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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 2005 : 03 : 10 : Minutes

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JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY
Regular Meeting – March 10, 2005

AMENDED MINUTES

Present: Van Sayler, Chair; Joseph A. Smith, Vice Chair; John Milford, Secretary; Cecilia Burke; Janet Caramello; Bernie McCabe; Judge Irene Sullivan; Commissioner Kenneth T. Welch; Beth Wilson; Terry Smiljanich, Board Counsel; James E. Mills, Executive Director; Amy Daly, Executive Assistant

Absent: Bob Dillinger, Dr. Clayton Wilcox

Mr. Sayler called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and noted that a revised agenda was at each Board member's place, moving item III. A. - Executive Director's Evaluation to the end of the action agenda and that discussion of Community Based Care would be moved to the April agenda. Mr. Sayler also noted the public speaking policy of JWB and announced that public comment to issues included in Ms. Burke's February 7, 2005 memorandum to the Board would follow Board action on the Executive Director's evaluation.

AGENDA A motion was made by Mr. Milford and seconded by Mr. Smith to approve the agenda for the March 10, 2005 regular meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES A motion was made by Commissioner Welch and seconded by Mr. Milford to approve the minutes for the February 10, 2005 regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no Executive Committee actions; however, Mr. Sayler noted that Board Counsel had responded to a letter sent by Ms. Karen M. Doering, Attorney, NCLR, a copy of which was at each Board member's place.

PRESENTATION

Following a presentation on the Pinellas State of the Child, questions and comments from the Board included: the reporting accuracy of other communities and whether there was a way to assess the reporting (Mr. Mills suggested that staff could look at how each community is organized to determine if information is available); **the availability of miscarriage/abortion levels for 15-19 year olds in Pinellas County** (Dr. Silver noted that an estimate may be available at the national level, and Dr. Spence indicated that this information is not kept at the local level); and

Commissioner Welch requested information on whether **a decline in pregnancy rates to minorities is similar to non-minorities**. As well, Commissioner Welch requested the information or the link for the information be forwarded.

ACTION

Equipment & Renov.

Mr. Saylor, noting his conflict of interest as a result of his wife serving on the YWCA Board, requested that the proposed Equipment and Renovation contract award to the YWCA be moved for separate consideration.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Milford and seconded by Commissioner Welch to a) allocate up to \$125,873 for computers to be purchased by JWB through Bayshore Technologies, Inc. that will be distributed to the following: Preschool Experience, Inc. dba Community Preschool (\$1,264), Suncoast Epilepsy Association, Inc. (\$3,384), Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Inc. dba Gulf Coast Community Care (\$15,168), Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Pinellas (\$5,175), Alpha, A Beginning, Inc. (\$7,325), United Cerebral Palsy of Tampa Bay dba Achieve Tampa Bay (\$14,650), Brookwood, Inc. (\$13,904), Marriage and Family Center (\$14,650), Campbell Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. (\$5,860), Family Resources, Inc. (\$4,395), CASA, Inc. (\$6,440), Pinellas County License Board (\$24,816), Watson Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (\$5,912), Community Pride Child Care Center of Clearwater, Inc. (\$2,930); b) Allocate \$49,459 to the four recommended requests for Equipment and Renovation to be purchased by non-JWB funded agencies as follows: Gulf Coast Legal Services, Inc. (\$17,659.80), Preschool Experience, Inc. dba Community Preschool (\$7,716), Homeless Emergency Project, Inc. (\$23,239), Suncoast Epilepsy Association, Inc. (\$843.66); c) allocate up to \$212,357.58 for the 20 recommended Equipment and Renovation funding requests by the JWB funded agencies as follows: Pinellas Association for Retarded Children (\$16,543), Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Inc. dba Gulf Coast Community Care (\$4,389.99), Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Pinellas County, Inc. (\$6,524.05), Pinellas Village, Inc. (\$17,096.50), Brookwood, Inc. (\$9,952.22), Marriage and Family Center (\$4,958), Campbell Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. (\$999.87), Directions for Mental Health (\$24,000), Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services, Inc. (\$6,201), United Methodist Cooperative Ministries, Inc. (\$4,439.75), Family Resources, Inc. (\$14,824), Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc. (\$25,000), YMCA of the Suncoast (\$4,727), 211 Tampa Bay Cares, Inc. (\$10,770.83), CASA, Inc. (\$15,399.28), Religious Community Services, Inc. (\$13,680), James B. Sanderlin Family Center (\$5,760), Watson Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

(\$213), Clearwater Pride Child Care Center of Clearwater, Inc. (\$929) and Special Condition the contract to Directions for Mental Health, Inc. on Directions submitting a detailed quote from selected vendor for JWB's approval prior to beginning work; and d) transfer \$9,545 from the Community Contingency Fund to the Equipment and Renovation Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion
YWCA**

A motion was made by Mr. Milford and seconded by Commissioner Welch to allocate \$10,535.42 to the YWCA of Tampa Bay for Equipment and Renovation. The motion passed by majority. Voting, "Yes," Mr. Milford, Mr. Smith, Ms. Burke, Ms. Caramello, Mr. McCabe, Judge Sullivan, Commissioner Welch, Ms. Wilson. Abstaining due to a conflict of interest, Mr. Sayler.

