

1-10-2008

## Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 2008 : 01 : 10 : Packet

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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## Board of Directors Meeting

January 10, 2008

Minutes – 11/29/07

Item II.A.

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**Present:** John Milford, Vice Chair; Martha Lenderman, Secretary; Cecilia Burke; Honorable Bob Dillinger; Honorable Bernie McCabe; Van Sayler; Commissioner Ken Welch; Attorney Smiljanich

**Absent:** Joseph Smith, Chair; Dr. Clayton Wilcox

**I. Consent Items**

None

**II. Action Items**

**Approve Minutes for November 29, 2007 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Welch moved the November Board Minutes be approved as written; seconded by Ms. Lenderman; motion carried.

**ACTION: Minutes Approved**

**Election of Vice Chair**

Mr. Dillinger nominated Mr. Milford to serve as Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Lenderman; motion carried.

**ACTION: Approved**

**Approval of Community Council Members**

Ms. Burke moved Pastor Harold M. Paxton, Jr. and Ms. Mary Jo Mycko be appointed to serve on the Mid-County Community Council; seconded by Van Sayler; motion carried.

**ACTION: Appointments Approved.**

**St. Petersburg College Contract**

The Lease Agreement with St. Petersburg College was submitted to the Board for approval. Upon approval, the agreement will be presented to the St. Petersburg College Board for approval in December, 2007. After a short discussion, Mr. McCabe moved the Juvenile Welfare Board enter into the lease agreement with St. Petersburg College for 99 years. Seconded by Ms. Burke; Commissioner Welch abstained; motion carried.

**ACTION: Approval granted to sign the lease with St. Petersburg College.**

### **Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Pinellas County (Human Resources Studies & Consultation)**

The County Attorney's office returned the Interlocal Agreement to JWB citing a lack of explicit delegation of authority by the Board to the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the County. The agreement provides a salary market survey, pay plan audit, classification study, climate survey and human resource consultation. Staff disagrees with this position, however in order to move the agreement forward, staff is requesting Board approval for the Executive Director to execute the agreement. Revised Board Policies will be presented for approval in January, and will address delegation of such authority. Mr. Dillinger approved the signing of the Interlocal Agreement with the County; seconded by Ms. Lenderman; motion carried.

**ACTION: Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Pinellas County, along with authority for the Executive Director to execute the agreement.**

### **JWB Investment Update**

Recent press reports regarding potential risks related to the Florida State Board of Administration's (SBA) Local Government Investment Pool's direct or indirect sub-prime mortgage exposure, and associated credit downgrades, have caused a great concern among its investors, including JWB. Staff, after consultation with Mr. Saylor, is requesting approval to adopt the following plan to govern investments for the next 60 days: JWB will invest all new revenues in the Treasury-only MMA, The Public Funds Checking Account, and the SBA, with the goal of equal dollars retained in each account. Two members of the Board felt the SBA funds should be pulled; one member did not agree. Ms. Burke moved approval, with the understanding the Staff has authority to pull the funds if warranted; seconded by Ms. Lenderman. Motion carried 5 yes; 2 no.

**ACTION: Approved JWB Staff plan regarding investment with approval to pull the funds if warranted.**

## **III. Reports/Board Discussion**

### **Connected by 25 – Diane Zambito, Executive Director**

Ms. Zambito brought the Board up to date regarding the program, which is designed to assist youth who are aging out of the Foster Care System and entering the adult world unprepared. The program is in the process of collecting data from local youth in the system, including what they feel is needed to aid them in preparing for adulthood. A strategic plan for a local support system will be completed in March, 2008, and presented to the Board at that time.

### **Youth Skills – Don Shepherd, Director of Program Operations, WorkNet**

Mr. Shepherd shared the goals of the Youth Skills Program. Approximately 239 of the youth served were in the Foster Care System. Youth are referred to the program through the Pinellas County Schools, Drop-out Prevention Programs, and Adult Education. An interesting research finding from Chapin Hall was that high risk youth who remain connected with the Foster Care System after aging out of the system, appear to be more successful as adults than lower risk youth who do not remain connected. This concept reinforces JWB's commitment and interest in the Connected by 25 program.

### **Child Welfare Advocacy Update**

Ms. Evoli presented a comprehensive written report to the Board and responded to questions regarding comparison of data, such as staff turnover, caseloads and salaries between Pinellas and other counties in the State. As noted, such comparisons are difficult because of wide variances in funding levels,

distribution of responsibility, and availability of resources. Longitudinal comparisons of the progress within the district are considered the best means of measurement

Mike Bernstein, Executive Director of Gulfcoast Community Care, and one of the Safe Children Coalition Case Management Organizations since July, 2004, agreed there is definitely room for improvement in the child welfare system, but also believes the system has come a long way.

Department of Children and Families will be releasing an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for community based care in mid-December. Ms. Lancaster believes JWB should take the lead in establishing service criteria for Pinellas County. In an attempt to obtain input from those working within the system, JWB will be hosting a meeting on December 7, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Board was encouraged to attend if possible. Board members also indicated they would like to see JWB staff participate on the Review Board, once the bids are in.

#### **Other Discussion**

Ms. Lancaster shared with the Board that future tax reductions may require a narrower funding focus in order to provide the right dosage of essential services to those children who are at greatest risk.

#### **V. Presentations**

Dr. Starr Silver's "Return on Investment" presentation created a lengthy discussion among Board members.

Middle School Aged Summer Scholarship (MSASS) Initiative Presentation: tabled to the January Board Meeting.

Pinellas County Management Services: tabled to the January Board Meeting.

#### **VI. Information Items**

There were no questions or comments on the information items.

#### **VII. Open Agenda**

Recruitment of Attorney – An interview committee will be established upon receipt of proposals.

Due to time restrictions, Ms. Lenderman moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Ms. Burke; motion carried.

**ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.**

The December Board Meeting has been cancelled. The next Board Meeting will be January 10, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at the EpiCenter.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Lenderman, Secretary

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