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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1952: 01: 24: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Minutes of January 24, 1952

Present were Chairman Bartlett, Mr. Parry, Mrs. Holland, and Mrs. Strickland. Also present was Dr. Williams, the Director.

The minutes of the January 10th meeting were approved as submitted to the members of the Board by mail, with no corrections or changes suggested.

Mrs. Bartlett, chairman of the Board, welcomed Mr. Sidney Parry to membership on the Board and expressed the Board's pleasure in having him present. Appreciation was also expressed to Mr. Wick, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, for his interest and presence at the Board meeting. Mr. Wick assured the Board that he would continue his interest and offered his support in every way possible in carrying on the work of the Board in the interest of children of Pinellas County.

Mr. Parry moved and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion approving expenditures as covered by Checks 2473-2488 under General Operating Account and expenditures covered by Checks 257-262 as covered in the In School Counseling Account. The motion carried unanimously.

The Director presented the Assistant State Auditor's report, certifying that the records of the Board were "neatly and apparently accurately kept. Itemized invoices were presented to support all expenditures of the Board. Travel and transportation expenditures were supported by itemized requisitions," and "The financial condition of the Board was good. All collections of record have been accounted for. In addition to the regular tax levy discussed below, special donations have been received for particular purposes." "The accounts maintained in the depositories have been adequately secured by collateral during the fiscal year audited." The Board ordered the Auditor's Report filed.

There was some discussion of the activities reports for November and December, but the Board agreed to study these more carefully and bring their comments, questions, and suggestions to the next board meeting for further discussion.

Dr. Williams read letters addressed to Mr. Sauls and Sheriff Tucker offering the condolences and sympathy of the Board for the death of the son of Mr. Sauls and the wife of Sheriff Tucker. He also read a reply from Mr. Sauls.

Mrs. Harris of the Children's Service Bureau Board and Mr. Wilson, Director of the Children's Service Bureau, discussed with the Board a proposal to expand their adoption services to include the children of unmarried mothers in addition to the children from their own case load. They indicated that this expansion would be on a gradual and limited basis, but that it would probably require additional funds. They proposed taking the children of unmarried mothers from other communities than Pinellas County so that the children could be placed for adoption in Pinellas County. They indicated that a minimum period of three months for the study of the child to determine its adoption needs would be required. This study period would require support of the child during the period. They indicated that efforts would be made to collect cost of care from the unmarried mothers, but indicated that such efforts would not be very successful. It is planned to be very careful to accept only children who are likely to be adoptable so that no child would need to be cared for over extended periods because of its non-adoptability. Board members raised a question of whether, with the limited funds available to the
Juvenile Welfare Board at the present time, this service could be given. They stressed the need for providing care for children whose parents die, become insane, or suffer some other serious calamity. The problem is one of priority of need with the limited funds available. Should funds be conserved for these children rather than being spent on adoption cases? The answer is admittedly a difficult one. Proper adoption placement prevents dependence, neglect, and delinquency. So does immediate protection and care of children deprived of their parents.

The representatives from the Children's Service Bureau indicated the belief that a fee system could be developed which would largely care for the expenses involved in the foster home placement program. However, this type of return in the form of fees could not be expected until after the proposed plan had been organized and it had some general community acceptance. It is during this primary period that support will be needed. According to the Children's Service Bureau, it will cost forty to fifty dollars a month to care for each child awaiting adoption home placement. They anticipate a maximum of 10 children under care by the end of the year. This would require approximately $3,000 in additional funds. Last year there were 50 placements for adoption in Pinellas County, 41 of these were made on private arrangements which are generally conceded to be unsatisfactory, and only 9 were through agency placement. Members of the Board raised a question about the possibility of securing the support of some outside group for this service as a project. It was felt by the Board that this project would have appeal to groups beyond that of most other projects.

It was agreed that the Juvenile Welfare Board would take the matter under advisement and attempt to arrive at a decision at its next meeting.

