies affiliated with the Juvenile Welfare Board would make their reports according to a schedule to be worked out. The meeting on the 12th of April will be taken up by a Children's Committee meeting and by a discussion with Mr. Patrick of the Juvenile Court in regard to certain weaknesses in the administration and follow-up in the Probation Department.

The Board also discussed the number of boys in the training school and asked for a report on some of those who had been committed recently. Judge Marshall give such a report.

The Board requested that cases of children appearing on delinquent charges as re-opened cases be analyzed and presented in monthly reports of the future.

Judge Marshall pointed out that there was a need for more adequate records and more careful record keeping with analyses by a person charged with that responsibility. Under the law the Chief Probation Officer is the Clerk of the Court and has this responsibility, but it was indicated in the discussion that some of this work has been carried by the Judge and the Director of the Board. This is one of the matters that is to be discussed with the Probation Officer.

Dr. Williams reported on a meeting of the Children's Service Bureau Board in reference to adoption service which is being considered by the Board, and indicated that the Children's Service Bureau is making a further study of the matter with some action expected within the next month or two. He stated that some of the Board of the Children's Service Bureau wishes to get information regarding the reorganization of services now planned for the Children's Home Society of Florida before taking final action.

A report was made to the Board by Mrs. Bartlett and Dr. Williams regarding a joint meeting of the Juvenile Court and the Police Department with the Press and the Juvenile Welfare Board being present. There was a discussion of this report and the Judge requested that some effort be made to find an unbiased, objective person to make a study of the juvenile traffic cases for two years prior to the beginning of the method on June 1, 1950 and that a comparative study be made between the two year record and the record since that time as to the number of repeaters and also as to the tendency for traffic offenders to later become juvenile delinquents charged with other types of delinquency.

The Director was instructed to investigate the possibility of a trade-in of the Board car while it is still possible to get a new car.

The Director presented a Budget for 1951-52 together with a comparison of that budget with the budget for 1950-51. Mrs. Bartlett suggested and Judge Marshall approved that the Budget as presented by Dr. Williams be revised to include a salary increase for Dr. Williams, the Director. Mrs. Bartlett pointed out that the Director had served for more than three years without any salary increase and stated that his services had been of tremendous value to the county during that entire period. Judge Marshall stated that he felt a salary increase was in order. Dr. Williams declined the increase on the grounds that it would not be in the best interest of the Board and of the children to accept such an increase at this time. He pointed out that the increased federal taxes and the needs for economy indicated the desirability for postponing any consideration of an increase for the Director at this time. Following this discussion Judge Marshall moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion that the Budget as presented by Dr. Williams be adopted. This motion was passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, until April 12th.

Nancy Meador
Nancy Meador