Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1953: 04: 09: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.
Meeting of April 9, 1953
Held in Clearwater

Present were Mrs. Strickland, chairman; Mrs. Holland, and Mrs. Jackson. Mr. Christian added his vote to the motion on expenditures. Dr. Williams was also present. In the absence of Commissioner Parry, Mrs. Holland was secretary pro tem.

The minutes of the March 26 meeting were approved as sent to the members.

Motion: Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion that expenditures as covered by Checks Nos. 3058 - 3077 in the General Operating Account, and Checks Nos. 384 - 391 in the In-School Counseling Account be approved. Motion carried.

In the discussion of the financial statements, it was pointed out that the Board operated during the first six months with no deficit and with carry overs in some funds. It was also brought out that the last half of the fiscal year usually involves more expenditures, particularly in foster care and travel, than are needed for the first half.

Dr. Williams discussed the adoption situation in the County and told of the rapid increase in number of children available for adoption placement. This increase has overloaded the Florida Children’s Home Society and has required the Children's Service Bureau to take on six additional cases within the past week. The Florence Crittenton Home has been filled to capacity and needs additional space. There is a shortage of foster homes for infants awaiting adoption placement. A meeting is planned with representatives from the Children's Home Society, the Children's Service Bureau and other adoption agencies, with a view to working out plans for meeting the problems presented.

A letter to the County Legislative Delegation regarding the need for support of the appropriation for the Florida Children's Commission was read, as was a letter to the chairman of the Law Revision and Legislation Committee of the St. Petersburg Bar Association regarding recommendations on proposed legislation.

Dr. Williams stated that the Children's Service Bureau had 7 children in foster home care receiving support from the Juvenile Welfare Board and the Child Welfare Unit had 41 children in such homes as of March 1.

Dr. Williams reported on the Florida Conference of Social Welfare and told of the plans for meeting in St. Petersburg next year. He discussed the program and outstanding speeches made at the Jacksonville conference last week.

The Director presented a digest of proposed legislation from the Florida Conference of Social Welfare and legislative recommendations which have just been received from the Florida Children's Commission.

A report from the Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare was presented by Mrs. Mildred Mount, supervisor of the unit. Mrs. Mount reported that 219 requests for service have been received during the first 6 months of this fiscal year; 179 of these requests were accepted. The others were withdrawn, referred to other agencies, or were not within the function of the agency.
Mrs. Mount told the Board about two families, one with 8 children and one with five. It seems that the Child Welfare Unit will be asked to take care of these children. Mental illness and death have broken up each family's capacity for caring for the children. She described the difficulties of finding homes that could take care of a family of children as large as this and pointed out the cost, some $780.00 a month. Such emergencies come infrequently, but they do come. Every effort is being made to work out some more acceptable plan than foster care, but there are many difficulties in the way.

Mrs. Mount told about the children who have been under care for more than a year, and the reasons for the continuation of their care. Most of these involved children whose parents were in the state hospital, or mentally ill, or in prison, or in the tuberculosis hospital.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until the fourth Thursday in April, April 23.

Mrs. H. W. Holland
Secretary Pro Tem