9-3-1981

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1981 : 09 : 03 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/jwb_meetings

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/jwb_meetings/441

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Junior Welfare Board Agendas/Minutes by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Mrs. Herman called the meeting to order.

MOTION Approval of Minutes
Dr. Harris moved, and Mrs. Allen seconded a motion which carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 6, 1981.

MOTION Approval of Special Merit Increments
Dr. Rose moved, and Mrs. Barton seconded a motion which carried to approve special merit increments for Gayla L. Larkin, Secretary II (Coordinating Secretary) in Community Services, 9%; Sandra Lindsay, Day Care Service Worker in the License Board, 7%; and Dorothy Ann Ware, License Board Secretary, 8%; all effective September 1, 1981.

Mrs. Allen opposed this motion.

MOTION Promotion to Acting Coordinator
Dr. Harris moved, and Judge Michael seconded a motion which carried to promote Robert Glenn to Acting Coordinator of Marriage and Family Counseling with a 10% increase in salary, effective September 1, 1981.

MOTION Approval of 1981-82 Meeting Schedule
Mrs. Allen moved, and Judge Page seconded a motion which carried to approve the 1981-82 meeting schedule as mailed with the notation that the October 1, 1981 regular meeting will be held at the upcounty office and with the understanding that this schedule could be changed at a later meeting.

Mr. Meisner discussed with the Board the 1981-82 program funding budget (Preliminary Draft #2).

MOTION Approval for Addition to AHS Budget
Judge Page moved, and Mrs. Allen seconded a motion which carried to approve the addition of $2,508 (approximately 26% of the cost of a computer information clerk and data processing) to the 1981-82 Alternative Human Services budget. The amount is contingent upon the award of the remaining 74% by another funding source.

MOTION Approval of CYS in Budget
Mrs. Byrkit moved, and Mrs. Allen seconded a motion which carried to leave Community Youth Services in the 1981-82 draft budget, since responses by that agency to programmatic issues have revealed a good faith effort to provide appropriate services.

Dr. Edwards discussed the problem of coming up with a realistic caseload for licensing family day care homes and children's centers, since the figure could vary so much with the quality of licensing provided.

The Board discussed the possibility of projecting an expected return of 95% on ad valorem taxes, rather than 98%, and both figures will be projected and returned to the Board at the September 17th meeting.
Mrs. Byrkit moved, and Mrs. Allen seconded a motion which carried to allocate to Family Counseling Center from Program Development up to $11,744 for a half-time coordinator, fringe, travel and contractual services to provide support to the Time-Out Homes. The item of Contractual Services ($500) is to be subcontracted to Alternative Human Services for printed public informational materials.

Mrs. Allen moved, and Mrs. Byrkit seconded a motion which carried to accept the change in staffing pattern as requested by Family Counseling Center and incorporated in the Preliminary Draft #1.

Mike Schmidt, Research and Evaluation Consultant, gave a concise report on the Comprehensive Mental Health Services site visit and response.

Mr. Glackin stated that he would need to have the five contracts dealing with the five corporate entities formerly operating as Comprehensive Mental Health Services, but now structured as Affiliated Health Services, Inc. and four separate catchment areas (Mental Health Services of: North Pinellas, Inc.; North Central Pinellas, Inc.; South Central Pinellas, Inc.; and South Pinellas, Inc.) before ruling how agreements with the Juvenile Welfare Board could be worded.

Will Michaels reported on the projected pattern for 1981-82 Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) funding directly to and in behalf of children and showed the ranking of JWB funded programs by percentage of children served to total clients served.

Will Michaels spoke on the increase in State funding for children's services in the Florida Health & Rehabilitative Services District V.

The Board noted a memorandum from Bill Hicinbothem, Fiscal Administrator, re updating the Board on Juvenile Welfare Board computer assistance to funded agencies.

Carl Meisner commented on a conference report on The Future of Human Services which he had attended in Orlando last month.

Mrs. Herman asked the members to note the informational items which included Speakers Bureau activity for August (11 speeches reaching 438 people); August Training Unit statistics (7 Speakers Bureau presentations and 393 people participating in training); August site visits (Consumer Credit Counseling Service and Jewish Community Center); a newspaper article, "Juvenile Welfare Board, Problems Within Agency Need to be Corrected, Study Concludes"; and an article about The Family Connection, a drop-in counseling center to be operated jointly by Alternative Human Services and the Junior League of Clearwater.

The packet also included a letter from Pinellas Youth Homes, Inc. (now Youth Homes of Florida, Inc.); a letter from the Network of Christian Counseling Centers, Inc.; letters
to Community Youth Services; two articles on Federal budget reductions and an analysis of House Bill 1095.

The conference room daily usage for August was 31 downcounty, 5 upcounty.

The Board members signed a resolution honoring Bill Neet, which will be presented to him at a later date.

