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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1951:08:16: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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The Juvenile Welfare Board met in the Court House in Clearwater on August 16, 1951 at 9:30 a.m. Present were: Chairman Bartlett, Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Meador, Mr. Christian, and Judge Gardiner. Also present were Dr. Williams, the Director, and former Juvenile Judge and Board member Alfred Marshall.

The minutes of the July 12 meeting were read and approved with the following correction. The last line of Paragraph 12 was altered by striking out "counsel for the Board" and substituting "member of the legislative committee." In this connection, the services of Mr. Cooperman to the Juvenile Welfare Board in preparing amendments for legislative consideration and in attending to other legal interests of the Board by giving it advice and counsel was mentioned. The Board expressed its deep appreciation for Mr. Cooperman's unfailing interest and cooperation regarding the work of the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Dr. Williams reported that the universities were trying to place graduate students with the School Counseling Project for their field work training. He mentioned the fact that the University of Florida at Gainesville is interested in placing a psychology student in this setting as a psychological intern. He stated that the Florida State University is interested in placing one or two graduate students in social work in the school counseling project for field work training. He stated that it was imperative to have mature, well trained students in this placement if we are to be successful with them. It was pointed out that the Juvenile Welfare Board furnishes one of the few if not the only opportunity for training students in a school setting under a qualified supervisor.

Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion approving expenditures from the general operating fund of the Juvenile Welfare Board as covered by Checks No. 2199 - 2241 inclusive and from the In-School Counseling Fund as covered by Checks No. 196 - 205 inclusive. The motion was passed.

Dr. Williams reported on the number of cases now receiving foster home care at the expense of the Juvenile Welfare Board. He reported that the Child Welfare Unit of the District #1 Welfare Board was caring for 39 children for a total of 1,192 days during the month of July. The Children's Service Bureau cared for 7 children for the entire month. The total cost for foster home care during the month was $2,012.83. In connection with the foster home care of children, Dr. Williams pointed out that the Juvenile Welfare Board is exceeding its allocation for foster home care up to this time. He told about other children who should be cared for away from their own homes. He mentioned in particular a mongolian child recently born to a family of very limited income with young children already in the home. This child should be cared for in a state institution but under present regulations will not be admitted for six years and with the present lack of facilities, there is a long waiting list of children in need of this type of care. He mentioned also other children who should receive care in foster homes locally but the present budget will not permit us to accept them without turning some other child out.

In discussing the financial condition of the Juvenile Welfare Board, it was pointed out that the Juvenile Welfare Board is living within its budget except for Foster Care, and that there are sufficient funds in the budget to provide for needed transfer either from Juvenile Homes or from Other Services and Emergencies. However, there is the problem of the failure of the Board of County Commissioners to levy the full 50¢ per thousand required by law, which will result in a failure to collect the total amount of the budgeted funds as provided for the Juvenile Welfare Board by the Budget Commission at their hearing. Again it was emphasized
that the Budget Commission budgeted $75,000 for the Juvenile Welfare Board, but the Board of County Commissioners only levied 45¢ instead of 50¢ required by law, and that this will result in a collection of something like $70,000 instead of the $75,000 required by the budget. What this will do to the program of the Juvenile Welfare Board is hard to see at this point. The Juvenile Welfare Board in the discussion that followed agreed to press for a full payment of the budgeted amount and to appear before the Board of County Commissioners to urge them to make the necessary steps to pay the total funds. The Juvenile Welfare Board Director was requested to make the necessary arrangements for meeting with the Board of County Commissioners either on the 21st of August or the 28th of August if, in the opinion of Mr. Cooperman and Judge Bogue, such a step was deemed advisable. If they advise otherwise, the Juvenile Welfare Board agreed to follow their suggestions but insisted on pressing for a complete payment of amounts due, even if this involved legal action.

There was some discussion of the activities reports for June and Mr. Patrick, Chief Probation Officer was invited in to make a report on the activities of the Probation Department during June and July and to report on the work of Miss Lovely in line with the Board’s action at its last meeting. Mr. Patrick reported that the court began July with 41 delinquent and 43 neglected children in the active case load. During the month 48 new and reopened cases were added to the case load, of which 36 were traffic cases. During the month there were 45 new cases added to the caseload of neglected children. By the end of the month a total of 52 delinquent cases were closed, leaving a carry over of 37 delinquent children, and 35 neglected children's cases were closed, leaving an active caseload of 52 neglected children at the end of July.

The board requested that a summary sheet be added to Mr. Patrick's regular report giving information in a simple form.

The Juvenile Welfare Board presented to Judge Marshall a Service Award as an evidence of his outstanding service to children of Pinellas County during his period as Juvenile Judge. The Board also expressed its deep appreciation of his unfailing patience, understanding, sympathy, and effectiveness in dealing with the problem children of the county.

Chairman Bartlett asked Judge Gardiner to serve on the Board of the Child Guidance Clinic in the place of Judge Marshall who as Juvenile Judge and a member of the Juvenile Welfare Board was also a member of the Board of the Child Guidance Clinic. The Juvenile Welfare Board helps to subsidize the Child Guidance Clinic and the Board wishes to have some representation on the Board of the Clinic.

Dr. Williams and Judge Gardiner presented the case of a child whose parents had brought him to Florida but have proved to be inadequate to provide proper care for the child. Arrangements have been made for his return to Pennsylvania but funds of $80 are necessary to return an attendant from Pa. to St. Petersburg. Mrs. Meador moved and Judge Gardiner seconded a motion that the Juvenile Welfare Board consider this a special emergency and provide the funds for the return of the attendant in the amount of $80 if this becomes necessary in order to insure that the child return to the home where he can receive proper care. The motion was carried.

The date of the next meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was set for Sept. 13 in the St. Petersburg Office of the Board at 9:30 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Nancy Meador