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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1949: 09: 01: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1949

The Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board met September 1, 1949 at the Courthouse in Clearwater at 9:30 A.M. Those attending were Mrs. Bartlett, Judge Marshall, Mr. Belcher, Mr. Christian, and Dr. Williams.

Motion: Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Belcher seconded that Judge Marshall continue to act as chairman in the absence of Mrs. Holland. Motion was carried unanimously.

There was some discussion by the Board regarding the case of a 16 year old boy who was confined in the County Jail, and who became involved with John Calvin Russell in a jail break and assault upon the jailer. Judge Marshall reported that he had seen the state's attorney in regard to this case. The director reported that Mr. Patrick informed him that under the law a juvenile becoming involved with adults in a crime could be dealt with as an adult offender, in the discretion of the court, and cited cases where a remand to the Juvenile Court by a Justice of the Peace had been questioned by the Circuit Court Judge who claimed jurisdiction over the case. It was recognized by the Board that juveniles involved with and under the influence of adults need the protection of the Juvenile Court perhaps even more than those involved only with juveniles and who are generally remanded to the Juvenile Court for action. It was agreed that an attempt should be made to work out policies in regard to this, pending the revision of the constitution making it possible for the legislature to set up constitutionally approved Juvenile Courts and fix the jurisdiction, powers, and duties of such courts. It was pointed out that this constitutional amendment will be voted on at the 1950 election.

At the request of Judge White of the County Court, the Board held a conference with Miss Katharine Parsons, Director of the Children's Service Bureau, Detective M. G. Colman, juvenile officer of the St. Petersburg Police Department, and Mr. Clarence Hinds, director of Social Service for the City of St. Petersburg, regarding the situation of a family where the mother and father are divorced. There are 4 children, and the mother has become insane. Judge White requested that a recommendation be made to the Court regarding suitable plans for the care of the children, in the event that the mother is judged insane and must be committed to a State Hospital. The father is paying $170 a month toward the support of the children. As a result of the conference, it was decided to recommend to Judge White that a guardian be appointed, preferably the Trust Officer of the Union Trust Bank, that the appointment be made so that the guardian be in charge of both persons and property of the minor children, and that the Children's Service Bureau
continue its supervision and responsibility for care of the children. The Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board was asked to get in touch with the father and ascertain whether he would be willing to have this arrangement made.

The director submitted a copy of the tentative agreement with Mr. J. A. McClure, Jr., guardian, for the consideration of the Board in regard to reimbursement of the Board for care of the two Rolfe girls. This agreement provides that Mr. James A. McClure, Jr., guardian for the Rolfe girls, would retain in the account of each girl $300 to meet educational and emergency needs, and that he would repay the Juvenile Welfare Board to the extent that the estate would permit after this deduction.

It was further agreed that Dorothy who became 18 on July 7 would no longer be a responsibility of the Juvenile Welfare Board, but that Flora is to continue in high school and the Children's Service Bureau is to supervise her. This Bureau will make out a reasonable budget for her care which will be submitted to the director and the Juvenile Welfare Board for consideration. In the event that this reasonable budget exceeds the amount received from the Veteran's Administration and the Life Insurance received on the father, the Welfare Board will submit the amount to bring it up to the budget required. She will receive $25.34 each month through July, 1950, from insurance on the life of the father. She will receive $21.34 Veteran Administration payments each month through February 11, 1951. (Mr. Christian says this has been increased by 15% in a recent action of the Veteran's Administration). A copy of the memorandum is attached to original minutes.

Motion: Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Belcher seconded that the agreement as made by the director be approved. Passed unanimously.

The director reported on his conference with the Superintendent of the County Home and Hospital in regard to the emergency use of the Hospital for infected girls. The Superintendent expressed his willingness to cooperate and said he would take it up with the Physician for the institution, and that he would report to Mr. Belcher and the County Commissioners regarding a decision. Mr. Belcher reported that no decision had been reached so far as he knew. The director agreed to call the Superintendent of the County Home and Hospital and ask for further information and report back to the Board. The director submitted the revised vacation and sick leave regulations which were requested at the last meeting.

Motion: Mr. Belcher moved and Mr. Christian seconded the motion to approve the regulations as modified during the Board discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
The Board was visited by two girls from the Peace Memorial Church Young People's group, which is studying a program on race relations. These young people discussed with the Board what is being done for negro youth of the County, in the schools in guidance and counseling, and were told that some of this service is available through the negro probation officer and the Judge and other members of the school and court staff.

The director submitted a report on the Child Guidance Clinic which indicated that the Child Guidance Clinic has now submitted its budget and will send in a quarterly report of its financial transactions. It is already sending in a monthly statement on its case load and services. The director also submitted an evaluation of the work of the Child Guidance Clinic which was given to the Board members to read before next meeting.

The director also submitted a comprehensive report on the survey of problem children. This was in written form and given to the Board for their perusal prior to the next meeting.

The Board entered into a discussion as to the best method of gaining the cooperation of the Probation Department in calling staff meetings, establishing administration policies, and maintaining adequate case records. It was suggested that the Probation Officer be invited to attend the next Board meeting.

The director reported that Jeffrey Thorne is still being maintained in a nursing home while attempts are being made to get the mother to support the child here or return him to Massachusetts, where he belongs with his mother.

Mrs. Bartlett called attention to the Board to the fact that we are approaching the end of another year and it was time to take an inventory of activities and projects which have not been completed. These were mentioned: (1) In-service training for the Juvenile Court and other staff; (2) a check-up on the drinking situation at the beaches, so far as minors are concerned; (3) developments in the needs and resources file for the county; (4) the child-marriage evil which has existed in Georgia and whether the Board should protest regarding this; (5) the Board's request for regular staff meetings in the Juvenile Court; (6) the need for occasional brief presentations of cases by staff members; (7) reports by Mrs. Ripper and her staff regarding the Child Welfare services; also by the Child Guidance Clinic; (8) are there any recommendations in the Hicks report on his survey of the Juvenile Court about which the Board should do anything?

Motion: Following this discussion Mr. Christian moved and Mr. Belcher seconded a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment Motion carried.

[Signature]
Secretary
In a discussion with Mr. McClure today, it was tentatively agreed, subject to approval by the Board, that Mr. McClure would retain $300, in the account of each girl to meet emergencies and educational needs, and that he would repay the Juvenile Welfare Board to the extent that the estate will permit after this deduction.

It was agreed that Dorothy, who became 18 on July 7, will no longer be a responsibility in any respect to the Juvenile Welfare Board. Mr. McClure requested that the Board give consideration to a plan for Flora as follows:

She is to continue in High School and the Children's Service Bureau is to exercise supervision over her. They will make out a reasonable budget for her care. This will be submitted to the Director and the Juvenile Welfare Board for consideration. In the event that this reasonable budget exceeds Flora's income, the Juvenile Welfare Board will give consideration to supplementing the amount received to bring it up to the budget required. She will receive:

- $25.34 each month through July, 1950, from insurance on the life of the father
- 21.60 V. A. payments per month, through February 11, 1951.
- $45.94 Total per month

Mr. McClure told us that he did not plan to charge any fee for his services in this case, but asked our opinion in regard to requesting the Court for $25.00 stenographic services, which would barely cover the cost of the stenographic work required of his secretary. He also wishes to request $100 for attorney fees which he will contribute toward Dorothy's educational fund for the coming year. We told him we thought this a very generous attitude on his part.