3-6-1975

Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1975: 03: 06: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

Regular Meeting - March 6, 1975

PRESENT: Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Stephen D. Mullins, Vice Chairman; Mrs. James D. Eckert, Secretary; Mrs. H. W. Holland; Judge Robert F. Michael; Judge Jack A. Page; Commissioner Charles E. Rainey; and Chaplain Moses Stith. Also present: Dr. Raymond L. Edwards, Executive Director; Mrs. Mary L. Broadwater, Administrative Secretary; Mr. William M. Markman, Business Administrator; and Mr. Frank P. Glackin, Attorney at Law.

Dr. Coleman called the meeting to order.

At Judge Page's request, Dr. Raymond A. Sleszynski, Director, Child & Family Comprehensive Mental Health Center, Inc., presented a plan to use the Townhouse as a home for five emotionally problemated adolescent boys which was funded by the Board on February 6, 1975. Dr. Sleszynski recommended use of the Townhouse for this program.

The Board discussed various other uses for and possible disposition of the Lake Chautauqua Townhouse.

MOTION
Commissioner Rainey moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried to authorize the staff of the Juvenile Welfare Board to investigate what could be accomplished with $125,000 (the amount which the Board felt could be realized from the sale of the Chautauqua property) toward property in other locations.

Dr. Coleman welcomed the newly appointed Board member, Chaplain Moses Stith. Judge Michael suggested that the chaplain offer a prayer, and Chaplain Stith obliged with a prayer for wisdom and guidance for the Board.

Dr. Edwards informed the Board about the possibility of a ten-acre tract and buildings owned by the Catholic Diocese being leased for use as a multi-purpose children's facility. St. Joseph's Manor (2335 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg), a 110 bed nursing home, has been vacated by the Diocese in favor of a more modern facility. The Probation and Parole Commission had planned to initiate a half-way house in part of the facility but was unable to secure the necessary funds. Dr. Edwards expressed his greatest reservation and concern being the location of the facility in a high crime area. Pinellas Youth Homes' experience in the area had been very poor.

Miss Muriel E. McCord, Training Consultant for the Juvenile Welfare Board, filled in the Board on the progress of care for dependent children through the years. She said that foster homes for children are not always the answer and that in some cases institutional care is more beneficial for a number of reasons. Many foster parents "burn out" quickly, and it has always been a problem keeping foster parents. Some children respond better to an institutional setting than to a family one. She suggested that it might be helpful to have a consultant from out-of-state come down (approximate cost - $1,000) to check out the St. Joseph's facility and to suggest how the facility could be used, what type of child could be accommodated, whether there should be a mix of children with different problems, etc.
Commissioner Rainey moved, and Judge Michael seconded a motion which carried to authorize administration to enter into negotiations with Mr. Curley (representative for St. Joseph's property); to spend approximately $1,000 for the previously mentioned consultant to appraise the potential of the property; and to provide the Board with complete information as to the advisability of pursuing use of this property.

Commissioner Rainey moved, and Mrs. Eckert seconded a motion which carried to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract between the Juvenile Welfare Board and C. Randolph Wedding & Associates.

Mrs. Eckert moved, and Commissioner Rainey seconded a motion which carried to approve the expenditures through part of February:
- Check #1330 dated January 31, 1975;
- Checks #1332 and #1333 dated February 4, 1975;
- Check #1334 dated February 10, 1975;
- Checks #1335, #1336, #1337 and #1338 dated February 13, 1975;
- Check #1339 dated February 14, 1975;
- Checks #1347 through #1468 and #1472 dated March 6, 1975; and
- Checks #1470 and #1471 dated March 31, 1975.

Commissioner Rainey moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried to approve the items without exception as follow:

A. Salaries: as budgeted for March on completion of satisfactory service.

B. Expenses: for February as budgeted. Check list to be presented for review at next regular Board meeting. Non-budgeted items will be presented for approval prior to payment. (Mr. Glackin has interpreted as within the law.)

