2-25-1954

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1954 : 02 : 25 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting of February 25, 1954
Held in Clearwater

Present: Mrs. Harrison, Chairman; Mr. Parry, Secretary; Mrs. Jackson; Mrs. Holland; Mrs. Strickland; and the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams. Mrs. Woods, Miss Foster, and Mrs. Daner from the League of Women Voters in St. Petersburg and Clearwater were visitors.

The minutes of the February 11, 1954 Meeting were read and approved as read.

Motion: Mrs. Jackson moved and Mrs. Holland seconded the motion that expenditures under the General Operating Account as indicated by checks No. 3131 through No. 3155, and under the In-School Counseling Account as listed by checks No. 446 through No. 449 be approved for payment. The motion carried.

The request from the Children's Service Bureau for assistance in meeting a hospital bill for Baby Girl Davis was presented by Dr. Williams. In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that this was a proper charge against the City Hospital Service of St. Petersburg which is tax supported, and that the Children's Service Bureau be urged to refer the matter to them for disposition.

Dr. Williams reported on the donation by the Woman's Club of St. Petersburg of $300 for the purchase of medicine for indigent children. Mrs. Woods, a member of the Woman's Club, said that Drew Pearson had donated half of his fee of $1,000 for the welfare fund of the Woman's Club.

The Director presented material which he had prepared for submission to the Lane Bryant Award Committee of 1953 in connection with a nomination for the award for the Juvenile Welfare Board. This was approved by the Board.

The Director reported back on the possibility of selection of a juvenile court judge by a board. He stated that, in the opinion of Mr. Cooperman, the Board counsel, the Florida Constitution provided for the selection of a county official in only two ways; one, by election by voters, and the other by appointment by the governor. A constitutional amendment would be needed to change the present law.

It was suggested that the candidates for governor be asked about the revision of the Constitution in this connection.

The Activities reports for January were discussed in some detail.

Visitors from the California Youth Authority were introduced. They discussed the program of the Authority with the Board.

A discussion of the present financial load in foster care and the need for carefully watching any additional commitments to foster care resulted in

Motion: a motion by Mrs. Strickland, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that the Director write to Judge Gardiner and the Child Welfare Unit calling their attention to the necessity for avoiding additional commitments against foster care funds prior to discussion with the Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until the second Thursday in March.

Sidney S. Parry
Secretary

LETTER TO JUDGE WILLIAM G. GARDINER

February 26, 1954

Judge William G. Gardiner
Juvenile Court
219 County Building
St. Petersburg, Florida

Dear Judge Gardiner:

The Juvenile Welfare Board, at its meeting yesterday, passed a motion requesting that we write to you and to Mrs. Irwin about the situation in our Foster Home Care funds.

No doubt, you already know about this as you get copies of our minutes whether you attend our meetings or not. But, it is possible, that through you inability to attend recent meetings, you have not been kept informed of the severity of the situation.

To state it briefly, the Juvenile Welfare Board had allocated to foster home care an amount sufficient to care for approximately 45 children full time during this fiscal year. In January, we had 70 children under care, for a total of 2074 days, at a cost of $4,869.64. The Juvenile Court collected $240.68, and the parents paid directly $197.23, making a total of $137.91. This left an expenditure of $4,131.73 from the Juvenile Welfare Board funds. The total annual budget for foster homes is $34,000, or $2,833.33 per month. In January, then, we spent $598.40 more than the monthly amount allocated for foster care.

The Board is concerned about this situation and requests that neither the Court nor the Child Welfare Unit place children in foster care under Juvenile Welfare Board funds without first discussing the matter with the Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board, in order to determine the availability of funds for such care.

Appreciating your cooperation, I am

Sincerely yours,

Herbert D. Williams
Director

HDW:cc
LETTER TO MRS. ELOISE L. ERWIN

February 26, 1954

Mrs. Eloise L. Erwin
Child Welfare Unit
State Department of Public Welfare
200 County Bldg., St. Petersburg, Florida

Dear Mrs. Erwin:

The Juvenile Welfare Board, at its meeting yesterday, passed a motion requesting that we write to you and to Judge Gardiner about the situation in our Foster Home Care funds.

To state it briefly, the Juvenile Welfare Board had allocated to foster home care an amount sufficient to care for approximately 45 children full time during this fiscal year. In January, we had 70 children under care, for a total of 2074 days, at a cost of $3,869.64. The Juvenile Court collected $240.68, and the parents paid in directly $197.23 making a total of $1,37.91. This left an expenditure of $3,131.73 from the Juvenile Welfare Board funds. The total annual budget for foster homes is $34,000, or $2,833.33 per month. In January, then, we spent $598.40 more than the monthly amount allocated for foster care.

The Board is concerned about this situation, and requests that neither the Child Welfare Unit nor the Court place children in foster care under Juvenile Welfare Board funds without first discussing the matter with the Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board, in order to determine the availability of funds for such care.

Appreciating your cooperation, I am

Sincerely yours,

Herbert D. Williams
Director

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