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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1963 : 06 : 06 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting in Clearwater
June 6, 1963

PRESENT: Reverend Mr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Sus Sakkis, Secretary; Mrs. Baya Harrison; Mrs. H. W. Holland; and County Commissioner A. L. Anderson. Also present: Dr. George H. Finck, Director; Mrs. Dorothy Brodie, Acting Director, Child Guidance Clinic; and Juvenile Court Judge-elect William Patterson.

MOTION
Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Holland moved, and Mrs. Sakkis seconded a motion which carried, to approve the minutes of the May 2 meeting.

MOTION
Approval of Checks as Listed
Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mrs. Sakkis seconded a motion which carried, to approve the checks as listed: checks \$8895 through \$936 dated May 31, 1963.

MOTION
Approval of Payments from Trust Funds
Mrs. Holland moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to pay for the Community Welfare Council dinner for Mrs. and Mrs. Leonard Cooperman in the amount of \$6.00 from Trust Funds.

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to pay for Mother's Day cards and postage from Trust Funds in the amount of \$10.30.

MOTION
Inclusion in Minutes of Mrs. Holland's Remarks
Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to inscribe in the minutes of the Juvenile Welfare Board Mrs. Holland's remarks on the presentation of the Juvenile Welfare Board service award to Mr. Leonard Cooperman.

The report of children in foster care for the month of April was considered by the Board.

MOTION
Approval of Requests for Extension of Foster Care for Bonnie Sue Fields, James Hornbuckle, Amy Merritt and Wanda Blackshire
Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mrs. Sakkis seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request of the Child Welfare Unit for the extension of foster care beyond the seventeenth birthday for Bonnie Sue Fields, James Hornbuckle, Amy Merritt and Wanda Blackshire.

Mrs. Dorothy Brodie, Acting Director of the Child Guidance Clinic, presented the current personnel situation of the Clinic. The appointment of Mr. George Uzdavinis, at a starting salary of \$7,000.00 was announced. There was considerable discussion about the problems of the Clinic in regard to the salary payment for the new psychiatrist-director, Dr. Free, who is scheduled to report for his duties at the Clinic on July 15. Mrs. Brodie explained the problems of securing payments for his salary from the State Board of Health and from the United Fund. After a considerable amount of discussion the following motions were passed.

MOTION
Transfer of Funds Within Child Guidance Clinic Budget
Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mr. Anderson seconded a motion which carried, to transfer unexpendable funds from the Child Guidance Clinic in order to furnish the salary for the Psychiatrist-Director of the Clinic for the two and one-half month period beginning July 15, 1963, up to \$4,200.00 for this period.
MOTION
Revision of 1963-64
Budget

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, to increase the contingency fund by $7,400.00 for the coming year with the understanding that the sum necessary up to this amount could be used to pay a part of Dr. Free's salary.

MOTION
Payment of Expenses

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Sakkis seconded a motion which carried, to pay the necessary expenses for three members of the marriage counseling staff to attend the National Association of Social Workers Institute on Mental Health, Sarasota, Florida, on June 14.

MOTION
Request for Professional Leave for Dr. Finck

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request for professional leave for Dr. Finck to attend the nominating committee meeting of the National Association of Social Workers, New York City, June 26 - 28.

Dr. Finck read to the Board the responses that have been received from the persons attending the Marriage Counseling Institute which was given by the staff at the meeting of the Florida Conference of Social Welfare. Other publicity in regard to the paper written by the staff members was shown to the Board.

Dr. Finck announced that he had included in the Board material for this meeting the paper which he has written on the prevention of juvenile delinquency. This paper will be read at the meeting of the National Institute on Crime and Delinquency, Miami, Florida, June 11.

MOTION
Authorization for Judge-elect Patterson to Sign Checks

Mr. Anderson moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, to authorize the signature of Judge-elect Patterson on the checks of the Juvenile Welfare Board when he assumes his new office on June 22.

The date of the next meeting for the Juvenile Welfare Board was discussed and it was decided to plan for a meeting on Thursday, August 1, 1963.

The activities reports for the month of May were distributed 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 Thursday, August 1, in the County Office Building in Clearwater.

Marie Sakkis
Secretary
Mrs. Holland's remarks on the occasion of the presentation of the Juvenile Welfare Board Service Award to Mr. Leonard W. Cooperman, May 23, 1963

We might play the game "do you remember", for many of you here tonight were prominent in the development which I want to bring to mind.

Go back with me about 20 years--Lincoln Bogue was Judge of the Juvenile Court, and because of his devotion to and interest in young people, no one realized better than he that there were no facilities to meet their needs.

Judge Bogue requested funds from the County Commission for foster home care and they appropriated $250 for a year's program. He was so discouraged over this that he asked the Community Welfare Council to appoint an Advisory Committee to work with the Court.

One of this Committee, a young lawyer, Leonard Cooperman, became interested in the legal aspect of the situation and felt there should be a new approach on a county-wide basis to meet juvenile problems.

And, as a result, he wrote the revolutionary and far-sighted Juvenile Welfare Board Act, which was sponsored and introduced in the Legislature by the then Senator Henry S. Baynard. The Bill passed subject to a referendum.

Then the citizens of Pinellas County voted overwhelmingly to tax themselves for a preventive and constructive program for youth in the County.

The effects of this Law have been felt far and wide. In the Congressional Record of the Kefauver Report on Juvenile Delinquency 30 pages are devoted to the Juvenile Welfare Board Act. It is given word for word in full, with the suggestion that it be used as a model for other localities.

From far away Copenhagen came a request for all possible information on the Juvenile Welfare Board plan and a request for an article by our Director to be published in their State magazine.

Enough about the Bill and more about the author--Mr. Cooperman's interest did not stop with the writing of the Bill, he continues to give of his time and advice and has been its defender at all times against any political maneuvers to change the real intent and effectiveness of the law.

So to him, and many of you here tonight, go much of the credit for Pinellas having one of the lowest juvenile delinquency rates in the country.

Mr. Cooperman, the Juvenile Welfare Board has long wanted to honor you for your vision and unselfish service, and it gives me great pleasure, personally, to present you this award. Since I have served on the Board since its inception, I know how very much you have done to make the program a working reality.