12-10-1953

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1953 : 12 : 10 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.
Meeting of December 10, 1953
Held in Clearwater

Present: Mrs. Harrison, Chairman; Mr. Parry, Secretary; Mrs. Holland; Mrs. Jackson; and the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams.

Motion: Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion which carried that the minutes of the November 12 meeting be approved as sent to the membership.

Motion: Expenditures

Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion that the expenditures as listed in checks #3334 through #3369 in the General Operating Account, and checks #429 through #433 in the In-School Counseling Account be approved for payment. The motion carried.

There was some discussion of in-school counseling which involved questions by members and explanations by the Director regarding the integration of the In-School Counseling Service into the public schools, Special Education Division. The Director stated that the service now included two psychologists and six visiting teachers. While that is not entirely adequate to give best service to the schools, it was a more effective type of county-wide service than had been available at any time in the past.

The Director recommended that the Juvenile Welfare Board pay Mr. Patrick for the two weeks between November 15 and November 30, and that the Juvenile Welfare Board recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that an additional two weeks of severance pay be given to Mr. Patrick by the Board of County Commissioners. This would involve an expenditure of $175 by the Juvenile Welfare Board and $195 by the Board of County Commissioners, since they pay the extra $20 salary beyond what the budget allows for the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Motion: Mr. Parry moved that this recommendation be accepted; Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion which carried.

The Board also discussed methods for the suitable recognition of Mr. Patrick's long and faithful service to the children of Pinellas County over the past sixteen years.

A short digest of the annual report with explanations was given by the Director.

Reports from the Children's Service Bureau on four cases in the form of letters was read to the Board for its information.

This was followed by a discussion of the Homemaker program with special emphasis upon the case of a tubercular mother, where the family income was given at approximately $400 a month. Following the discussion

Motion: Financing Homemaker services

Mrs. Holland moved that the Juvenile Welfare Board adopt as a general principal, the policy of not financing homemaker services in families where the income was not approximately equal to or below the budget standards set up by the State Welfare Department for relief families. Special cases would be considered on the basis of complete information submitted to the Juvenile Welfare Board. Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion which carried.
The Director brought up the question of support of children pending adoption placement. After some discussion of this problem, the attitude of the Board was that the Juvenile Welfare Board would feel responsible for the support of indigent children pending adoption, if the child and its parents are residents of Pinellas County, but it could not see its way clear to take the responsibility for the support of children whose parents had residence elsewhere.

The Director pointed out that the number of children now being referred for foster home placement has been greatly increased and that there are some twelve children in shelter care under state support who will be transferred to Juvenile Welfare Board support in December, and another eighteen in shelter care whose time for state support will expire by the end of February. This brings up the problem of what can be done to keep the number of children within our budget or to increase our budget item for funds, making it possible to expand the foster home program. The Juvenile Welfare Board budget of $34,000 a year for foster care provides for an average of about 45 children in foster care. With the 30 additions in sight, the budget will be far exceeded unless plans can be made for many of these children elsewhere.

The Board discussed the activities reports for October, including the Juvenile Court report for September.

The Director explained the case of the foster mother who seems to have become seriously disturbed emotionally in the past few months.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on the second Thursday in January, unless a situation develops making it necessary to call a special meeting.

Sidney S. Parry
Secretary