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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting: 1971: 05: 06: Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting in Juvenile Court Center

May 6, 1971

PRESENT: County Commissioner George R. Brumfield, who acted as Chairman until the arrival of Dr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr.; Mrs. William G. M. Bissell, Secretary; Mrs. H. W. Holland; Mrs. R. Clark Robinson; Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nicholas Mangin; Juvenile Court Judges Jack A. Page and William L. Walker. Also present: Dr. George H. Finck, Director; Dr. Raymond L. Edwards, Assistant Director; Dr. Raymond A. Sleszynski, Director; Mrs. Jean Prekopie, Staff Assistant; Miss Dolores Jendrynski and Judge Robert Michael, Board Members, Child Guidance Clinic.

MOTION Approval of April 1 minutes
Mrs. Holland moved, and Judge Walker seconded a motion which carried, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 1971 meeting.

Dr. Finck introduced Dr. Sleszynski to present the current program and budget request of the Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County, Inc. Dr. Sleszynski explained the rapid growth of consultation services to other agencies and the additional requests for Clinic services from the public. He stated that the program of initial telephone contacts was proving to be very successful and had improved the efficiency of Clinic operations. Because of the increased number of requests for service, the Clinic was losing ground in keeping current with requests for service and was, therefore, asking for an increase in budget from the Juvenile Welfare Board of $70,072.00 more than was requested in 1970-71. (This request is $56,001.52 more than the amount actually granted in the 1970-71 budget.)

Questions asked of Dr. Sleszynski included the payment for overtime beyond 40 hours; the 7½% requested cost-of-living and merit increases; the use of a second psychiatrist and the place of other consultants in the program; the addition of $9,420.65 in 1970 to the Trust Fund which had a year-end balance of $75,126.80; and the purpose for which the Trust Fund was intended. Dr. Sleszynski explained that he was having difficulty in finding qualified people for Clinic positions and that it was for this reason that one of the Juvenile Welfare Board positions for a Psychologist II had been vacant since the beginning of the present fiscal year.

MOTION Approval of expenditures for April
After the representatives of the Child Guidance Clinic left the meeting, Commissioner Brumfield moved, and Mrs. Robinson seconded a motion which carried, to approve expenditures for April:
Checks #313 through #350 dated May 6, 1971; and checks #351 and #352 dated May 28, 1971.

MOTION Approval of salaries for May
Mrs. Bissell moved, and Judge Page seconded a motion which carried, to approve the salaries as budgeted for May on condition of completion of satisfactory service.

Dr. Finck reported that, in the month between the 26th of March and the 25th of April, the Marriage and Family Counseling Staff saw during overtime on Tuesday evenings a total of 43 persons in 39 hours of counseling, which cost the Board $250.41, plus six hours in compensatory time (as permitted by the Board's action on April 1, 1971). Dr. Finck announced also that Project Playpen, Inc. had appointed Miss Thelma Bruce, a recent graduate of the Florida State University School of Social Work, as a social worker for that program at a beginning salary of $9,006.40.
The financial statement for the month of April, 1971 was reviewed by the Board. Dr. Finck explained the charges to St. Petersburg Travel Center for approved plane travel and to the Post Office for printed envelopes for the License Board.

MOTION
Transfer from Contingency to Juvenile Court
Mrs. Holland moved, and Judge Page seconded a motion which carried, to approve the transfer of $600.00 from Contingency to Juvenile Court Foster Care for T. C. H. as authorized April 1, 1971.

MOTION
Payment of rent
Judge Page moved, and Mrs. Robinson seconded a motion which carried, to authorize the payment of $265.00 a month, of which $66.25 would be Juvenile Welfare Board funds, for the rent of premises at 3500 Fifth Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida for Project Playpen, Inc.

The reports of children in group care for March and from the Division of Family Services for April, 1971 were reviewed by the Board.

Dr. Finck reported on the work of the committee, appointed by the Chairman, to work with the Eckerd Foundation in the purchase of a facility as approved in principle by the Board on April 1, 1971. He described how the building was located on Lake Shore Drive, Chattauqua-on-the-Lake and that it consisted of five acres of land, 440 feet of lake front, and two acres of submerged lake front.

