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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1981: 12: 17: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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PRESENT: Mrs. Helen W. Herman, Chairman, and Mrs. Mary Frances Byrkit. Also present: Mr. Carl E. Meisner, Acting Executive Director; Mr. William M. Michaels, Deputy Director; and Mrs. Mary L. Broadwater, Administrative Secretary.

Mrs. Herman made an announcement explaining that this was a work session which was called very hastily because of time constraints, and then greeted the agency representatives in the audience. Mr. Meisner served as secretary in the absence of Dr. Harris.

Mrs. Herman introduced Mrs. Byrkit, who is the Juvenile Welfare Board representative to the committees meeting to discuss organization and funding processes of mental health services.

Mrs. Byrkit stated that in behalf of all the children of Pinellas County, and in particular, those of our children who stand in critical need of a broad array of mental health services, she was compelled as a member of this Board to make known to her fellow Board members the following proposal:

"It is proposed that Affiliated Health Services, Inc. (Foundation for Mental Health in Pinellas, Inc.) assign their assets in trust to the Juvenile Welfare Board."

She continued with the following considerations relating to the above proposal:

"The Juvenile Welfare Board will retain these assets in trust for the purpose of funding future mental health services to children and families."

"Funds will be allocated after consultation with other interested funding authorities, including the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, the District Mental Health Board, the United Way, and representatives from the Boards of Affiliated, the Foundation, Mental Health Services of South Pinellas, Inc., Shoreline Mental Health Center, Inc., and the Mental Health Services of North Pinellas, Inc. A consultative committee may be formed composed of these agencies."

"The Juvenile Welfare Board will waive any legal claim against Affiliated's (Foundation's) assets and will urge that other interested agencies do the same, provided Affiliated (Foundation) assigns their assets to JWB."

"This proposal should be acted upon by Affiliated (Foundation) not later than January 30, 1982."

Mrs. Byrkit then read a statement elaborating upon her reasons and concerns in working up the above proposal.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between the Board members, Juvenile Welfare Board staff, and Board members and staff of attendant agencies.

Mrs. Herman thanked everyone for coming.

The next meetings will be: January 7, 1982 - Regular Meeting; January 21, 1982 - Work Session.