Mr. Wilson brought up the case of a boy who has found it impossible to get along in his home with his stepmother and who, in the opinion of the Child Guidance Clinic and the Children's Service Bureau, requires care in a residential school. One has been found in Alabama where the monthly charges will not exceed those required for foster home care. The Board was asked to approve the transportation of the boy to the school and the registration fee amounting to approximately $25. Mrs. Holland moved and Mr. Parry seconded a motion that this plan for the boy be approved and that the Juvenile Welfare Board would pay transportation and registration fees for the boy. It would also continue to pay half of the cost of the boy in the school amounting to approximately $20 a month, which is the amount now being paid for foster home care. The father is to pay the balance. The Juvenile Welfare Board also agreed to accept the father's offer to repay the cost of the transportation and the registration fee for the boy when the father is able to do so.

Mrs. Holland reported on a meeting with Mr. Christian and representatives of the Junior League in regard to the plan for continuing the In School Counseling Service from April through June of 1953. She also reported on the discussion regarding the plan for continuing and expanding the In School Counseling Project through the cooperation of the Junior League and the Board of Public Instruction. This was in line with a plan submitted to the Junior League representatives and the Superintendent of Public Instruction at a meeting held on January 22, a copy of which is attached.

The Director read a request from the Community Welfare Council to the Juvenile Welfare Board that instead of trying to establish a separate organization for marriage and family counseling, the Juvenile Welfare Board be asked to consider
adding facilities to the Child Guidance Clinic to carry on marriage and family counseling. The Board discussed this request and agreed to continue the discussion at its next meeting.

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting in Clearwater on February 14 at 9:30 a.m. The Board will meet first as the Pinellas County Children's Committee of the Florida Children's Commission and will hear from Mrs. Carothers, Executive Secretary of the Commission, regarding child welfare activities in the State. This will be followed by a meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board as such.

Kathleen Strickland
Plan for Securing the Cooperation of the Junior League
and the Board of Public Instruction
in Continuing and Expanding the In-School Counseling Project

A. Objectives

1. Immediate
   a. Continue the present unit at the South Side Junior High School
   b. Expand it to include other feeder elementary schools by adding a social worker.
   c. Arrange for additional diagnostic clinic services by increasing Child Guidance Clinic staff and making an agreement with them as to type and extent of such services; or by contracting with the Psychological Counseling Service of Tampa as is done by the schools in Tampa. (This service to be paid for by the Junior League or the Board of Public Instruction, or both, on a contract basis.
   d. Add one additional unit to serve Lealman Junior High School and Elementary School and the schools in Pinellas Park; or have the additional unit serve the schools of Largo, Safety Harbor, Palm Harbor; or have the additional unit serve some other combination of schools in which many problems are found.

2. Long Term
   a. Develop diagnostic and guidance and social services for all the elementary schools, especially for the primary grades where the children can be found in the incipient stages of maladjustment and can be helped with much less expenditure of time and money.
   b. Gradually expand the service to reach all of the 6% who present evidences of serious problem behavior.
   c. Develop in addition to mental health guidance, educational guidance and vocational guidance and counseling in all the schools. This is needed in this complex modern and ever changing world.

B. Method of Reaching These Objectives

1. Immediate
   a. Interest the Board of Public Instruction in the program and in continuing the present unit for the remainder of the school term in the spring of 1953. This will mean an additional allocation of $2,550 in the 1952-53 budget over the $1,500 now being allocated each year. In other words, the budget for 1952-53 should allocate $4,050 to the In School Counseling Project when they present the budget this spring for consideration by the Budget Board.
   b. Interest the Board and the membership of the Junior League in arranging for additional and special treatment services as a supplement to the In School Counseling Service now being given, on a contract basis with the Child Guidance Clinic or with the Psychological Counseling Service, Inc.
   c. Keep alive the interest of the League in the Project during the next year while they are continuing their support during the demonstration period and prepare them for undertaking a supplementary or complementary project like Marriage and Family Counseling.

2. Long Term
   a. Demonstrate to the Board of Public Instruction the better adjustment that results from the counseling, both in terms of educational adjustment and economy and in better behavior and citizenship adjustment. In this way prepare the way for a continuation of the service after the experimental period and for its gradual expansion to other schools.
   b. Demonstrate the value of specialized diagnostic services and treatment as sponsored by the Junior League so that public support can be secured for this service.