2-10-1955

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1955 : 02 : 10 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.
The regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was held in Clearwater on February 10, 1955.

Present: Mrs. Baya Harrison, Chairman; Mrs. John Strickland, Secretary; Mrs. H. W. Holland; Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner-Jackson; Judge William G. Gardiner; and the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams; also present were Charles O. Parks, Jr., Judge-Elect of the Juvenile Court and Evan R. Jenkins, on the Board of County Commissioners.

Motion: Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Strickland seconded a motion, which carried, that the minutes of the January 27, 1955 meeting be approved as submitted to the membership by mail.

Motion: Expenditures
Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion, which carried, that expenditures for January 31, 1955 as listed under check #3868; for February 15, 1955 as listed under checks #3869 through #3888 in the General Operating Account; and checks #489 and #490 in the In-School Counseling Account be approved for payment.

The financial reports for January were discussed and it was pointed out that expenditures are all within the budget, except for a slight deficit in "Foster Care," at the end of January.

The Director pointed out that the load in foster care has been increasing largely because of the increase in population, but probably also because of the inadequate A.D.C. grants available, especially for large families where the maximum grant is $81.00 per family, which fails to take into account any of the children beyond four in a family.

The Director gave figures as of the 1st of February 1955 showing 604 families on A.D.C. with 1521 children; 77 families having 4 children; 29 families having 5 children; 9 families having 6 children; 10 families having 7 children; and 3 families having 8 children.

A mother with 5 to 8 children, struggling to survive on $81.00 a month which includes rent, heating, utilities, food, clothing, and medical care, frequently breaks down under the strain, and the children must be placed in foster homes at an approximate cost of $60.00 a month.

It was further brought out that the proposed reduction of $3,000,000 in the state's allocation to A.D.C. funds means a reduction of $9,000,000 in funds available for this service. Sixty-seven cents out of every dollar comes from the federal government and only thirty-three cents is spent from state funds. Without the state funds, the federal funds are not available to the increasing child population of Florida.

The Board was interested in securing a copy of proposed legislation relating to the Child Welfare Program in the state.

During the month of January, a total of 68 children were in foster care for a total of 2092 days at a total cost of $4,492.91 Contributions by parents and relatives and collections by the court totaled $423.34. The cost to the Juvenile Welfare Board was $59.84 per child.
The Director read a request from the Children's Service Bureau for support of Illeane Dallas, an infant, until she can be placed for adoption. He recommended granting this request. Judge Gardiner moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion, which carried that the Juvenile Welfare Board support the child from January 10, 1955 for a maximum of ninety days.

In the election of a Secretary, Mrs. Jackson nominated Mrs. Strickland.

Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion that nominations be closed and that the Chairman cast a unanimous ballot for Mrs. Strickland as Secretary. The motion carried.

In the election of a Chairman,

Mrs. Holland moved that Mrs. Harrison be elected to continue as Chairman for the ensuing year. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Jackson and the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous vote electing Mrs. Harrison, which was done.

Dr. Williams was asked to talk to Dr. White at the Child Guidance Clinic about emergency cases in the Juvenile Court.

A letter from Mr. Rivkind expressing appreciation to the Board for its encouragement and help was read.

Judge Gardiner moved that a letter be written to Mr. Rivkind praising him for his work and for his contribution. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jackson and carried.

A letter from the Community Welfare Council, telling about the selection, for an award, of the non-professional man or woman who is judged to have contributed most to the welfare of youth of our community during the preceding year. Judge Gardiner suggested that some way be found to recommend persons rendering emergency or other service to children. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

Judge Gardiner moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion that the Clearwater Bank in Clearwater, Florida and The First National Bank in St. Petersburg, Florida be continued as depositories for funds of the Juvenile Welfare Board and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon checks of the Juvenile Welfare Board and that such checks shall be countersigned by the Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board and signed by two (2) of the county officer members of the Board. The three (3) county officer members of the Board are the Judge of the Juvenile Court, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Vice-Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. This is in compliance with the Juvenile Welfare Board Act, Chapter 26356 (#38), Senate Bill #28X (49) which provides: "...The monies so received by the Juvenile Welfare Board shall be deposited in a separate bank account and shall be withdrawn only by checks signed by at least two (2) members of the said Board...." The motion carried.

The Director reported on the progress of the mental health meeting and urged everyone to attend.
The Director was urged to get the Juvenile Welfare Board Act ready for distribution to the Board of County Commissioners and the Legislative Delegation as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board would be held on March 3, 1955, and that the Juvenile Welfare Board members will meet with the Board of County Commissioners and the Legislative Delegation on March 7, 1955.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Kathleen E. Strickland
Secretary