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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1965 : 11 : 04 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting in Clearwater

November 4, 1965

PRESENT: Judge William A. Patterson, Acting Chairman; Mrs. Glen Keys, Secretary; Mrs. Baya Harrison; Mrs. H. W. Holland; Mr. Paul D. Bauder, Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr.; and County Commissioner Robert L. Weatherly. Also present: Dr. George H. Finck, Director; Mrs. Elouise Irwin, Director District #4, State Department of Public Welfare; and Mr. Don Sellas, Chief Counselor, Pinellas County Juvenile Court.

MOTION
Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Holland moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to approve the minutes of the October 7 meeting.

MOTION
Approval of Expenditures
Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mr. Bauder seconded a motion which carried, to approve the expenditures for October: Checks #360 through #370 dated November 4, 1965, and salary changes for October: Checks #344, 350, 355, 356.

MOTION
Approval of Salary Checks for November
Mr. Bauder moved, and Mr. Weatherly seconded a motion which carried, to approve the list of salary checks for November, 1965, on condition of completion of satisfactory service.

The financial reports and statements were presented and discussed. The final report and final statement for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1965, showed a balance of $34,000.00 at the end of the fiscal year. The financial report and statement for the month of October included a check of $53,513.00 from the Board of County Commissioners as a loan against the receipt of taxes.

The reports of children in foster care were presented to the Board. The report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1965, showed that there were 75 more children in care than during the previous year of 1963-64, and that days of care increased 11,000 from the previous fiscal year. The report of children in foster care for the month of September was also presented.

MOTION
Approval of Payment for McBride twins after Placement for Adoption
Dr. Finck read a letter from Mr. Wesley Jenkins, asking for continued payment for Negro twins after placement for adoption because of the financial circumstances of the adopting family. Mrs. Holland moved, and Dr. Coleman seconded a motion which carried, to approve the continuation of Board payments for the McBride twins at a rate not to exceed $60.00 each month for a period no longer than six months.

The report of the Director in regard to the proposal of the Juvenile Court to undertake foster care for delinquent children was presented and, on the request of Mr. Weatherly, and seconded by Mrs. Harrison, made a part of the record of the meeting. Following this presentation, Mrs. Irwin spoke briefly about the effect of the proposal on the foster care program for dependent children. Mr. Sellas, and members of the audience including Mr. Pillsbury and Miss Monte, spoke in regard to the need for this program.
MOTION
Approval of Program for Foster Care of Delinquent Children

Mr. Bauder moved, and Commissioner Weatherly seconded a motion which carried, to set up a pilot program of three or four children for a period of six months with a maximum expenditure not to exceed $1,000.00 for this period, and with the provision that there be no increase in Juvenile Court staff for this purpose. It was further stipulated that each individual case was to be presented to the Juvenile Welfare Board for approval and that monthly reports and records be supplied to the Juvenile Welfare Board in order that payments might be made. It was also stipulated that approval could be given only by the Juvenile Welfare Board, and that payment to individuals taking children into their own homes on request of the Court would be conditional on the Board's approving each case individually.

Mrs. Holland declined the election as Board Chairman.

MOTION
Election of Chairman

Mrs. Holland moved, and Mr. Weatherly seconded a motion which carried, to nominate Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr., as Chairman of the Juvenile Welfare Board for the year 1965-66.

The Activities Reports for the month of October were presented to the Board.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board will be held on Thursday, December 2, in the County Office Building.

Mrs. Glen Keys
Secretary
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Juvenile Welfare Board

From: Dr. George H. Finck, Director

Subject: Foster care of delinquent children by Juvenile Court with Juvenile Welfare Board funds

At the Board meeting on October 7, the question of foster care for delinquent children was referred to the Director for report and recommendation. I recommend that the present system of foster care under the administration of the State Department of Public Welfare be continued without duplication by the Juvenile Court.

1. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency made an objective and scientific survey, and the Board has undertaken to carry out the recommendations of this survey. The Council "would not then recommend that the Juvenile Court assume responsibility for actually placing children." (See letter attached.)

2. The Court's proposal has the effect of circumventing the rules and regulations of the State Department of Public Welfare by placing children in the homes of persons who cannot or will not comply with these rules and regulations.

3. The Board has no uncommitted funds in the 1965-66 budget.

4. Although there is no legal question of the Board's power to allocate funds to the Court, there has been since 1955 a separation of budgeting and responsibilities of these organizations. The confusions that existed prior to the 1955 amendments would seem to indicate that the continuation of this financial separation is a wise policy.

5. Since the Judge has unlimited legal authority to place children, it would be possible under another Judge's administration to expand the Court's plan and ultimately to take over the entire foster care program.

6. The savings claimed for this plan are questionable. Additional staff would be needed, and the low board rates might be false economy. Persons who have taken children from the Court without payment could insist that board be paid.

7. If after all these questions are weighed and it is decided that the Court should undertake a program of foster care for delinquent children, funds for this purpose should be included in the regular budget of the Court as determined by the Board of County Commissioners.