C. Agreement: for Chairman to sign Legal Intern Agreement between State Attorney's office and Juvenile Welfare Board.


E. Trust Fund: to transfer Trust Fund into General Account, but maintain as separate fund.

F. Contingency Fund: to transfer $7,000 from Contingency Fund to General Account under Pinellas Youth Homes, Inc. Emotionally Problem Youth Home.


This motion included a resolution by the Board, by unanimous vote, to give its specific prior approval to issuance of all checks in payment of regularly budgeted items on the same basis as salaries are approved in advance upon completion of satisfactory service.
Mr. Glackin reported on the progress of acquisition of land at the site of the Board's anticipated office building and stated that it would probably be necessary to start condemnation proceedings in order to acquire one parcel of land.

**MOTION**

Authorization to Start Condemnation Proceedings

Mrs. Mullins moved, and Judge Page seconded a motion which carried to authorize the Board's attorney, Mr. Frank P. Glackin, to start condemnation proceedings, on the assumption the offered contract had been rejected.

**MOTION**

Authorization to Proceed With Vacationing Alleys

Judge Page moved, and Judge Michael seconded a motion which carried to authorize Mr. Glackin to contact the county attorney's office to bring action to have two alleys vacated on the Juvenile Welfare Board property.

Mr. Glackin stated his opinion that all Board members had to comply with the Public Disclosure Act (74-177) and that most probably Dr. Edwards and Mr. Markman would need to complete the necessary forms, since they were the "purchasing agents" for the Juvenile Welfare Board.

The appraisal of the Townhouse had not been completed.

**MOTION**

Approval of Concept of Child & Family Comprehensive Mental Health Center Unit

Mrs. Eckert moved, and Judge Page seconded a motion which carried to endorse the concept of the development of a pediatric liaison, consultation and training, and mental health unit at All Children's Hospital and to explore the feasibility of such a unit relating and providing services to Bayfront Hospital and the Health Department. Such unit would also serve as part of the Child Trauma Team if and when one is developed at All Children's Hospital or Bayfront Hospital.

**MOTION**

Approval of DFS Request

Mrs. Mullins moved, and Mrs. Eckert seconded a motion which carried to approve the request for a 7.5% exceptional merit increase for Mrs. Arta Neubert, Division of Family Services Intensive Care Group Home worker, from $864.30 to $929.12 monthly, effective March 2, 1975, provided that such increases are being given on a statewide basis. Commissioner Rainey and Mrs. Holland abstained from voting.

**MOTION**

Approval of Exceptional Merit Increase

Mrs. Holland moved, and Mrs. Eckert seconded a motion which carried to grant an exceptional merit increase to Mr. William M. Michaels, Research and Evaluation Consultant, from $1,414.40 to $1,560.00 monthly, effective March 1, 1975, on the basis of the recommendation from Dr. Edwards. Dr. Edwards based his recommendation on the March 7, 1974 Policy Statement and January 2, 1975 Revision, the development of funding priorities, and the development of the Youth Service System model recently adopted for Pinellas County. Commissioner Rainey abstained from voting.

**MOTION**

Authorization to Make Study on Merit Increases

Commissioner Rainey moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried to authorize the Director to obtain information on State and County level as to current practices of granting salary increases and report back to the Board; and for the Director, in conjunction with the Personnel Committee, to make a study of the validity and advisability of merit increases.
Mrs. Eckert moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded a motion which carried to grant the request of Community Services to employ a second Research and Evaluation Consultant at an entering annual salary of $13,291.20 (Grade 42, Step 1), effective March 10, 1975. Funds are to come from the Assistant Director's position for the remainder of this fiscal year.

The Board reviewed the Budgetary Program Report for February, 1975, the reports of children in care and the activity reports. Dr. Edwards reported on the group home program operated by the Division of Family Services.

Commissioner Rainey moved, and Mrs. Eckert seconded a motion which carried to authorize the Juvenile Welfare Board to sponsor the Child Abuse Institute to be held April 8-10 in Clearwater. Expenses not met by registration fees are to come from PACER unit funds.

The meeting was declared adjourned.

The next meetings of the Juvenile Welfare Board will be a Work Session on March 26, 1975 and a Regular Session on April 3, 1975; both meetings to be at 9:30 a.m. at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Mrs. James D. Eckert, Secretary