6-30-1949

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1949 : 06 : 30 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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The Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board met June 30, 1949, at 9:30 A.M. in Clearwater with Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. Belcher, Judge Marshall and Mr. Christian present. The Director, Dr. Williams was also present.

The minutes of the meeting of June 9, were approved in the form mailed to each member.

Motion: Mr. Belcher moved and Judge Marshall seconded, that expenditures in the amount of $2,284.83 be approved and payment made. The motion carried unanimously.

The Director reported that Jeffrey Thorne was an abandoned child suffering from hydrocephalus and spinal-diffida (myelomeningocele) with a life expectancy of between six months and one year. That he has been cared for in the hospital for one week at the rate of $5.00 per day and is being transferred to a nursing home at $2.50 per day. The Board approved continuation of the care of Jeffrey in the hospital or in a nursing home, as his condition requires. The Board is to be kept informed of the child's condition.

The Director gave each Board member a copy of a report on the activities for the month of May, of the various agencies in which the Juvenile Welfare Board is interested. These were read and retained by the Board members.

In response to a request from the Board at its meeting on June 9, the Director reported on a conference with Miss Parsons of the Children's Service Bureau in regard to the Rolfe children. These children are at present in the custody of the Children's Service Bureau. Miss Parsons reported on conferences with Mr. J. A. McClure, Jr., Guardian, and plans for the Rolfe girls. According to her, Mr. McClure intends to repay from the estate, expenditures of the Juvenile Welfare Board for these girls during the period of settlement of the estate. A wealthy woman has agreed to subsidize the oldest girl for attendance at college beginning in September and has promised to assist the younger girl too. Mr. McClure is to see about written agreements regarding support and college training for the girls.

At the last meeting of the Board, Judge Marshall agreed to check up on the possibility of securing the admission of Alex Zumberis to the Florida Farm Colony at Gainesville. At this meeting he reported on his efforts. He stated that the Superintendent of the Florida Farm Colony had reported no vacancies but that Alex was being kept on the active list.
The Child Guidance Clinic, represented by Mr. Schleman, Chairman of the Budget Committee, Dr. Haney, member of the board and Dr. Penningroth, Director of the Clinic, made an appeal for funds to cover an anticipated deficiency resulting from the failure of the Legislature to provide funds for the State Health Department, which in turn, has resulted in their withdrawal of additional support granted to the Clinic. The Delegation reported that efforts had been made to secure funds from the Board of Public Instruction and that $200 had been secured. Its efforts to contact the Junior League and the Community Chest for additional support have been unsuccessful up to the present, but will be continued. The Delegation reported that an anticipated deficit of $1,300 for the next three months is facing the Clinic.

Motion: Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Belcher seconded that the Juvenile Welfare Board agree to underwrite a deficiency not to exceed $1,300, resulting from the failure of the Legislature to provide funds for the State Health Department, it being understood that efforts to secure additional support from the Community Chest and the Junior League of St. Petersburg will be made by the Child Guidance Clinic Board and the amount required from the Juvenile Welfare Board will be reduced by whatever amount is secured from these or other sources. The motion carried.

The Board requested that a letter be written to the Pinellas County Board of Public Instruction commending the summer recreation program in the schools.

Motion: Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Belcher seconded that the Juvenile Welfare Board grant no advance on salaries and make no loans to employees. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board heard a report from Judge Marshall in regard to the legal questions concerning the Amendment to the Juvenile Welfare Board Act, passed at the recent session of the Legislature. He also submitted comments and opinions from Mr. Leonard Cooperman on questions which he raised. In Mr. Cooperman's opinion, County officials cannot be appointed by the Governor to other County, or State offices, with the exception of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This would make it impossible for the Governor to appoint the Juvenile Court Judge or a member of the Board of County Commissioners to serve on the Juvenile Welfare Board. The Board agreed that a meeting with the Legislative Delegation should be held as soon as possible and Thursday, July 7, was suggested as an appropriate time. The Director was instructed to
send copies of Judge Marshall's letter of June 25, 1949, Mr. Cooperman's letter in reply, and relevant Amendments to the Juvenile Welfare Board Act, to each member of the legislative delegation and request that the legislative representatives meet with the Juvenile Welfare Board to discuss a satisfactory way of taking care of this situation.

The Director reported on the participation of the Juvenile Welfare Board staff in the school work-shops for teachers and commended the program. Mr. Christian reported that a total of 258 white teachers and 37 negro teachers had registered for the workshops. This represented over half of the teachers in the system.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Margaret P. Bender, Board Clerk
Secretary