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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1952 : 04 : 10 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Minutes of April 10, 1952

Present Mrs. Bartlett, Chairman, Mrs. Strickland, Secretary, Mrs. Holland, Judge Gardiner. Also present Dr. Williams, Director.

Minutes of the March 27th meeting were approved with the following corrections in the last sentence of the fifth paragraph. This sentence is to be corrected to read as follows: "According to him, it would be possible to take over the psychologist and the two part-time secretaries which would be needed in the project and in the additional unit."

Judge Gardiner moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion that expenditures as indicated by Checks 2573 - 2597 inclusive in the General Operating Fund, and in the School Counseling Fund Checks 285 - 291 inclusive, and Check No. 9 in the Trustee Fund, be approved for payment. This motion was carried.

There was some discussion of the return of money to the Board of County Commissioners and it was felt that the attention of the Board of County Commissioners should be called to the need for raising the foster home rates to make them cover the actual cost of support of children now being placed in foster homes. It was felt that the services of the foster parents in looking after the children was all the contribution they should be asked to make, and that they should not be required to pay funds out of their own pocket to provide the needed care of these children.

After discussion, Judge Gardiner moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion authorizing the transfer of Mrs. Dame from the payroll of the School Counseling Unit to the General Operating Budget of the Juvenile Welfare Board, so that she could be used for the general purposes of the Board and that her title be changed to that of Project Supervisor. The motion carried.

Dr. Williams reported on the funds needed to carry out the In School Counseling Project with an additional unit making two units in all. This is to be done with the cooperation of the Board of Public Instruction and the Junior League.

The Board entered into a discussion of the need for support of pre-adoption children by the Juvenile Welfare Board and under the supervision of the Children's Service Bureau. It was the feeling of the Board that, with the establishment of a branch office of the Florida Children's Home Society which would accept adoptable white children, there was no longer a need for the Children's Service Bureau to carry this load. It was felt that the Children's Service Bureau should concentrate on the planning for adoption placement of Negro children for whom no facilities exist in this area at present. Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Meador seconded a motion that the Children's Service Bureau be notified of the Board's feeling that the Florida Children's Home Society should be used for the white adoption placements in the future to the greatest extent possible, and that the Children's Service Bureau concentrate on helping to place Negro children in adoption homes. The motion also included an expression of willingness on the part of the Juvenile Welfare Board to help with the cost of pre-adoption board and care for such Negro children. The motion carried.

A letter from the Children's Service Bureau to the Juvenile Welfare Board asking for their support of a seventeen year old girl by the name of Lois in a foster home where she is adjusting well at the present time and attending high school was read. Mrs. Strickland moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion that funds be provided for the care of this girl until July 1 to the extent necessary with the understanding that the father's contributions to the girl's support continued to be sought and that the Juvenile Welfare Board's funds would be limited to the extent necessary including such parental support. The motion carried.
Dr. Williams reported on a study of Miss Lovely's caseload. This report was discussed but not action was taken beyond giving the report to the Juvenile Judge for his consideration and action.

Judge Gardiner reported on the case which was discussed at the March 13th meeting and stated that Ronald had been found to be unreliable and untruthful. His failure to carry out the court's instructions has resulted in his commitment to the training school.

Dr. Williams made a report to the Board on the number of commitments to the industrial schools, both for boys and for girls, during 1951. This report showed that Pinellas County committed fewer children in proportion to its population than did the other large counties in the State. A copy of the report has been filed.

A letter of appreciation from the Future Floridians addressed to the Juvenile Welfare Board was read and ordered filed. This letter expressed appreciation for the contribution of ping-pong tables to the Future Floridians and stated that these were the most popular articles of recreational use in the Building.

A letter from the chairman of the Florida Children's Commission inviting all county committee members to attend the annual conference on Services to Handicapped Children in Miami April 14 to 16, at which the theme of "Mental Health and Children" was to be discussed, was read and ordered filed.

A letter from the Community Welfare Council asking for a nomination of the person to receive the Welfare Council's award was read. The Board felt that it should not participate in such a nomination and the letter was ordered filed.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board in St. Petersburg at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 24. Following this the meeting adjourned.

Kathleen Strickland