2-7-1963

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1963 : 02 : 07 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/jwb_meetings

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/jwb_meetings/226

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Junior Welfare Board Agendas/Minutes by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Meeting in Clearwater, February 7, 1963

PRESENT: Reverend Mr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Baya Harrison, who acted as Secretary; Mrs. H. W. Holland; County Commissioner A. L. Anderson, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Floyd T. Christian. Also present: Dr. George H. Finck, Director; and Mr. William Patterson, Judge-Elect of the 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 January 10th meeting.

MOTION Approval of Checks as Listed

Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, to approve the checks as listed: check #8713 dated December 31, 1962; checks #8714 through #8756 dated January 31, 1963. Mr. Anderson abstained from voting on this motion.

MOTION Approval of Financial Reports and Investments

Mr. Christian moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, to approve the financial reports for January, including investment of $60,000 for six months at 3%, and $30,000 for nine months at 3½%. Mr. Anderson abstained from voting on the motion.

The Board discussed the report of children in foster care in the month of December. Dr. Finck read a letter from Mrs. Priscilla Colby, District Welfare Unit Supervisor, expressing appreciation to the Board and enclosing their first formal Certificate of Appreciation to the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Dr. Finck announced that Governor Farris Bryant had reappointed Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Holland to the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Dr. Finck reported that Mr. Paul Honey, President of the Community Welfare Council of South Pinellas, enthusiastically agreed with the presentation of an award to Mr. Leonard Cooperman at the time of the annual meeting of the Council in May. This award would be made as the Board's recognition for Mr. Cooperman's outstanding legal services, advice, and counsel over the years.

Dr. Finck reported that the marriage counseling staff had been asked to give an institute on marriage counseling at the meeting of the Florida Conference of Social Welfare at West Palm Beach, April 24 through 26. This institute would include a discussion of the staff use of group counseling for marital problems.

MOTION Approval of Expenses

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mr. Christian seconded a motion which carried, to approve the necessary expenses of the four members of the marriage counseling staff for the National Association of Social Workers Institute on family diagnosis at the Causeway Inn, Tampa, on February 15.

MOTION Date and Place of March Meeting

Because of Dr. Finck's absence at the meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the time and date of the next meeting were discussed. Mr. Christian moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, to hold the next meeting at 10:00 A.M. on March 11, in the new County Office Building, at the invitation of Commissioner A. L. Anderson.

In view of the newspaper reports concerning Commissioner Anderson's remarks about the Juvenile Welfare Board, Mr. Christian explained how the Juvenile Welfare Board works...
in Pinellas County. He mentioned that as a major result of its activities, Pinellas had the lowest rate of juvenile delinquency in the State of Florida. He stated that there was no way to substitute for its activities or to organize them under any other group. He felt that no other agency could succeed in doing the work of the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Mr. Anderson stated that he had never publicly criticized the Juvenile Welfare Board or its activities. He said he was concerned that there should not be any overlapping of services in the County, and felt that the County Commissioners should "police" welfare activities. He said he was surprised at the response that had come in relation to his remarks and felt he had not been correctly reported in the papers.

In the discussion of detention practices in Pinellas County that followed, Sheriff Genung and his Chief Deputy Roberts reported on the detention of preadjudicated cases. Sheriff Genung stated that there were four persons in his Youth Aid Bureau, and that in 1962 they had handled a total of 1,340 cases of which 177 had been referred to the Juvenile Court. He stated that 151 of these children were detained from one to 18 days by the Youth Aid Bureau, and the total number of children detained in the County Jail in Clearwater was 319. He felt that what was really needed was some kind of youth study or diagnostic center, but that the present quarters on the fourth floor of the new jail represented a "half-step" and did provide a complete separation from the adult inmates of the jail. He felt that the quarters there were "not the answer" but a step forward.

Sergeant Shearer of the Youth Aid Bureau of the St. Petersburg police force reported that in addition to himself the Youth Aid Bureau comprised five detectives. In 1962, they dealt with a total of 6,023 different offenses, and that 1,563 children were detained in the St. Petersburg jail, 48% of whom were repeaters. He stated that the average length of time spent in the city jail in 1961 was a little over two days. On this date in St. Petersburg jail there were ten children, five of whom were runaways. He said that he had prepared plans for the alteration of the cells used for juveniles at the jail, and that these alterations would provide for complete separation from the other prisoners. He stated that by law the police cannot hold a child for more than 48 hours without an order from the court.

Chief Willis Booth of the Clearwater police had stated that in his opinion one of the major difficulties in dealing with juvenile offenses was the requirement for judicial secrecy and the ban on the newspaper publication of the names of juvenile offenders. He stated that in the new Clearwater City Jail, the juveniles there were held separate and distinct from the adult offenders.

Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Holland of the Board reported on their visits to the St. Petersburg jail and the County jail in Clearwater.

In the discussion that followed many questions were raised in regard to the financing and functions of a detention facility. There was general agreement that detention should be as short as possible and that children should be detained separately from adults. There was some interest in the possibility of some sort of youth camp or conservation facility where boys could be sent instead of to Marianna. All the members of the Board and Judge-Elect Patterson joined in the discussion. Dr. Finck reported that an average of 114 detentions had taken place monthly in the Pinellas County jails during October, November, and December of 1962. During these three months, 314 detentions took place and 190 of these were for more than 24 hours.

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board will be held Monday, March 11, in the County Office Building in Clearwater.

Virginia D. Harrison
Secretary Pro-tem