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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1955 : 01 : 27 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting of January 27, 1955
Held in Clearwater

The regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was held in Clearwater on January 27, 1955.

Present: Mrs. Baya Harrison, Chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Jackson, Secretary pro tern; Mrs. John Strickland; Mr. Floyd Christian; Judge William G. Gardiner; Mr. Charles R. Fischer; and the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams. In addition to the Board members and the Director, Mr. B. E. Shaffer and Colonel Charles R. Johnson, members of the Legislative Delegation of Pinellas County, Mr. Evan R. Jenkins and Mr. Charles J. Wood, members of the Board of County Commissioners, Mr. Charles O. Parks, Jr., Juvenile Court Judge-Elect, and Mr. Sidney S. Parry, former Vice-Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and Secretary of the Juvenile Welfare Board, together with Mrs. Parry were present.

The minutes of the January 13, 1955 meeting were approved as submitted to the membership by mail.

Motion: Expenditures

Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Fischer seconded a motion to approve expenditures for January 30, 1955 as listed under checks #3849 through #3867 in the General Operating Account and checks #485 through #488 in the In-School Counseling Account. The motion carried.

There was a discussion as to the possibility of securing a lower rate for workmen's compensation by combining with other county employees. Mr. Fischer and Mr. Christian felt that this would be possible and the Director promised to investigate the matter further.

Motion: Subsidy rate

Judge Gardiner moved and Mr. Christian seconded a motion that the subsidy rates for emergency shelter home placements be increased from $8.00 per bed per month to $15.00 per bed per month. The motion carried.

In a discussion of the need for an amendment of the Juvenile Welfare Board Act, it was brought out that the ceiling of $75,000 placed on the Board's use of the one-half mill of tax returns is no longer adequate. In 1949, when the limitation of $75,000 was placed on the Board's expenditures, the child population was only 29,906 whereas the child population as of October 1955 was estimated to be 44,228. This is an increase of 48%. The Board is recommending:

1. The reduction of the tax from one-half to one-third of a mill and the removal of limitation of the amount available to the Board.
2. Separation of the Juvenile Court from the Juvenile Welfare Board insofar as financial responsibilities are concerned.
3. Elimination of the duty to provide detention homes, which is more properly the responsibility of the Juvenile Court and is provided for in other acts.
4. Elimination of the responsibility for the care of runaway juveniles which is in the province of the Juvenile Court and the State Welfare Department who are now assuming this responsibility.

Judge Gardiner suggested that travel expense for the Board members be included in the revision of the Juvenile Welfare Board Act. This was approved.

Colonel Johnson requested an early preparation of the Act. Mr. Christian pointed out the need for the amendment and praised the work of the Board for the six years during which he has been a member.
Mrs. Harrison expressed the appreciation of the Board to Mr. Sidney S. Parry for his service to the Board for the three years he was a member and for the two years during which he was Secretary of the Board. She stated that he had shown a sympathetic understanding of the needs of children of the county and a willingness to face and meet criticism and problems facing the Board. She then presented him with a Service Award in recognition of his contribution to the Board and interest and efforts on behalf of the children of Pinellas County as a token of its appreciation and esteem. Mr. Parry expressed his pleasure in having been on the Board and the recognition which the Board was according him. He stated that this had been one of the most enjoyable parts of his public service during the time he was on the Board of County Commissioners.

The Director presented a request from the Children's Service Bureau, including a report from the Superintendent of the Lyman Ward School regarding Howard Johnson and his progress there. Children's Service Bureau requested that the boy be financed in the school for the next semester by the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Motion: Mr. Christian moved that the Director's recommendation to this effect be approved. Mrs. Strickland seconded the motion, which carried.

Howard Johnson

The Director reported on the Budget Board's approval of transfer of funds within the budget to establish additional marriage and family counseling service. $360 of the amount needed is being transferred from the "Project Supervisor Salaries" item and $800 from "Other Services and Emergencies." The Director recommended that Mrs. Nenabelle Dame be appointed for this service.

Motion: Mrs. Strickland moved that Mrs. Dame be appointed and Mr. Fischer seconded the motion, which carried. The salary is for two days a week at the rate of $140 a month.

Mrs. Harrison appointed Mrs. Strickland as the member of the Board to represent the Juvenile Welfare Board on the census tract survey being undertaken by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Director requested that exact dates of termination of present appointments to the Juvenile Welfare Board be sent to his office for the record.

Motion: Judge Gardiner moved and Mrs. Strickland seconded a motion that Mrs. Marion Hinton's appointment by the Child Guidance Clinic to replace Mr. Harold Rivkind during his leave of absence for graduate study be approved. The motion carried.

The Director reported on meetings of Citizen's Advisory Committees on Juvenile Problems and called attention to the minutes of these meetings which are available through Mrs. J. E. Saltz, 1001 - 28th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida.

The Director also called attention to the Mental Health Program set for February 28, 1955, at which Mr. Al Block, Chairman, Governor's Committee on Public Health and representatives from the state education and public health departments, Dr. R.W. McComas, Director of the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, Florida State Public Health Department and Mr. Vick Johnson, State Director of Guidance will speak. Judge Gardiner suggested that the juvenile court judges and counselors in the Tampa Bay region be invited to attend.
The Director reported that he and Judge-Elect Charles O. Parks had appeared on a WTSP broadcast of "Your Government."

The Juvenile Court Reports for November and the Activities Reports for December were reviewed briefly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until the second Thursday in February, February 10, 1955.

Elizabeth Skinner Jackson
Secretary, pro tem