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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1957 : 03 : 21 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting of March 21, 1957

Held in Clearwater

PRESENT: Mr. Floyd T. Christian, who acted as Chairman in the absence of Mrs. Holland; Mr. Evan R. Jenkins; Judge Charles O. Parks, Jr.; Mrs. John Strickland, Secretary; Reverend Robert E. Coleman, Jr.; also present the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams and Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Jackson, former member and chairman of the Board.

Motion: Mr. Jenkins moved and Judge Parks seconded a motion that
Minutes the minutes of the last meeting be approved as sent to the members by mail. The motion carried.

Motion: Reverend Coleman moved and Mr. Jenkins seconded a motion
Expenditures approving expenditures for January 30, February 15, February 28, March 15, and March 29, 1957 as listed on checks #4761 through #4876 in the General Operating Account and check #55 in the Trustee Account. The motion carried.

Motion: Mr. Jenkins moved and Judge Parks seconded a motion, which
Reimbursement to carried, that Mrs. Terrill be reimbursed for expenses in
Mrs. Terrill connection with the consultant's services for the Pre-School Association of Miss Mamie Heinz in the amount of \$16.00

A review of the financial reports for January and February showed the Board to be in good financial condition and that collections from parents and relatives by the Juvenile Court and the Child Welfare Unit had reduced the expected expenses in foster care and had kept them within the budget allocation for that item.

Motion: The Reverend Coleman moved and Mr. Jenkins seconded a
New employees at motion, which carried, that approval be given for the em-
Child Guidance Clinic ployment of Lawrence H. Ricker to replace Mr. Merin as Clinical Psychologist and Charles Coaker as an additional temporary worker in the Child Guidance Clinic.

It was explained by the Director that Mr. Coaker is being added to the staff by the State Department of Mental Health to more adequately meet the needs for services in Clearwater and that a temporary period of some six weeks would take care of the amount required from the Juvenile Welfare Board. This still leaves a surplus from Mr. Merin's position which was not filled immediately.

Reports giving the number of children in foster care for the months of January and February, the number of days of care, the cost of that care and the reimbursement from parents and relatives were given. These reports showed that the Juvenile Welfare Board is staying within its allotted budget for foster care up through February 28, 1957.

The Director reported on a series of hearings and meetings conducted in relation to the problem of temporary shelter or receiving homes for children who are picked up by the police in the middle of the night or on emergency basis. These hearings were held with the St. Petersburg Board of Adjustment, the Mayor and City Council, and the Planning Board. They resulted in agreement to consider regular foster homes as family homes in the meaning of the definition used by the City Council of St. Petersburg, and that the Juvenile Welfare Board would provide these emergency shelter or receiving homes on a somewhat different basis with restrictions on placing them in single-family residence areas except by approval of the Board of Adjustment of St. Petersburg.

This led to a description of the need for increasing subsidies for these temporary emergency shelter or receiving homes and after some discussion:

Motion:
Subsidy of emergency shelter or receiving homes.

Mr. Jenkins moved and Mrs. Strickland seconded a motion that approval be given to the Director to establish up to eight such homes with a capacity between five and ten children for each and with a subsidy of \$10 per each bed supplied. The motion carried.

Motion:
Approval for Dr. Finck to attend conference

Mr. Jenkins moved and Judge Parks seconded a motion that approval be given for Dr. Finck to attend the 20th Groves Conference on Marriage and the Family at Michigan State University on April 29, 30, and May 1, with necessary expenses paid by the Juvenile Welfare Board. The motion carried.

The Director presented proposed legislation with reference to the licensing of day nurseries and foster homes which has been studied by the Pinellas County Pre-School Association, the County Health Department, and the staff of the Juvenile Welfare Board. He recommended its approval by the Board.

Motion:
License Board Act

Mrs. Strickland moved and Reverend Coleman seconded a motion that the Board favor this act and recommend its passage to the Legislative Delegation. The motion carried.

The Director reported on his attendance at the meeting of the Florida Children's Commission in St. Augustine at which the history and development of the Juvenile Welfare Board was described to the members of the Commission and invited participants.

The Director read a report regarding a case where a homemaker had been of great service to a family stricken by meningitis and polio during a period of their difficulties and where the family promises to pay back the amount paid for this service.

The Director called the attention of the Board to the First Annual State Conference of the Florida Association on Children Under Six, which is being held in St. Petersburg on March 22 and 23, and expressed the hope that some members of the Board would find it possible to attend. The meeting is to be held at the Church of the Advent on the Beaches. The program of these meetings was outlined to the Board.

Judge Parks gave a report on the activities of the Juvenile Court and the number of children brought into Court, with the number involved in each of the different types of offenses. He stated that he felt the situation was not bad and that the Court was now in a position to deal more promptly with such cases. He did accept an opinion expressed by Reverend Coleman that some additional staff was needed to properly care for the problem. He also outlined his outside activities in bringing to the public information about the problems facing the Juvenile Court.

The activities reports for January and February of the Juvenile Welfare Board, for the Children's Service Bureau, the Child Welfare Unit, and the Child Guidance Clinic were reviewed briefly with the Board asking questions about matters which concerned them.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board would be held on

the third Thursday in April in the Commissioners room in the basement of the Court House. Mr. Jenkins will make the necessary arrangements.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until April 18, 1957.

Kathleen E. Strickland

Kathleen E. Strickland
Secretary