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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1948 : 08 : 26 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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The Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board met August 26 at 9:30 a.m. in Clearwater with the following members in attendance: Mrs. Holland, Miss Phillips, Judge Marshall, Mr. Fuguitt and Mrs. Bartlett. Also present were Director Williams and the state auditor, Mr. William O. Gentry.

Mr. Gentry, who had been requested to make an audit by the Board of its books following the embezzlement of funds by Virginia Bilderback Jackson, reported:

1. Total embezzlement from checks accounted for is $2784.79, of which $800.00 was recovered upon the arrest of Mrs. Jackson.
2. Nine checks that there was no record of went thru the banks, but eight had been accounted for (# 349, 342, 358, 379, 380, 381, 410, 414), and that they totaled $855.00; that the unaccounted for check was felt to be one written May 19 for $45.00.
4. That he had rewritten the books and set them up straight so they would be easier to keep.
5. That retirement tax had not been deducted from Mrs. Lavoie's and Mrs. Waechter's salaries.
6. That he would suggest a register be kept for each juvenile as a record of dates, cause, and placement.

The Board expressed its thanks to Mr. Gentry for auditing its books so quickly and so ably.

Mr. Fuguitt suggested employing a more efficient secretary who could handle the books and the suggested register.

Dr. Williams was asked to get an opinion from Mr. Blocker, attorney for the County Commissioners, as to the retirement tax, the nine checks still at large, and the possibility of getting a judgment against Mrs. Jackson.

Dr. Williams reported that the runaway boy from Alburquerque had written Mrs. Twitty that he had arrived home safely and had taken a job dusting banana groves in Venezuela.

The minutes of August 12 were read and corrected to read that Dr. Williams had worked with this runaway boy on the plan to return home.

Bills amounting to $200.04 were presented and moved by Miss Phillips to be paid. Mr. Fuguitt seconded and the motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Bartlett suggested that service charges by the Bank of Clearwater be investigated.

Mr. Fuguitt announced that the county school system had appointed a negro visiting teacher, Spenser Albury, and that Dr. James Boyd, negro Supervisor of Schools, would be brought in later.

Judge Marshall reported that there are now ten white boys and five negro boys at Marianna and seven white girls at Ocala.

Dr. Williams presented a program he would like to work out with
the teachers in the county, asking them to look for symptoms of maladjustment, et cetera, and to make referrals to him, with the idea of preventing delinquency later. Mr. Fuguitt offered to get the necessary forms for this survey and to distribute them to the teachers and principals. He further suggested asking the principals to call the probation office with their problems rather than the police department.

Mr. Fuguitt moved that the Board adopt the Inter-Agency Agreement
Motion: worked out by Dr. Williams and the directors
Inter-Agency Agreement of the other agencies. A copy is hereby at-
tached. Miss Phillips seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Williams reminded the Board that the agreement with District #4 Welfare Board would expire October 1. Various points were brought out in the discussion that followed; namely, that the Juvenile Board now has 14 children in long-term placement but the load would probably be increased in the next six months to 20-25; the advisability of a time limit of six months instead of twelve for study and revision; the reviewing of cases regularly with a view of family placement; and the need of more money for operation.

Motion: Judge Marshall moved and Mr. Fuguitt seconded that Dr. Williams work out an agreement with District #4 Welfare Board along these lines with District #4 Welfare Board and report back to the Juvenile Board at its next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Williams spoke of the need for clothing for ADC children. The need is great as there are about 800 ADC children in the county at the present time. He suggested that clubs and groups be asked to take the responsibility of gathering clothing and distributing it from established centers in the county. The Board approved the idea and instructed him to work on some feasible plan for it.

The meeting adjourned till September 9 at 9:30 a. m.
INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE, COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD, DISTRICT 4 WELFARE BOARD.

SUBJECT: Agency Responsibility and Procedures.

OBJECTIVE: To define responsibilities of the four agencies represented in order to work toward the setting up of inter-agency agreements and clarifying inter-agency procedures.

