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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1955 : 06 : 09 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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The regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was held in Clearwater on June 9, 1955.

Present: Mrs. Baya Harrison, Chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Jackson, Secretary pro tem; Mr. Floyd T. Christian; Mrs. H. W. Holland; and the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams; also present were Mr. Evan R. Jenkins, member of the Board of County Commissioners, and Juvenile Court Judge-Elect, Charles O. Parks, Jr.

The minutes of the May 26, 1955 meeting were approved as submitted to the membership by mail.

Motion: Expenditures
Mrs. Holland moved and Mr. Christian seconded a motion that expenditures for June 15, 1955 as listed on checks #4028 through #4077 in the General Operating Account and check #24 in the Trustee Account be approved for payment. The motion carried.

The Director reported that the family taking care of the Hall children were now carrying on without any expense to the Juvenile Welfare Board. It was suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent to the family for their thoughtfulness and unselfishness in taking care of the children.

The Director gave a statistical report on the number of children held in jail during the first six months of 1953-1954 and the first six months of 1954-1955. This report classified the children by age, sex, and race and made a comparison between the two years.

The Director reported on the number of children in foster care for May. This report showed 82 children in care for a total of 2,411 days at a cost to the Juvenile Welfare Board of $4,411.02.

In the discussion about meeting the June-September expenses, the question was raised about follow-up on parents ordered by the court to pay for the support of their children, and it was suggested that perhaps better follow-up could be expected with a full-time juvenile court judge. The need for review to keep cases current was mentioned.

The Director introduced Mrs. Mildred Mount, Supervisor of the Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare for District #4. Mrs. Mount gave a report of children in foster care, a copy of which is attached.

After some discussion and emphasis by the Board members for the need to protect these children against the destructive placement which would undo the good accomplished:

Motion: Transfer of funds
Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion that the Director be empowered to investigate what can be worked out with the Budget Board to make the necessary transfers in amounts sufficient to provide for the continued care of those children requiring such care. The motion carried.
Motion: Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion that the Juvenile Welfare Board approve the necessary transfers to provide for foster care needed and that the 1955-1956 budget be amended to show changes made. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the Board will be held on the fourth Thursday in June, June 23, 1955.

Elizabeth Skinner Jackson
Secretary pro tem
REPORT OF THE STATE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE
CHILD WELFARE UNIT TO THE JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

June 9, 1955

For the remaining four months of this fiscal year - June, July, August and September - we have only $6,897.27 and to care for the children who need to remain in foster homes, we will need almost twice that amount.

At present the Child Welfare Unit has 86 children in foster care (51 families).

Cost of care is being met for 65 children (35 families) from Juvenile Welfare Board funds.

State funds for long time foster care for children under six, have been used for 6 children (6 families) which is the maximum allowance for Pinellas County. These are children who either do not have County residence or children for whom adoption plans cannot be made immediately because of handicapping physical conditions.

There are 12 children (10 families) whose board is being paid from Temporary Care State funds.

Full payment is received from Social Security Benefits for 3 children (2 families) in care.

Since we received Dr. Williams' letter the early part of May, no additional children have been placed in care whose needs are being met through the Juvenile Welfare Board funds. The following will give an idea of the family situations of the 65 children who are at present being cared for in foster care by Juvenile Welfare Board funds.

The Juvenile Court has referred 42 children, of whom they have custody (19 families). Parents voluntarily made arrangements with Child Welfare Unit for placement of 23 children (14 families).

Of the 65 children, there are 10 children in care (5 families) whose mothers are not living and one of these children has neither parent living. The father of two of these children is in prison. One child's mother was unmarried and another father deserted. Five of the children are from one family and their father is alcoholic and retarded. He has threatened to kill relatives who tried to help the children and they will not take them because they are afraid of the father.

There are 8 children in care (5 families) whose mothers are at the State Mental Hospital and one of these children has both parents at the State Hospital. One father is aged and retarded, one is alcoholic and physically unable to work and one is in the T.B. Sanitarium. The father of three of these children is not able to care for them adequately because of his mental condition and he has said that he would kill his children before allowing them to be placed for adoption.

Nine children are in care (5 families) who have one or both parents in other kinds of institutional care. Five children have mothers at the T.B. Sanitarium - one of which the father is in prison. One child's mother, who is retarded, is in the County Home. The father of three of these children is in prison - these are three that may be returning.
to their own home later this month. They were removed from their mother by the Juvenile Court because of unsanitary living conditions. The mother was trying to live on an Aid to Dependent Children grant which was not sufficient to meet their needs. There seems to be a close tie between the children and their mother and both want to be back together. These children were in very poor physical condition when placed in care. This situation is one which shows the need children have for their own parents and their need to be in their own homes when at all possible.

14 children (7 families) were deserted by either parents. Seven of these children (5 families) were deserted by both parents and seven children (2 families) by their fathers only. Two of these children were deserted by their parents and lived with aged grandparents. Their grandfather died and their grandmother was blind and crippled with arthritis.

There are 12 children (5 families) in care whose mother and father are both alcoholic and all of these children were removed from their homes by the Juvenile Court because they were being neglected and abused in their own homes.

There are 6 children (3 families) in care whose natural father was not their mother's husband. These children are usually very much unwanted because the mother's husband does not accept them and the mother has a great deal of guilt about having the child under these circumstances. One of these children is from a family of five children and he was born during a period while his mother's husband was in military service and out of the home. He was unwanted and uncared for at home and was quite different in appearance from the other children in the family. His mother felt guilty about spending any money on him and he was not being adequately fed or clothed.

There are 6 children (3 families) in care whose mothers are not married and they were being neglected in their own homes. All of these children have different fathers and all of them are unwanted by their mothers. The mothers themselves have no close relatives as they were also born out of wedlock and had no one interested in them.

During the month of June there will be approximately 10 children for whom other plans are being made. The father of two children is returning from prison and the father of one boy is returning from the T.B. Sanitarium. One 17 year old girl is now earning sufficient income to pay for her own care, two are graduating from High School and four others will probably be returning to their parents.

The two students graduating from High School have done outstanding work. The boy has received several awards, one in sports and another in leadership. He had hopes of being able to attend Junior College but has not been able to secure adequate assistance for this as yet.

The other student, a girl, has won a scholarship for Technical training at a hospital. She also is needing financial help to continue this plan and Clubs are being contacted in hopes of securing their interest in her.