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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1971 : 09 : 02 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting at Juvenile Court Center
September 2, 1971

PRESENT: Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. William C. M. Bissell, Secretary; Mrs. R. Clark Robinson; Mrs. Roy M. Speer; Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nicholas Mangin; and Juvenile Court Judges Jack A. Page and William L. Walker. Also present: Dr. George H. Finck, Director; Dr. Raymond L. Edwards, Assistant Director; Mr. William E. Neet, Mrs. Margaret M. Young, and Miss Thelma D. Bruce, Project Playpen.

Since there was no objection, Dr. Coleman directed that the minutes of the August 5 meeting be accepted as mailed.

MOTION: Mrs. Bissell moved, and Judge Walker seconded a motion which carried, to approve the expenditures for August: checks #658 through #697 dated September 2; and checks #698 and #699 dated September 30.

MOTION: Mrs. Speer moved, and Mrs. Bissell seconded a motion which carried, to approve the salaries as budgeted for September on condition of completion of satisfactory service except for the merit raises of Mrs. Heard, Mrs. Glennie, and Mrs. Young, which have been affected by the wage-price freeze.

The request of the Child Guidance Clinic for salary changes for Mrs. Ada Sommer and Mrs. Jean Evans was reviewed by the Board.

MOTION: Judge Walker moved, and Mrs. Speer seconded a motion which carried, to table the requested salary changes for Mrs. Ada Sommer and Mrs. Jean Evans from the Child Guidance Clinic pending clarification from the Internal Revenue Service concerning the wage-price freeze. The Director was requested to ask the Child Guidance Clinic to submit information concerning any change in Mrs. Sommer's duties which would establish this change as a new position.

Dr. Finck reported that for the month of August, 28 persons were seen for a total of 28 counseling hours during overtime at a cost of $170.23, plus six hours of compensatory time.

Dr. Finck reviewed the qualifications of Mrs. Ruth Coppinger as Marriage and Family Counselor and requested the permission of the Board to confirm her appointment effective September 15 instead of October 1 since she was currently available and there was a waiting list of persons seeking marriage counseling.

MOTION: Mrs. Robinson moved, and Mrs. Speer seconded a motion which carried, to approve the appointment of Mrs. Ruth Coppinger as a Marriage and Family Counselor effective September 15, 1971, at an annual salary of $10,680.80.

The financial statement for the month of August was reviewed by the Board. Dr. Finck stated that at the end of the year there would be some necessary transfers to cover deficits in budget items and to carry out changes in expenditures approved by the Board.
The reports of children in group care for July in the Juvenile Court homes, and from the Division of Family Services for August, 1971 were reviewed by the Board. Dr. Finck announced that he had received word from the Juvenile Court that the special foster care for T. C. H. could be terminated.

Dr. Finck stated that word had been received of the acceptance of the abstract of a paper entitled "Services for Marriages Originating in Adolescence" for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association in Detroit, Michigan, April 5-8, 1972.

Dr. Coleman expressed the appreciation of the Board for the work of the staff in this fourth and unprecedented acceptance of papers for the American Orthopsychiatric Association. Dr. Finck presented the magazine entitled "Psychiatric Spectator" which contained an abstract of the Project Playpen paper which was presented at the 1971 annual meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

Dr. Finck discussed the initial visit of Mr. John Moore, Director, and Dr. Ellen Winston, Chief Consultant of the National Study Service, August 11 and 12. He described the visits to the various agencies: Dr. Winston to the State Division of Family Services, Family and Children's Service, Inc., Pinellas County License Board for Children's Services and Family Day Care Homes, including Project Playpen; Mr. Moore to the Juvenile Court, Pinellas County Schools, Peter Pan School, the Community Services Council, the Pinellas United Fund, and the Child Guidance Clinic.

Mr. William Neet, Project Supervisor of the Juvenile Welfare Board, brought the accounting of Project Playpen up to date for the members of the Board. He stated that Project Playpen had been able to license and maintain 31 family day care homes with a population of 81 children. The planned projection of the program is for 40 homes with 150 children. There are currently about 20 vacancies in the 81 homes because a number have been recently licensed and because the requests for family day care diminish in the summertime. He stated that the current need of the program was for better training of the Project Playpen mothers to meet the needs of young children. He felt that the current vacancy on the Project Playpen staff might well be filled by a person trained in the area of early childhood education. Mrs. Margaret Young talked about the development of the Project Playpen homes and stressed that more homes were needed to add to the ten homes in the northern part of the County. Miss Bruce explained the need for more volunteers and for more Project Playpen mothers who are able and willing to undertake transportation. She stated that more than half of the current children are from the WIN Program and discussed the cooperation with the Division of Family Services in regard to this. So far as the current support of the children not on the WIN Program is concerned, the total amount paid by the natural mothers of these children was $180 for the week ending August 20. She also gave a case illustration of the way in which the health and nutritional needs were being met through Project Playpen and through cooperation with other agencies.

The Activities Reports for the month of August were presented to the Board.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Juvenile Welfare Board will be held on Thursday, October 7, 1971, at the Juvenile Court Center, at 9:30 a.m.

Mrs. William G. M. Bissell, Secretary