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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1963 : 03 : 11 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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The report of children in foster care for the month of January was discussed by the Board. Dr. Finck reported that since last August, the number of children in care had decreased from 246 to 222. He stated that a factor in this reduction was the provision by the Juvenile Welfare Board of funds for staff and administrative expenses to the Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare.

Dr. Finck reported on the current status of the Homemaker Program. Dr. Finck stated that none of the $1,500 budgeted for Homemaker service had been used as yet in this fiscal year, but that the needs of families for housekeeper service were being met through Federal and State funds allocated to the Child Welfare Unit. Dr. Finck stated that it seemed possible that the Visiting Nurse Association would assume responsibility for a community-wide homemaker service to persons of all ages, and that he wished to alert the Board to the possibility of a request that this $1,500 be used in starting the new extended service. Dr. Finck stated that, of course, administrative safeguards would have to be established so that this money would be used for the benefit of children.

As the Board had previously requested, Dr. Finck secured material in regard to the use of camps for disturbed and delinquent boys. He reported on materials from the U.S. Children's Bureau and from the State of California. At greater length he discussed the Salesmanship Club Boys Camp in Austin, Texas, where disturbed youngsters had been helped by a therapeutic camp situation.

Dr. Finck reported also on the staff paper he read at the meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association in Washington, on March 8th. He stated that the paper was very favorably received and reported the comments made by Mr. Ralph Ormsby, Executive Director of the Family Society of Philadelphia. Dr. Finck was also asked to tape an interview for use by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He reported also that the Editor of Parents' Magazine is interested in the possibility of an article on the services of the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Dr. Finck introduced Mr. Wesley Jenkins, Executive Director, Family and Children's Service. Mr. Jenkins reported on the program for children hard to place for adoption under which the Juvenile Welfare Board pays the foster care of these children. He stated that of the 114 children who have been in the program, 6 have been permanently placed for adoption. Ten of these 114 were referred by the Child Welfare Unit, and of these 10, 8 are still in care. At the present time he is attempting to place two groups of children, one consisting of two sisters and the other of three brothers. He said that of the 114 negro children, one had been adopted and 3 were still in care. Mr. Jenkins concluded by strongly supporting the proposed State adoption law, and urging its passage by the legislature during the 1963 session.

MOTION
Approval of State Adoption Law

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, that the Board go on record as supporting a state-wide adoption law and that the legislative delegation be notified and urged to support this State legislation.
MOTION
Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, to approve the minutes of the February 7th meeting.

MOTION
Approval of Checks as Listed

Mrs. Holland moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to approve the checks as listed: checks #8760 through #8806 dated February 23, 1963. This motion also included the sanctioning of the investment of $40,000 in tax money at 3% for a period of six months.

The motion to approve the financial reports for the month of February was deferred until the April meeting at the request of Commissioner A. L. Anderson.

MOTION
Amendment of Sick Leave Policy

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to amend the sick leave policy adopted by the Board January 10, 1963, by striking out the sentence "after the first year of employment 6 days of unused sick leave may be added to the employees accrued total of sick leave to a maximum of 36 days".

MOTION
Approval of Foster Care for Bonita Phyllis Norris

Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mr. Anderson seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request of the Child Welfare Unit to continue foster care for Bonita Phyllis Norris beyond her 17th birthday so long as she continues in an educational plan at Dixie Hollins School.

MOTION
Transfer of Funds

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to transfer $1,200 from the Contingency Account to Bonds and Insurance in order to meet the Juvenile Welfare Board expenses under the County Major Medical Insurance Program.

Dr. Finck reported that following the February meeting of the Board, he had written to Mr. Lynn Andrews, City Manager of St. Petersburg, to support the need for separate quarters for children in St. Petersburg City Jail. Mr. Andrews had responded to thank the Board for its interest, and it has been reported by Sergeant Shearer that plans are going forward to achieve the desired separation.

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board will be held on Thursday, April 1, in the County Office Building in Clearwater.

Virginia D. Harrison
Acting Secretary