The services and intake policies of the newly established Child Welfare Unit of the District 4 Welfare Board were discussed briefly. From this it was possible to use case examples where certain types of problems have not seemed to fit into any one program in order to determine to which agency the responsibility might seem to belong.

1. Stranded, Abandoned, and Runaway Children: Since the District 4 Welfare Board has no residence requirement, it was agreed that these children would be the responsibility of the Child Welfare Unit and would be referred to the District Welfare Board as necessary. Exceptions would be in St. Petersburg proper where the Division of Social Service is the cooperating representative of the Traveler’s Aid Society. When such children come to the attention of the Division of Social Service, it will usually begin investigation under its Traveler’s Aid function in order to verify residence, and secure authorization of return. It is felt that some of these cases can be cleared before the day is over and would not need to be referred to the District Welfare Board for emergency shelter care while plans were being made. If, during this initial investigation, the Division of Social Service finds that plans cannot be completed for the child during the same day, it will continue with case responsibility but request the District Welfare Board, through its Child Welfare Unit, to arrange for shelter care until plans can be completed. In such cases the only function of the District Welfare Board will be to provide emergency shelter care.

The Department of Social Service, St. Petersburg, and County Welfare Department, will arrange for or provide transportation for stranded, abandoned or runaway children who are to be returned to their homes.

2. Emergency Shelter Care: Where emergency shelter care or housekeeper services are needed because the responsible adult is sick or unavailable for some other emergency reason, the situation will be handled by the Child Welfare unit.

3. Transient Families: When families who do not have Pinellas County residence become known to an agency and it is necessary to provide shelter for a period until residence can be determined and arrangements made to return the family to the place of regular residence, it will be handled as follows:

(a) In St. Petersburg an attempt will be made to arrange emergency shelter care for the family with the Salvation Army. In some instances it will not be possible for the whole family to be cared for in the Salvation Army shelter. When this is true a referral can be made to the District Welfare Board for provision for the children.
(b) Outside of St. Petersburg when the family cannot be taken care of in one shelter, the case will be referred to the District Welfare Board in regard to shelter care for the children.

(c) The Department of Social Service, St. Petersburg, and County Welfare Department, will arrange for or provide transportation for transients, including children, who are being returned to their homes.

It was recognized that all agencies were obligated to foster the development of programs to meet various needs. One of these would be encouragement of the development of the proposed Salvation Army shelter in Clearwater. The part of the District Welfare Board were discussed briefly. From this Under existing Florida law, no agency or person may take children away from parents excepting the Juvenile Court. However, in some cases it is possible to secure the written consent for placement where arrangements for temporary care cannot be made for whole families. This would give protection to the agencies as well as the children.

One problem which was discussed and which has not been met is that of meeting the need for rent in the areas outside of St. Petersburg where families who are Pinellas County residents do not have the funds to purchase rent. An example of this is a mother and five children who were without funds and who had to be separated so that the mother and baby received shelter care one place and the other four children received shelter care in another place. This is a pending ADC application but it will not be possible to grant ADC when the mother is not maintaining a home for the children. If rent could have been paid, she could have reestablished the home and kept the children with her.

It was agreed that arrangements would be made for the County Welfare Department to place some children in need of shelter care on an emergency basis directly in the Child Welfare Unit's licensed shelter homes after 5 o'clock. The County Welfare Department will usually refer these cases to the Probation Department, but occasionally it will be necessary for direct placements to be made.

It is believed that if the District Welfare Board will accept emergency shelter care cases, it will eliminate duplication of efforts on the part of agencies and release some of the funds now being used for this purpose by other agencies to meet other needs.

Clarence D. Hinds, Director
St. Petersburg Division of Social Service

Myron Koch, Director
County Welfare Department

Dr. Herbert D. Williams, Director
Juvenile Welfare Board

(Mrs.) Dorothy Y. Ripper, Director
District 4 Welfare Board