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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1948 : 11 : 17 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 1948

The Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board met November 17, 1948 at 9:30 a.m. in Clearwater with the following members present: Mrs. Holland, chairman, Miss Phillips, Judge Marshall, Mr. Fuguit, Mr. Belcher, and Mrs. Bartlett. Also attending was Dr. Williams, the director.

The minutes of November 4 were read and approved.

Bills for $325.59 were presented. Mr. Belcher moved they be paid. Miss Phillips seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Dr. Williams reported that he had secured permission to use the tower room in the Defense Building as a central storage place for clothing and similar donations, where workers could get these articles when they needed them; the only expense being for racks and a lock. Mr. Belcher offered a truck to haul the articles from the Cowell Home to the Defense Building.

Judge Marshall reported that he had conferred with Judge White regarding the Holfe girls and that it was his understanding that the Board was asked to advance money for their care and would be repaid later.

Motion: provided there was money in their estate after certain expenses were paid. He moved the Board reimburse the Children’s Service Bureau for foster care expenditures made in behalf of these children, with the assurance from Judge White that the Board be reimbursed, if and when money is available from their estate. Mr. Belcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The case of Alex Zumberis came up again for discussion. It was pointed out that if all of the cases of this type were to be cared for by the Board, it would exhaust a great deal of money needed for other children. It was suggested the Mr. Rogero investigate further the possibility of a local club in Tarpon Springs taking over the care of this child; and further suggested that the Board follow thru on its plan to publicize the need of additional facilities at the Florida Farm Colony. Dr. Williams spoke of articles which had appeared in the Tampa Tribune, written by Paul Wilder, and felt the St. Petersburg papers would give similar publicity. Mrs. Holland appointed a special committee of Judge Marshall, Dr. Williams, Mr. Rogero and Mrs. Bartlett to make a decision on this case, as it had to be settled before the next meeting.

The matter of Mr. Rogero’s request to reimburse the constable of Safety Harbor $7.50 was tabled till the next meeting.

In the absence of Mrs. Ripper, Dr. Williams read her report on the Child Welfare Unit for October, showing $933.48 spent during the month, with a case load of 37 children from 20 families. Mrs. Bartlett suggested that a report be also made by the Unit on calls, results and progress made on cases.

Mr. Fuguit suggested that this Board bring the needs of children to the attention of other boards and clubs since it comes in contact with more needy children. Mrs. Bartlett further suggested that when Mrs. O’Mara finishes her survey of the needs of the county she present these findings to the Board, so it can be used as a steering committee to the interested clubs.
Dr. Williams spoke of the Mental Health Program Act created three years ago to establish clinics, et cetera, and asked the Board to approve a letter to Dr. Sowder (W. T.), Director of Public Health in Florida, requesting him to apply for adequate appropriations to be used for mental health programs for children in the state. Miss Phillips moved the approval of this letter, Mr. Belcher seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Motion: It was also suggested that Mr. Fuguit, as Superintendent of Public Instruction also write Dr. Sowder; and further that other interested agencies be urged to write.

Mrs. Holland asked the secretary to send a copy of the minutes to any member of the Board not present at a meeting.

The dates of the next two meetings were set for December 9 and January 6.

The meeting adjourned at noon.