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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1956 : 04 : 19 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting of April 19, 1956

Held in Clearwater

Present: Judge Charles O. Parks, who acted as Chairman in the absence of Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Jackson; Mrs. H.W. Holland, Secretary, pro tem; Mr. Floyd T. Christian; and Mr. Charles R. Fischer; also present, the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams and Mrs. Mildred Mount, Supervisor of the Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare.

There being no corrections or amendments, the minutes of the March 21 meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board and the March 21 meeting of the Children's Committee of Pinellas County were approved as submitted to the membership by mail.

Motion: Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Fischer seconded a motion that expenditures as covered by checks #1357 through #1395 in the General Operating Account and checks #37 through #41 in the Trustee Account be approved for payment. These expenditures and checks are dated March 30 and April 15, 1956. The motion carried.

The financial reports for March and for the first six months of the fiscal year were discussed.

A report of children in foster care during March was submitted and discussed.

Mrs. Mount of the Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare submitted a report covering the first six months of the fiscal year and described in some detail the sources of the cases requiring foster care, kinds of problems involved and the dispositions being made with reference to some of these cases. She reported that the Child Welfare Unit had worked with 141 different children in the first six months of the year and that 90 of these were cared for under Juvenile Welfare Board funds. Fifty-one of them were short-time care cases for which care was provided from State funds.

She stated that 96 children were in foster care at the present time, 36 of them were placed in the past year, 47 of them between one and five years, and 13 have been in foster care for a period of over 5 years. There were 63 other children in their own homes or with relatives, or in special situations with whom the Child Welfare Unit was working.

Mrs. Mount stated that referrals came from the other agencies, from parents, and from the Juvenile Court. Of the children in care at the present time, 66 of them came from the Juvenile Court.

Child, Parent or Relative	28
Juvenile Court	66
Other Agencies in this locality	38
Agencies not in this locality	27

The current reasons for placement of these children were: 4 because of death of mother; 14, physical illness of parents; 3, mental illness of parents; 36, the largest group, emotional problems of parents, including mental illness; 26 of them had parents who were alcoholic and immature, unstable, unable to take care of the children; 21 were brought to the attention of the Child Welfare Unit because of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

Death of mother	4 children
Physical illness of parent	14 children
Mental illness of parent	3 children
Emotional problems of parents	36 children
Imprisonment of parent	8 children
Alcoholic parents	26 children
Abuse, neglect, or abandonment of children	21 children
Physically or mentally handicapped	12 children
Behavior problems	3 children
Runaway	6 children
Social Studies or supervision	24 children

She described one child who is not doing very well, having had a very serious problem before and who now needs very badly dental work involving her front teeth.

Motion:
Nancy Noble Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion, which carried that the Board approve the reimbursement of the Child Welfare Unit for expenditures in connection with the required dental work for Nancy Noble, the girl in question.

Motion:
Investment of surplus funds Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Fischer seconded a motion, which carried, that the Director check to see if any surplus funds could be profitably invested for short time notes or investments and a report brought to the Board on his findings.

Motion:
Attendance at Florida Conference of Social Welfare Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion, which carried, that approval be given for the attendance of Dr. Williams and Dr. Finck at the Florida Conference of Social Welfare with expenses paid by the Juvenile Welfare Board.

A six months report on marriage and family counseling and a six months report on financial aspects of homemaker service were submitted to the Board.

Dr. Williams gave a report on Diana Chandler and the Ryan children for whom the Children's Service Bureau is now providing service. He indicated that the expenditure of funds for Diana has stopped as of April 1, when she got married, but she will continue in and finish high school this June.

The Ryan children were reported as needing a continuation of foster home care and the Board was asked to approve the foster care of the Ryan children for the period required to meet their needs.

A report on meetings in April and May in which the Board might be interested was given by the Director.

Mrs. Mount requested that the Child Welfare Unit be authorized to give a token of recognition to the 53 foster mothers who are caring for 96 children in foster homes in the county. The Director pointed out that the Juvenile Welfare Board has in its Trustee funds with no required allocation, money given to the Board to meet special needs which the Board may find and which cannot be met through tax funds.

Motion:

Expenditure of
Trustee funds
for recogni-
tion of foster
mothers

Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland second a motion that the Juvenile Welfare Board approve the expenditure of \$50 from this special fund for Mother's Day corsages to foster mothers who are rendering such an unselfish and valuable service to the children of the county. The motion carried.

After some discussion, it was decided that the third Thursday in May seemed to be as satisfactory a day for meeting as could be found and it was agreed to hold the meeting at that time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Mailande W. Holland

Mailande W. Holland
Secretary pro tem