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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1951 : 04 : 12 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Mr. Wick moved and Mr. Christian seconded a motion that the Board advertise for
bids for a new car with a trade in of the old car. This motion was passed
unanimously.

The Board expressed its appreciation of Judge Marshall's services over the pastour years and urged him to reconsider his decision not to accept reappointment.
Judge Marshall explained that his part time job was assuming more and more of the
characteristics of a full time job both in terms of time and effort but particularly
in terms of thought time which is necessary for him to give it. He found it to be
interfering with his practice to such an extent that his earning power was threat
ened and that he was becoming more and more involved in the problems of the
children of the court when his mind should be devoted to his legal practice. In
the light of all of these things he felt that he could not agree to serve again.

The Board then passed a resolution to send a letter to the Governor expressing the
Board's regret at Judge Marshall's refusal to accept reappointment and asking the
Governor to wait for the Board's recommendation in regard to the appointment of
Judge Marshall's successor.

Following this action the Board met as a Pinellas County Children's Committee of
the Florida Children's commission with Dr. Parr and Dr. Rothermel. Dr. Rothermel,
Director of the County Health Department, reported on a meeting which was held at
Bradenton recently. This was a follow-up on the Mid-Century White House Conference.
Minutes of April 12, 1951
Held in Clearwater Courthouse

Attending were: Mrs. Bartlett, Chairman, Mrs. Holland, Judge Marshall, Mrs. Strickland, Mr. Christian, and Mr. Wick. Also present was Dr. Williams, the Director.

The Minutes of March 22 were read and approved.

Judge Marshall reported on his visit to the Florida Farm Colony where he said 590 children were not in residence and some 200 more on a waiting list. He also reported on his visit to Forest Hill and gave as his opinion that it would be possible to use a small part of this new institution for the care of Negro delinquent girls. He stated that while in Jacksonville he met with the President of the Florida Children's Home Society who stated that the Society had agreed to send a representative to St. Petersburg each week to give service to children who are to be placed for adoption and to parents or prospective parents who are looking for children to adopt. In the beginning, this service will be given for two days per week. Judge Marshall reported also on the meeting of the Florida Probation and Parole Association and stated that the association had agreed to recommend for passage the Juvenile Court Act, that they were also interested in activating Forest Hill for the care of delinquent negro girls and have taken formal action recommending the increase in the facilities now available at the Florida Farm Colony for the Feebleminded and the Epileptic.

Dr. Williams reported upon his investigation in regard to the trade in of the old Board automobile on a new car. He stated that it was in the interest of the Board to purchase a car and gave figures to show that the Board car operation, including depreciation, had approximated 4 1/3 cents a mile over the past three and a half years. This totaled $2,757.79 for a total of 63,000 miles during that period. This contrasted with a total of $4,725 at the rate of 7 1/2 cents a mile which is the mileage rate used by the county. This represents a saving of $1,967.21 over this period.

Mr. Wick moved and Mr. Christian seconded a motion that the Board advertise for bids for a new car with a trade in of the old car. This motion was passed unanimously.

The Board expressed its appreciation of Judge Marshall's services over the past four years and urged him to reconsider his decision not to accept reappointment. Judge Marshall explained that his part time job was assuming more and more of the characteristics of a full time job both in terms of time and effort but particularly in terms of thought time which is necessary for him to give it. He found it to be interfering with his practice to such an extent that his earning power was threatened and that he was becoming more and more involved in the problems of the children of the court when his mind should be devoted to his legal practice. In the light of all of these things he felt that he could not agree to serve again.

The Board then passed a resolution to send a letter to the Governor expressing the Board's regret at Judge Marshall's refusal to accept reappointment and asking the Governor to wait for the Board's recommendation in regard to the appointment of Judge Marshall's successor.

Following this action the Board met as a Pinellas County Children's Committee of the Florida Children's commission with Dr. Parr and Dr. Rothermel. Dr. Rothermel, Director of the County Health Department, reported on a meeting which was held at Bradenton recently. This was a follow-up on the Mid-Century White House Conference.
Mrs. Holland reported on a meeting of the delegates to the White House Conference of the West Coast area which was held in Tampa. At this meeting plans were made for additional meetings to bring to each of the counties the results of the White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Dr. Williams reported on a meeting of the Pinellas County P.T.A. when a panel was held on which he participated along with other delegates to the White House Conference and at which the findings of the White House Conference were reported in some detail.

The Juvenile Welfare Board resumed its meeting. Judge Marshall read to the Board letters which he had sent to the Chief of Police of St. Petersburg in regard to a program for continuing the meetings with the Police Department which would be attended by the Juvenile Court staff and which were held for the purpose of bringing about a better understanding and coordination of the work of the two organizations. He stated that no reply had been received from the Police Chief, in regard to this matter although he had suggested dates for such meetings.

