

10-12-1950

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1950 : 10 : 12 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, "Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1950 : 10 : 12 : Minutes" (1950). *Junior Welfare Board Agendas/Minutes*. 68.
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Minutes of October 12, 1950

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bartlett with the following members present: Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Holland, Mr. Belcher and Judge Marshall. Dr. Williams, Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board was also presented.

Miss Margaret Lovely, Social Worker attached to the Court, appeared before the Board to outline certain cases of girls under her supervision and in such outline pointed out the need for more and better detention facilities.

In line with Miss Lovely's presentation of present shortcomings, Judge Marshall submitted the following:

"I recommend that any renewal of the Juvenile Welfare Board's agreement with the Children's Service Bureau shall not include any provisions for foster care of dependent children or temporary home care for delinquent children. My recommendation is that all foster home care for dependent children be furnished and supervised by the Child Welfare Unit of District #4 Welfare Board and that temporary home care for delinquent children be furnished in foster homes selected, maintained, and supervised by the Juvenile Welfare Board."

After some discussion it was agreed that the Board members would give this matter consideration and would discuss it further at a later meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of September 26, 1950 were approved as mailed to the members.

Upon motion of Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mrs. Strickland and carried that the In-School Counseling Project lend to the General Fund the cash sum of \$5,000, the same to be repaid when monies are available.

The attached resolution from the Board of County Commissioners was read.

The matter of the shortage in the Board's 1949 budget due to the Board of County Commissioner's failure to levy millage as required by law was presented and upon motion of Judge Marshall, seconded by Mrs. Holland and carried, the Director was instructed to prepare and send to the Board of County Commissioners a bill for \$2,548.88 for the shortage of tax funds in 1949 less a credit thereon of \$750.00 for rents in the County Building in St. Petersburg or a net of \$1,798.88.

The matter of expenditures over the budget during the year ending September 30, 1950 was discussed and the following resolution was presented by Mrs. Holland, who moved its adoption, to wit:

"Whereas, in the budget year ending September 30, 1950 the item for Foster Homes is overdrawn \$50.65 and the item of Other Services is overdrawn in the sum of \$37.06 and

Whereas, the item of Juvenile Homes is underspent \$633.99, and

Whereas, said item of Juvenile Homes, Foster Homes, and Other Services are practically identical and the shortages above mentioned should be charged against the overages above mentioned,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the aggregate sum of \$87.71 representing shortages in the items of Foster Homes and Other Services be and the same is hereby charged against the Juvenile Homes Budgeted item."

Upon a poll of members present, all voted favorably for the resolution, carried.

Upon motion of Mr. Belcher, seconded by Mrs. Strickland and carried, expenditures reflected in checks numbered 1794 to 1824 inclusive on the General Fund and numbers 81 to 89 inclusive in School Counseling Fund were approved.

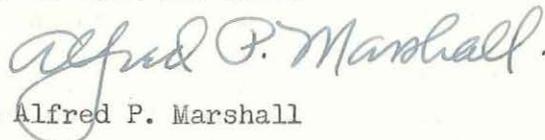
A new agreement with the Child Welfare Unit, District #4 Welfare Board was presented and upon motion of Mrs. Holland, seconded by Mrs. Strickland and carried, the Board Chairman was authorized to sign the same.

Dr. Williams reported on the foster home program as follows: He gave a report showing that the Foster Home program had remained relatively stable with a gradual increase up until July 1950 when children in foster care with the both the Children's Service Bureau and the Child Welfare Unit increased in number. This increase continued during July, August, and September, with September reaching a total of \$2,737.57 in cost of care. He pointed out that under the Budget for 1950-51 an average of only \$1,900 per month can be spent in foster care. Since the foster care of children averages about \$50.00 per month per child, this would mean that we can only have an average of 38 children in foster care for each month, or a total of some 1140 days of foster home care per month.

At the time the Budget was prepared in April the expenditures for the preceding six months were well within this budget. It was only during the last three months of the fiscal year that the major increase occurred.

At the end of September there were approximately 60 children under care, not all of whom were being entirely supported by the Juvenile Welfare Board. This means that foster care of some 22 children would have to be discontinued, in order to get within the budget, assuming that each one of them continued, and each one of those continued should receive a full months care.

Dr. Williams reported that conferences with Mrs. Ripper and Miss Parsons had resulted in plans for the curtailment of foster home care in every case where this was possible without returning the child to a hostile, rejecting home situation. It had also been agreed that the temporary detention care would be assumed by the Child Welfare Unit of the District Welfare Board as a part of their shelter care program for which state funds are available. This would decrease the amount which the Juvenile Welfare Board would need to spend for juvenile homes and might result in a savings of some \$1,700 in the allocation of \$2,500 which had been made for this purpose in the 1950-51 budget. He stated that the assumption of this responsibility by the Child Welfare unit would begin October 1 insofar as cost of care was concerned, but that the finding and supervision of separate homes under the supervision of the Child Welfare Unit would be a gradual process. Pending its completion the homes now under the supervision of the Children's Service Bureau would be used. Board members expressed their concern over the need for reducing foster home care and the possibility of children badly needing such care if facilities were not available to meet the need.


Alfred P. Marshall