Mrs. Herman recognized Mrs. Barton, who had asked to make the following statement because she will be out of the country on September 17, when MGT of America, Inc. will present the final report:

"I feel that before the Board here I want to question some of the MGT conclusions, particularly in consideration of Marriage and Family Counseling. You know that's been very close to the heart of the whole working of the Juvenile Welfare Board since its beginning; and I feel that MGT, in drawing their conclusions, did so more from the competitors than from the recipients of the service. When the National Study Service (NSS) recommended that the Juvenile Welfare Board not continue this direct service, the situation was entirely different - the Director was serving as part-time marriage and family counselor. They (NSS) recommended that be discontinued, which it was. But the whole thing has been changed since then; and they (MGT) keep referring to what the National Study Service recommended, when the situation is entirely different from what it was at that time.

"As a person who's been in a lawyer's family and has two lawyer sons, I know how important this service has been to lawyers. And the reason it's been important is because of the quality that they have received in the service here. They like it because it is more or less immediate service - they don't have to get on the waiting list if it is something very, very important - you can get to them quickly. I know that, personally, because I received part of the service for some of my grandchildren, and it has been most effective and helpful. Too, it had a certain personal touch, a caring service that has meant so much all along the way for the people that have talked about it.

"Also, I feel that we must realize that it's carrying out the mandate of the law; and, if we do not do that directly in direct service, then we are not carrying out the mandate of the law.

"Have we thought, too, of the training this service gives with the public schools and with other agencies that is not given in any other family counseling service. It's a good yardstick, too - it's a challenge because of the quality - it's a challenge to the other agencies that give a similar service. Now, I believe there are only two other people on the Board who have been here and who have seen this working through all these times - Judge Page and Mr. Glackin. We feel that all of this means so much, and I almost feel that it's a child - these other agencies - who might be jealous of the power; therefore, I want to register my vote for retaining Marriage and Family Counseling as a direct service in compliance with the mandate of the law."

Mrs. Herman had a statement which she wanted to have included as a part of the minutes:

"Reflecting back on the reasons the Board decided we needed a management study, I particularly remember several things. There was a decided feeling that important information was not being supplied expeditiously by the Director to the Board -- in effect, was being stonewalled in some cases. We had also had considerable publicity -- much of it unfavorable.

"The process of choosing a consultant was extended, but thorough. Many consultants submitted proposals. The final choice, MGT of America, Inc. is a well-known, reputable firm. The choice of MGT was also approved by Dr. Kennerson, of USF, who had been called in by the
Director to make sure the Board made a competent choice. I must confess that I felt some resentment at this, since I felt the Board was capable of hiring a consultant without coaching.

"As I read through this voluminous document presented by the Executive Director in response to the MGT draft study, I found myself becoming increasingly disturbed.

"My initial reaction was to the length -- 84 pages -- and as I read on it became clear to me that an inordinate amount of time must have been spent in preparing the response. This is ironical in light of the fact that for almost two years the Director has not been able to find the time to supervise the development of a set of policies and procedures for the Board's operation. The motion to this effect was passed at the Nov. 1, 1979 meeting.

"As to the content of the response document, I find it to be in the main self-serving, and verbose. I recognize there are some inaccuracies in MGT's findings and some omissions in their recommendations. It is proper for the Director's response to point these out. But to go on and on promoting present policies (or lack of them) is to me, unnecessarily defensive.

"I believe the time spent preparing this response could have been put to better use initiating a plan of alternatives to present to the Board so that we can begin to decide how to go about making the changes necessary to operate Juvenile Welfare Board at the optimum strength possible, or making plans to correct the obvious deficiencies noted in the Director's relationship with the Board.

"Because it is a draft, I will not comment on the MGT study now except to say that I found few surprises there. As to the final report, I suspect there will be little difference in its substance.

"The job of the Board, I believe is to accept the final Organizational Study when it is presented to us on Sept. 17, discuss it thoroughly and then decide how to go about implementing the changes we feel are necessary. This will take much time and commitment and I look forward to it."

Mrs. Herman pointed out that the Annual Meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board is September 18th. There will be a slide show presentation, and the Board members are invited.

Mrs. Herman declared the meeting adjourned.

The next meetings will be:

- September 17, 1981 - Special Board meeting, final report from MGT (9:30 a.m., St. Pete. JWB Conf. Room #1);
- September 18, 1981 - Annual meeting - 2:00 p.m., Conf. Room #1;
- October 1, 1981 - Board meeting (Clearwater JWB office, 2189 Cleveland Street);
- October 1, 1981 - Public hearing on preliminary budget & millage, 7:30 p.m., St. Pete. JWB Conf. Room #1;
- October 8, 1981 - Public hearing on final budget and millage, 7:30 p.m., St. Pete. JWB Conf. Room #1.

Calvin D. Harris, Ed.D., Secretary