Mr. Christian moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion to request that no action be taken by the Legislative Delegation in regard to the request of the City Council that traffic cases involving juveniles between 16 and 18 be transferred from the Juvenile Court to the Municipal Court until a study now being made by the Sociology Department and the Statistics Department of Junior College is completed. This motion was carried. Dr. Williams reported that this study was already under way and that an attempt would be made to study juvenile traffic offenses for the period 1948, 49, 50 and a part of 1951. Comparisons would be made between the results of this study and a study of 100 traffic offenders over 18 during the period. Judge Marshall also reported that a contact had been made with all of the police chiefs and juvenile judges in the other eight counties where special juvenile courts exist and that they had been asked for a statement as to the practice and procedure followed in each of those counties and for facts regarding the success or failure of the method used. Letters have already been received from several of the Juvenile Judges and some of the chiefs of police.

Mr. Wick moved and Mr. Christian seconded a motion that Senator Baynard be written a letter of congratulation and commendation in connection with the award to him of the honor of being the most valuable senator during the 1949 legislative sessions. This motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Christian moved and Judge Marshall seconded a motion that expenditures in the General Operating fund covered by checks numbered 2047 through 2067 and in the School Counseling Project Fund by check 156 through 159 be approved for payment. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Williams reported that the Florida Psychological Association meeting at Daytona Beach on April 26, 27, and 28 had requested him and Dr. Voorhis to appear on the program of the association. He requested that permission be granted for the Director and Dr. Voorhis to attend this association meeting using the board car with their expenses paid. Mrs. Strickland moved and Judge Marshall seconded a motion that the request be granted. The motion was carried.

Dr. Williams read a letter from the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund of Chicago congratulating the Board on its achievements in developing community cooperation between public and private agencies and emphasizing the value of the Board's reports for educational purposes in this field of community organization.
Dr. Williams gave a list of children now under care of the Child Welfare Unit and indicated that this unit had 43 children in foster homes during the past month.

Dr. Williams read letters from the University of Florida and the Florida State University expressing their interest in the possibility of using the In School Counseling Program for an internship training program for school psychologists. He reported that Dr. Voorhis and the Director were planning to meet with Dr. Anderson at the time of the Florida Psychological Association meeting and go into the matter further with him.

Judge Marshall reported on a meeting with the Legislative Committee of the Juvenile Welfare Board and stated that the Committee had prepared and was submitting to the Legislative Delegation an act establishing a licensing procedure for day nurseries, foster homes, and other facilities caring for children.

The Board met with Mr. Edward E. Patrick, Probation Officer, for the Juvenile Court, and discussed with him shortcomings in the operation of the Probation Department which were mentioned at the March 22 meeting. It was pointed out to Mr. Patrick that there was a failure on the part of the Probation Staff and its chief to keep satisfactory records and make satisfactory reports. Judge Marshall described in some detail the discrepancies between the reports as submitted by the State Department of Welfare and by the Chief Probation Officer. He also went into some detail regarding the failure of the Chief Probation Officer to follow instructions regarding recording daily contacts, home visits, office interviews, and his failure to submit weekly reports on cases placed on probation to him.

The Judge stated that Mr. Patrick had failed to hold regular staff meetings as he had agreed to do before his appointment and after a conference with the Judge following his appointment. It was also pointed out by the Judge that there had not been adequate follow up on the homes of children in the training schools nor a close enough contact kept with the families or with the children in the training schools during their period of residence there. In the Judge's opinion, the letters that were written were delayed too long, were too formal and routine in nature. In support of his statements the Judge presented an outline for staff conferences written on May 19, 1950 in which he requested that conferences with youngsters not be hurried and careful exploration of the youngster's leisure time, school time and home time be investigated by the probation staff.

Mr. Patrick reported that he did not have time to keep records and handle all the emergencies and make the home visits necessary. He felt that two more workers would be required to carry the load required of the probation staff.

It was pointed out by other members of the Board that the case load of Miss Lovely was so low as not to warrant a full time worker. The Board felt that the case load was not sufficient to add to the staff and that Mr. Patrick should organize his own time, the time of his office staff and reorganize his case loads and those of his staff. Judge Marshall pointed out that Mr. Patrick has a good personal relationship with certain children but that his present responsibilities are those of a chief probation officer required to organize and supervise the work of the staff to insure that proper follow up and proper records are kept. Mrs. Holland read a statement of plans and objectives to be carried out by Mr. Patrick which was given to the Board by Mr. Patrick before he took office and was under date of January 2, 1949. The Board expressed itself as being of the opinion that Mr. Patrick had failed to live up to his agreement in regard to a number of the items on this list.
Mr. Patrick agreed to reorganize his staff and his work to improve the quality of his record keeping and the quality of his case work follow up both on the children in the community, the children in the training schools, and contacts with the families of children in the training schools. It was suggested to Mr. Patrick that he make a study of his case load for each of his workers and determine what shifts could be made in this respect. The feeling was expressed by the Board that the case load at the present time does not require additional staff as much as it requires better organization of staff time and better record keeping on the part of the staff of the probation department.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Meador