Fiscal Impact for Equipment and Renovation: The Community Contingency Fund would be reduced by \$9,545 from \$331,754 to \$322,209; the Equipment and Renovation fund would be increased from \$388,680 to \$398,225 and then reduced to \$0.

**Post
Detention
Coord.**

Board discussion centered on the merits of the proposals from Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS) and Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health Services, Inc./Family Service Center. Ms. Burke, a member of the Board review panel, discussed the merits of the Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health proposal. As well, Commissioner Welch expressed his discomfort with the current RFP review process, which includes both a preliminary and final rating, noting his preference for a process that would eliminate subjectivity. Judge Sullivan expressed hope that PEHMS would consider connecting first-time offenders, in the absence of responsible parents, with a mentor.

A motion was made by Mr. McCabe and seconded by Judge Sullivan, which carried by majority, to allocate up to \$179,960 (\$324,960 annualized) to Personal Enrichment through Mental health Services for FY 04-05 for a Post Detention Coordination Services Pilot with a special condition of requiring the transfer of one bachelor level position to a master's level Community Facilitator. Voting "Yes," Mr. Sayler, Mr. Milford, Mr. Smith, Ms. Caramello, Mr. McCabe, Judge Sullivan, Ms. Wilson. Voting "No," Ms. Burke, Commissioner Welch.

Fiscal Impact: The FY 04-05 Board's New and Expanded Post Detention Funds will be reduced by \$179,960 to \$565.

GRAYDI

Prior to a motion staff introduced Vernon Bryant, Chair of the GRAYDI Council, as well as Herman Lessard, Executive Director of the Pinellas County Urban League. Following clarification that the funds have already been included in the budget and noting this program was the only direct service program provided by JWB, a motion was made by Mr. McCabe and seconded by Commissioner Welch to allocate 1) up to \$20,626 to Advantage Training Systems for computer literacy services; 2) up to \$15,170 to the Neighborhood Family Center Coalition (NFCC) for two teachers for the after school and summer tutoring program; 3) up to \$8,580 to Marlbrook Associates for computer setup, repairs, and continued maintenance; and 4) up to \$1,930 to the Pinellas County Urban League for occupancy costs for the GRAYDI Computer and Learning Center. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Impact: Of the \$50,530 budgeted for these services, \$1,980 has been spent on computer storage and the initial set-up, leaving \$48,550. The proposed action totals \$46,306, leaving \$2,244 for Internet access and educational supplies. The NFC Coalition budget would increase by \$15,170 from \$2,890,323 to \$2,905,493.

Inventory Removal

A motion was made by Judge Sullivan and seconded by Ms Wilson to remove the following from the active inventory list and authorize the donation of up to 15 computers to funded agencies to set up student labs: 1 Vector PC's, Serial Nos. US 11605594, 11404192, 11605513, 11605598, 11306587, 11605548, 11306618, 11306584, 11605636, 11605535, 11605526, 11306611, 11306596, 11605558, 11306588 and 1 HP Server, Serial No. US 12424886. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Impact: The General Fixed Asset Account will be reduced by \$33,805.

Middle School-Age Summer Scholarship Program RFP

Prior to a motion, Board discussion centered on the income levels of potential participants in the program and adding mid-county locations to the RFP. Art O'Hara, Executive Director, R' Club, addressed the Board, indicating his support of the RFP and the educational component and noted the need for a rate adjustment for before and after school care.

A motion was made by Mr. McCabe and seconded by Commissioner Welch to approve the release of the MSASS RFP, including a proviso that 55% of the funding be made available to North Pinellas County and 45% be made available to Mid Pinellas County; approve procedural variances and increase the budgeted

MSASS funding from \$100,000 to \$350,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal Impact: Funds would be transferred from the Board's unallocated New and Expanded pool, reducing it to \$985,416. The transfer of funds from the one-time-only and ongoing program contingency funds would reduce both by \$58,257.

