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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1967 : 04 : 06 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting in Clearwater
April 6, 1967

PRESENT: County Commissioner John W. Bonsey who acted as Chairman; Mrs. Charles S. Baker, Secretary; Mrs. H. H. Holland; Juvenile Judge Robert A. Halvorsen; and Dr. Thomas B. Southard, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Also present: Dr. George H. Finck, Director; Dr. Walter M. White, Jr., Director of Child Guidance Clinic; and Mrs. Barbara E. Thomas, Foster Care Supervisor, State Department of Public Welfare.

MOTION Approval of Minutes
Mrs. Holland moved, and Judge Halvorsen seconded a motion which carried, to approve the minutes of the March 2nd meeting.

Dr. White spoke to the Board concerning the present situation in regard to the Child Guidance Clinic. Since he became Director in July 1966, he has inaugurated some changes in procedures which he hopes will be speeding up the process of diagnosis and reducing the waiting list. Although the Clinic had one less professional staff member than a year ago, 28 more cases had actually been processed in the first two months of this year than in a similar period last year. Dr. White said that the Clinic was moving toward more intensive therapy and toward reducing the time spent in evaluation and diagnosis. He stated that for non-emergency cases, the initial waiting period was two to four weeks; the interval until in-take three to five weeks; until psychiatric evaluation four to six weeks; until psychological evaluation four to eight weeks; and until therapy from three to five months from the time of the initial contact. Dr. White responded to questions from the Board about how the service could be improved and discussed ways in which help might be available from the Board of Public Instruction.

Judge Halvorsen raised the question about the availability of foster care homes for delinquent children. Mrs. Thomas stated that in the month of March the Juvenile Court had referred 23 children for foster care and that the Child Welfare Division was also receiving referrals from the after-care program from the State Training Schools. These referrals meant finding facilities for delinquent children whose behavior not only included running away or engaging in further delinquencies, but also disrupting the foster homes and encouraging the other children to anti-social behavior. It was agreed that the question of the use of foster homes for delinquent children would be discussed by Judge Halvorsen, Mrs. Thomas, and Dr. Finck.

MOTION Approval of Expenditures for March
Dr. Southard moved, and Judge Halvorsen seconded a motion which carried, to approve the expenditures for March: Checks #1511, 1537, 1538, 1539 dated March 31; and checks #1542 through #1584 dated April 6, 1967.

MOTION Approval of Salary Checks for April
Judge Halvorsen moved, and Dr. Southard seconded a motion which carried, to approve the salary checks for April on the condition of completion of satisfactory service.

Dr. Finck discussed the financial report and statement for the month of March 1967. He told the Board that the State Auditor had begun examining the books from 1958 through 1966, an eight year period in which there has been no audit.

MOTION Refund of Prior Year Revenue
Mrs. Holland moved, and Dr. Southard seconded a motion which carried, to refund the sum of $4.09 collected by erroneous double assessment by setting up an account entitled "Refund of Prior Year Revenue" and transferring $4.09 from the "Contingency Fund" to this new account.
The report of children in foster care for the month of February 1967 was reviewed by the Board.

MOTION Dental Care for Tom Kamboures Dr. Southard moved, and Judge Halvorsen seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request of the State Department of Public Welfare for the payment of needed dental care for Tom Kamboures in the amount of $418.00

Mrs. Thomas reported that Richard Flanagan had run away from the Reinhulz's Shelter Home and that consequently the request for his extended foster care as a part of the after-care program was withdrawn.

MOTION Special Board Rate for Physically and Mentally Handicapped Children in the Petersen Shelter Home Mrs. Holland moved, and Judge Halvorsen seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request of the State Department of Public Welfare for increasing the Board rate for six physically and mentally handicapped children in the Petersen Shelter Home from $60.00 to $100.00, in addition to the $10.00 a month subsidy paid the Shelter Home for maintaining emergency bedspaces.

Dr. Finck reported on the case of Frances Norris where the Board had approved extended foster care. Frances Norris has left the Junior College and gone to work.

MOTION Approval of Necessary Expenses for Mr. Ted Hanscom Judge Halvorsen moved, and Dr. Southard seconded a motion which carried, to approve the request for payment of the necessary expenses for Mr. Ted Hanscom to attend the Southern Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America in Charleston, South Carolina, from May 17 to 19, 1967.

Dr. Finck read a letter from the Board of the Adult Mental Health Clinic stating that they were unable to meet the request of the Protective Services Unit for psychiatric consultation.

Dr. Finck reported on the advertisement of a bill which would give the Board of County Commissioners budgetary authority over all independent organizations and agencies including the Juvenile Welfare Board and excepting the School Board.

Dr. Finck reported on foster care legislation and on the statement which he had sent in the name of the Board to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives. This statement informed the Committee about the way in which a full range of child welfare services functioned in Pinellas County, not only to give better service to children, but also to reduce the number of children who had to be separated from their parents and placed in foster care. The statement also questioned whether the "maintenance of effort" clause might mean the freezing of Pinellas County's tax supported program at an unfairly high level of contribution.

Dr. Finck read a letter from Mr. Floyd Christian, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, commending the Board on the Nineteenth Annual Report. Dr. Finck said that the cost of the Report had been $90.00 for 1250 copies plus 1000 envelopes.

The Activities Reports for the month of March were reviewed by the Board.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board will be Thursday, May 4th, in the County Office Building, Clearwater.

Mrs. Charles S. Baker, Secretary