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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1954 : 09 : 17 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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A special meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board was held in the St. Petersburg offices of the Board on September 17, 1954 at 10:30 A.M.

Present: Mrs. Baya Harrison, Chairman; Commissioner Sidney S. Barry, Secretary; Mrs. H. W. Holland; Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Jackson; Judge William G. Gardiner; Mr. Floyd T. Christian; also present, the Director, Dr. Herbert D. Williams.

This meeting was called primarily for the purpose of discussing needed changes in the Juvenile Welfare Board Act, in anticipation of plans for proposing amendments at the 1955 Legislative Session. In preparation for this meeting, a conference had been held on August 16, 1954, attended by the heads of the various agencies and organizations working with the Juvenile Welfare Board. The minutes of that meeting and the results of the discussion, together with a composite of the Juvenile Welfare Board Act, had been distributed to the members of the Board in advance of this special meeting.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to eliminate from the Act, Section 2A, "To provide and maintain in the County, receiving or detention homes for juveniles who are charged with or convicted of the commission of crimes or other offenses."

The Board also decided to delete Section 2D, "To provide for the care of runaway juveniles," since this was covered in 2C, and since other types of services have been developed since the Act was passed, which makes this provision unnecessary.

The Board then discussed the necessity for changing the ceiling and millage rate in the Juvenile Welfare Board Act in operation at the present time. It has been obvious for some years that the ceiling on the amount of funds available to the Juvenile Welfare Board, from the one-half mill collected in taxes permits no adjustment to the rapidly increasing population and the changes in needs and types of services which can be made available. According to the 1954 assessment, one mill will be $313,992; one-half mill, $171,996; one-fourth mill, $85,998; one-third mill, $111,664; three-eighths mill, $128,997; two-fifths mill, $137,596.80.

The Board studied a tentative budget for 1955-1956, which would include some of the recommendations of the agency conference committee and of the members of the Board. It was agreed that the Child Guidance Clinic needed to be expanded to a very large extent in order to provide adequate services, stable personnel, with acceptable qualifications, and security for them and for the program.

It was also agreed that the marriage and family counseling service needed to be expanded to provide for more adequate service in this area.

The Board decided against including $4,000 for the salary of a home finder at this time, feeling that this could be added next year if thought desirable.

The Board approved a tentative budget for 1955-1956 as outlined below:
In providing for this budget, it was decided that the millage rate for support of the Juvenile Welfare Board activities and the program would require approximately one-third of a mill. This would bring in increased revenue as population and property values go up and make for a continuing adjustment to needs in the light of changing conditions.

The Board approved the completion of the separation of the Juvenile Court from the Juvenile Welfare Board by suggesting the elimination of that part of Section 4 which provides for the payment of salaries of the Juvenile Judge, the Probation Officer, and Assistant Probation Officer of Pinellas County, Florida. This section has already been modified by other special acts and, in the Board's opinion, should be deleted from the Juvenile Welfare Board Act. This will eliminate some existing confusion over authority and responsibility belonging to the Court and to the Juvenile Welfare Board.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with other parts of the Juvenile Welfare Board Act.

The Board discussed a reported rejection by the Budget Commission of action taken by the Board in transferring funds from one item to another within the budget. It was agreed that the Director would get in touch with the Chairman of the Budget Commission and see if some solution to this problem could be found.

The Director reported on an application by the Children's Service Bureau for the
funds necessary to send Howard Johnson to the Camp Hill School. He reported that the conditions at home were completely unsatisfactory and that foster home care seemed to be less desirable than placement in the Camp Hill School with a group of boys.

Motion: Mrs. Holland moved and Mrs. Jackson seconded a motion that the Board approve support of Howard in the Camp Hill School during the coming semester, with a report to be made back by the Children's Service Bureau upon the behavior and scholarship of the boy prior to the beginning of the next session. The motion carried.

Sidney S. Parry
Secretary