**Executive
Director's
Evaluation**

The memorandum to the Board from Mr. Saylor included the rating by the Executive Committee, serving as the Evaluation Committee, of the Executive Director's accomplishments on specific goals and the aggregate scores of the evaluations provided by the full Board and JWB management staff. The Executive Committee had supported the recommendation of a salary increase of 3.5% by a vote of three to one. Prior to a motion, discussion centered on Ms. Burke's February 7, 2005 memorandum to the Board expressing her concerns and Mr. Mills' response dated March 3, 2005 written at the request of the Board. Ms. Burke's comments to the Board focused primarily on the Task Force on Youth and Sexual Activity; the Sexual Minority Youth Committee, a JWB Children's Services Committee, and the Executive Director's evaluation timeline. Ms. Caramello addressed the goals outlined in Mr. Saylor's memorandum indicating that some of the goals were not completed. Mr. Saylor responded that some of the goals were multi-year goals. Additional comments/questions of the goals included the source of the goals and whether the Board had adopted them. A recommendation was made to include the 2005 goals with the evaluation forms next year.

Ms. Caramello also indicated that items requested by the Board are not always provided. **Mr. Saylor suggested that perhaps such requests could be bolded in the minutes.** Judge Sullivan expressed her admiration for Ms. Burke and her taking her responsibility as a Board member seriously but indicated she did not share Ms. Burke's concerns. Mr. Milford noted the good scores Mr. Mills achieved in his evaluation, and Commissioner Welch expressed that Mr. Mills had done a good job overall. Commissioner Welch suggested that the **Board might wish to undertake a "visioning" workshop** with a goal of improved communication with staff. In response to Mr. Mills' concern that a conflict between Board policy/direction and individual wishes may exist, Mr. McCabe suggested that conflicting messages be made part of the agenda of the proposed workshop. It was suggested that an **outside facilitator be engaged for the workshop, perhaps Herb Marlowe.**

Speaking prior to a vote:

Amanda Rose, voicing her concern over whether the Executive Director was following Board direction.

Linda Lerner, speaking as a member of, and in support of, the Sexual Minority Youth Committee, not as a school board member, noted that the Pinellas County School Board voted to include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policies for both students and employees.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. McCabe, seconded by Commissioner Welch and carried by majority to increase the Executive Director's salary for 2005 by 3.5%. Voting "Yes," Mr. Saylor, Mr. Smith, Mr. Milford, Mr. McCabe, Judge Sullivan, Commissioner Welch, Ms. Wilson. Voting "No," Ms. Burke, Ms. Caramello.

OPEN AGENDA

Public comment during the Open Agenda addressed comments in Ms. Burke's February 7 memorandum, specifically references made to a JWB Children's Services Committee (Sexual Minority Youth) and PFLAG and GLSEN. The following individuals addressed the Board:

Karen Doering, NCLR, explained the function and purpose of PFLAG and GLSEN and indicated that the statements written by Ms. Burke were false, defamatory, damaging and harmful. Ms. Doering stated her intention of seeking a way to work out the issue short of litigation. Her request was for a retraction and an apology for the statements made in the memorandum and an opportunity for PFLAG and GLSEN to make a presentation to the Board.

Gary Sanford, a member of the Sexual Minority Youth Committee, noted that information is disseminated to adults and the committee followed appropriate social work practices. Mr. Sanford explained the appearance of the ad in "Impressions" magazine, which was included with Ms. Burke's memorandum. After learning that a memorandum from the Sexual Minority Youth Committee was not at Board member's places, Mr. Sanford noted it would be forthcoming.

Rev. Harold Brockus identified himself as a parent, a pastor of a congregation for 32 years and as a Board Member of GLSEN. He shared his gratitude to JWB and expressed his concern over marginalizing and stigmatizing gay youth. Rev. Brockus asked that the charges by Ms. Burke not be ignored, stating that her charges were libelous. He shared that PFLAG and GLSEN are entitled to an apology.

Nancy Bostock encouraged Board Members to stay focused on public purpose and in concert with the JWB Mission Statement to focus on the healthy development of children and families. She reminded the Board that it represented the entire county, not just individuals who appear at JWB meetings. She indicated that she came to the meeting to encourage Ms. Burke and to thank her for “standing up” for family values. Additionally, Ms. Bostock made suggestions to the Board to provide their email addresses on the JWB website in order to stay better connected with the community; that staff read back all requests from the Board at the conclusion of each meeting and to include in the Executive Director’s contract that one of the job requirements is bringing a timely evaluation to the Board every year.

Steve Kornell chose not to address the Board.

Board discussion centered on inclusion of the Board member email addresses on the website. Additional discussion included **a suggestion to create email accounts on the website for individual access by Board members** with staff maintaining oversight of the site for record retention purposes.

Mr. Milford, noting the controversy and varying opinions, reminded the Board to focus on all the children.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Milford, Secretary