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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1962 : 06 : 11 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting in Clearwater
June 11, 1962

PRESENT: Reverend Mr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Gus Sakkis, Secretary; Mrs. Baya Harrison; Mrs. H. W. Holland; and County Commissioner John W. Bonsey. Also present: Dr. George H. Finck, Director; Mr. Brady Smith, Marriage and Family Counselor; Mrs. Anna France, Director of Children's Home Society, Gulf Coast Division; and Mr. Wesley Jenkins, Director of Family and Children's Service, Inc.

The minutes of the May 3rd meeting were approved as distributed.

MOTION

Approval of Checks as Listed

Mr. Bonsey moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried, to approve the checks as listed: checks #8367 through #8403 dated May 31; and check #8404 dated June 1, 1962.

The financial reports for the month of May were reviewed by the Board and filed as approved. Mr. Bonsey suggested that the possibility of investing funds on a monthly basis be explored.

The reports of children in foster care for the month of April were reviewed by the Board. Dr. Finck reported on Tom Robbins, one of the children in Brown Schools for whom the Board had been paying one-half of the expenses. Tom Robbins returned from the Brown Schools on May 31, and will be entering the public schools here in the fall. His condition is reported as improved and regular supportive contacts will be made by the Child Guidance Clinic.

MOTION

Approval of Use of Foster Care Funds for Administrative Purposes

Mrs. Holland moved, and Mr. Bonsey seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request of the State Department of Public Welfare for the use of foster care funds for administrative expenditures beginning in June, 1962, as already approved by the budget committee for fiscal 1962-63. This motion was approved pursuant to the review of the Budget Committee of the Board of County Commissioners.

MOTION

Request of Child Guidance Clinic for Employment of Staff

Mrs. Harrison moved, and Mr. Bonsey seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request of the Child Guidance Clinic for the current employment of Mrs. Zay to replace Mrs. Mabel Pieper, who is on terminal leave.

MOTION

Approval of Proposal for Foster Care of Children Pending Adoption with Family and Children's Service

Commissioner Bonsey moved, and Mrs. Harrison seconded a motion which carried, to approve the proposal of the Family and Children's Service, Inc., that children who are hard to place for adoption could be included under the current agreement with Family and Children's Service, Inc., for the foster care of these children.

The request of the Community Service Foundation for group work and training of Negro community leaders was discussed by the Board and it was agreed that, subject to the availability of staff time, Mr. Smith be permitted to conduct group sessions once a week.

Dr. Finck announced that the Budget Committee meeting with the Board of County Commissioners would be held the same day at four o'clock. The Reverend Mr. Coleman and Dr. Finck later attended this meeting.
Dr. Finck read the report of the League of Women Voters on the Juvenile Welfare Board activities. The Board suggested that this report be duplicated and distributed to the members of the Board.

Dr. Finck reported on an article which he had written for the family life coordinator concerning the marriage and family counseling service of the Juvenile Welfare Board. Dr. Finck also reported on the preparation of an abstract of an article for the American Orthopsychiatric Association by the members of the staff. Dr. Finck announced his election, for a three year term, to the National Nominating Committee, representing Region IV, of the National Association of Social Workers.

The adoption programs of the Children's Home Society and the Family and Children's Service were discussed by Mrs. Anna France and Mr. Wesley Jenkins respectively. The factors making for a change in the current adoption situation were reviewed by Mrs. France and Mr. Jenkins. In the ensuing discussion they stressed the need for a publicly supported State adoption service.

The activities reports for the month of May were reviewed by the Board.

The Board discussed the regular July meeting and discovered there was no possibility of a quorum for the meeting on July 5. It was decided that a meeting would be held on Thursday, August 2, if a quorum could be obtained.

Since there was no further business the meeting was then adjourned.

[Signature]
Marie Sakakis
Secretary
Current Agenda Item: County Government Committee

"A study of the effects of increasing urbanization of Pinellas County with special considerations of the responsibilities and abilities of local governments to meet the needs of juvenile welfare services."

Conclusions to Committee Study - April 1961 to January 1962

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JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD - Dr. George H. Finck, Director

This Board is unique to Pinellas County and is supported by special tax levy with 1/2 mill limit. The Board's purpose is to organize, develop and support services to children in order to prevent delinquency and mental illness. There are five specialized services wholly or partially supported by the Board's budget.

1. FOSTER HOME AND SHELTER HOME CARE for dependent children. The Juvenile Welfare Board pays cost of board and care. The Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare pays salaries, administration, and other child welfare services. Shelter homes are for temporary and emergency use. Foster homes are the best substitute for a child's own home and the most economical way for the County to care for children needing home care. April 1961 Welfare News (State of Florida) shows Pinellas County disbursements for foster homes second only to Dade County. It appears that Pinellas County is filling this need.

UNMET NEED exists in the inadequacy of Child Welfare Funds from the State of Florida to pay sufficient salaries and to keep needed staff for the administration and supervision of foster home programs. As the 1961 Legislature failed to increase appropriations to the State Welfare Department, more of the administration costs will have to be paid from Pinellas County funds.

UNMET NEED exists for a state-wide adoption service, authorized and financed by the State Department of Public Welfare. This would have permitted the adoption of seven children who received Pinellas County foster home care in 1960. Necessary legislation requested by the State Department of Public Welfare passed in committees, but was not brought to the floor of the 1961 Legislature.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS - As Pinellas County tax levy is providing an adequate foster home program why are so many voluntary contributions going from Pinellas County to support the Sheriff's Boys' Ranch? Does the Florida State Constitution give the Sheriffs a responsibility to provide "welfare" as well as law enforcement? (Sheriff's Junior deputy program is considered a good one toward building respect for law enforcement.)
2. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING service supported entirely by Juvenile Welfare Board as a preventive service because marital breakdown is the greatest single reason for placing children in foster homes.

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS** - As this is a tax supported service, clients are asked only for voluntary contributions. Current standards in good social work practice stress the need for clients to pay according to ability, most authorities regarding this practice as therapeutically desirable. Can this standard be applied to tax supported services?

3. CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC was started before Juvenile Welfare Board, receives 46.8% of funds from Juvenile Welfare Board and the remainder from other tax sources, Community Funds and voluntary contributions.

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS** - Why does the Clearwater office have a waiting period of 1 year, as of May 1961 - St. Petersburg office a much shorter period?

4. PINELLAS COUNTY LICENSE BOARD FOR DAY NURSERIES AND FOSTER BOARDING HOMES sets and administers standards for operating these services for pre-school children. Pinellas County standards are among the best in Florida, and in line with the national trend.

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS** - Should the standards for privately owned nurseries and kindergartens be the same as for the not-for-profit or Community Fund supported agencies?

5. HOMEMAKER SERVICE - a key program for keeping families together - limited to families with children and to emergency situations - when mother is ill or institutionalized. Family pays for this service according to family resources.

**UNANSWERED QUESTIONS** - Is this service meeting the needs of the community? How could it be expanded?

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CONCLUSIONS ON JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD - A good program moving in the direction of greater cooperation between all agencies and organizations dealing with children, in its program to prevent delinquency and maladjustment, and using foster care as the keystone.

**UNANSWERED QUESTION** - is this teamwork approach toward solution of human relations problems generally understood and appreciated by taxpayers and voluntary contributors to health drives and charities?

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