MOTION
Approval of purchase of property
Commissioner Brumfield moved, and Mrs. Bissell seconded a motion which carried, to confirm the telephone poll of April 20, 1971 and to purchase the property located at Lake Shore Drive, Chattauqua-on-the-Lake for use by the Eckerd Foundation as a group home for girls. Dr. Finck stated that an agreement would be drawn up with the Eckerd Foundation which would provide for a lease to the Foundation at $1.00 a year for a guaranteed period of ten years with the provision that the Eckerd Foundation would pay all expenses for maintenance, upkeep, repairs, insurance, balance of taxes, etc., and would also pay to the Juvenile Welfare Board the sum of $50 a month for every girl taken into the facility who was not a resident of Pinellas County. The Board stated that they felt that the extra land adjacent to the property should be specified as being within the control of the Juvenile Welfare Board so that, if it were desirable sometime in the ten-year period, this extra land could be sold to recapture some of the expense of the property.

MOTION
Transfer of funds to Eckerd Foundation Camps
Commissioner Brumfield moved, and Judge Walker seconded a motion which carried, to approve the transfer of $80,392.95 from "Refund from Division of Family Services" to Eckerd Foundation Camps. This sum will pay for the $75,000.00 purchase price of the property and provide an additional $5,392.95 for furnishing the group home.

MOTION
Approval of travel for Protective Services
Mrs. Holland moved, and Mrs. Robinson seconded a motion which carried, to approve the payment of necessary expenses for two Protective Service workers to attend the meeting of the Child Welfare League of America at Miami, Florida, June 1-6. It was estimated that the cost would be approximately $111.00 each, or $222.00.
Dr. Coleman announced that Mrs. Dame and Dr. Finck had been elected Fellows of the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors "for outstanding contributions to the field of marriage counseling" and expressed his compliments to these staff members for their achievements.

The proposed budget for 1971-1972 was discussed by Dr. Finck and questions of the Board Members were answered. He stated that the proposed budget would represent a decrease in millage from .46529 to .41988 if the value of the mill increased by three percent as estimated. Salaries for staff members in Marriage Counseling, License Board, and Project Playpen included a 5% merit increase based on the County Pay and Classification Plan. The budget of the Child Guidance Clinic was discussed at great length, and it was decided that no conclusions could be reached on this and other matters at this particular meeting. Dr. Finck stated that the personnel of the Child Welfare Unit in Protective Services would be reduced to eight social workers and two clerical persons. The budget provided for a group home which is about to open, and for another one to be ready in a few months. Family and Children's Service budget included an expanded program for children hard-to-place for adoption and also for a counseling position for parent-child relationship problems. There was little discussion about a ten percent increase for Peter Pan School and $1,200.00 increase for Play Parc. Dr. Finck explained the need for a new position in the Marriage and Family Counseling Program and for a receptionist whose salary would be shared by Juvenile Welfare Board and the License Board. He stated that the three day nurseries in the upper part of the County had requested that they be assigned a marriage and family counselor to work with their children and parents and teachers in a way similar to the program that was set up in the lower part of the County three years ago. The License Board requested a new position for another Supervisor of Day Care and would be charged with one-half of the salary of the receptionist. On the basis of the number of staff, their rent was estimated at 35% for quarters which it is hoped will be ready by January 1, 1972. The rent will be divided between the License Board, Project Playpen, and the Juvenile Welfare Board. The Juvenile Court budget, with the second group home for boys approved April 1, 1971, presented few changes. The Project Playpen budget was attached and showed that the Juvenile Welfare Board's share of this will be somewhat less because the Federal Government will be paying three-quarters of the total cost. Dr. Finck explained that the administrative items reflect an increase in staff and the additional rent after January 1, 1972. The final item was the $26,000.00 requested for the Head Start Program for the coming year.

Since the budget requests represented several new directions for the Board, it was felt that the Board needed to establish a system of priorities and to consider where the expanded programs of other agencies fitted in with the Board's purposes. It was, therefore, decided that a special study session of the Juvenile Welfare Board would be held on Tuesday, May 18, 1971, at 4:00 o'clock at the Juvenile Court Detention Center. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. William G. M. Bissell, Secretary