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Juvenile Welfare Board Meeting : 1952 : 09 : 11 : Minutes

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Meeting of September 11, 1952

Held in Clearwater

Present were Mrs. Bartlett, chairman; Mrs. Strickland, secretary; Mrs. Holland; Mr. Christian. Dr. Williams, director, was also present.

The minutes of the August 28 meeting were read and approved. Mr. Christian moved, and Mrs. Holland seconded the motion, that expenditures covered by checks No. 2786 through 2811 in the General Operating Account, and check No. 318 in the In-School Counseling Account be approved for payment. The motion carried.

Mr. Christian moved that the Director be authorized to purchase a client chair for use in his office and an electric fan to be used in the School Counseling Office. Mrs. Holland seconded the motion, which was carried.

Dr. Williams reported that Montverde School, to which Sandra Shelton was to be sent on a partial support basis by the Board, had closed, and that Mrs. Dame, who is the worker on the case, found another school where the cost to the Board would be the same. He asked approval for transferring Sandra from Montverde to the Florida Christian Academy at Boca Raton, Florida. Mr. Christian moved that the August 28 minutes regarding Sandra Shelton's educational scholarship to Montverde School be amended to substitute the Florida Christian Academy for Montverde School. Mrs. Strickland seconded the motion, which was carried.

Dr. Williams reported that the number of children in foster care during August was 58. Fifty of these were under the supervision of the Child Welfare Unit, and 8 under the supervision of the Children's Service Bureau. He also reported that two children of the 58 were placed for adoption at the beginning of September. These two children had been supported by the Juvenile Welfare Board under the supervision of the Children's Service Bureau for almost a year.

Dr. Williams also reported on a destitute family which received a great deal of publicity in one of the local newspapers. This resulted in a meeting of the Welfare Agency Executives in an attempt to find out what gaps in services need to be filled. In this meeting it was revealed that the family had been contacted by the health and welfare agencies and plans had been formulated for dealing with the family. He reported that he had discussed the matter with the publisher of the paper and that he felt some progress had been made toward eliminating stories about people, without checking with the agencies to determine what had been and could be done by the agencies. Such emotional appeals, the Board agreed, were not constructive either for the family concerned or for the community agencies.

The Board discussed a report on Homemaker Service which came out of a meeting of the agency executives in need of such services. The Director was urged to follow up on the development of a satisfactory plan to be submitted to the Board.

Copies of a Study of Commitments to the State Industrial Schools over a six year period was submitted to the Board by the Director. It was suggested that these be studied and discussed at the next meeting, but it was also suggested that the Director submit the report to one of the daily papers.

A letter from Judge Gardiner in reference to the possibility of securing physical examinations for children in need of such services, and regarding the possibility of brain surgery for cases of mental deficiency was read and discussed. In the absence of Judge Gardiner, the Board requested the Director to discuss with the Judge arrangements which might be possible, and report back to the Board.

A report from the Director regarding In-School Counseling showed that candidates are still being interviewed for the social worker vacancy on the staff and that an agreement has been reached for case by case examinations by the Psychological Counseling Agency when their services seem to be needed.

A letter from the Board of County Commissioners regarding the budget for the fiscal year 1952-52 was read. This letter and attached estimated revenues and expenditures of the Juvenile Welfare Board showed only one change from the budget certified by the Juvenile Welfare Board. This change was in reference to the salary increase of the Director in the amount of \$750. The Board of County Commissioners had failed to include this increase in their estimate of Juvenile Welfare Board expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1953. It was pointed out that in the opinion of the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and in the opinion of the clerk of the Circuit Court, as expressed to the Director of the Juvenile Welfare Board, the Board of County Commissioners is not authorized by law to modify the budget certified to them by the Juvenile Welfare Board. Section one of Chapter 24826, Laws of Florida, Special Acts of 1947, as amended, provides that the Juvenile Welfare Board "shall adopt an annual fiscal year and budget"...and..."shall also anticipate its income and expenditures and prepare an annual budget of the same, which budget shall be certified to the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, on or before the first day of July of each year."

The Board requested the Director to contact Mr. Leonard Cooperman for an opinion regarding the legal authority of the Board of County Commissioners to modify the Juvenile Welfare Board's budget as certified to the Board of County Commissioners.

It was brought out that Mrs. Rob Roy Meador has found it difficult to attend Board meetings because of her many other responsibilities and commitments and that she does not wish to continue as a member of the Juvenile Welfare Board. It was suggested that Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Jackson be approached about serving on the board. Mrs. Holland moved and Mr. Christian seconded the motion that Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Jackson be recommended to the Governor for appointment for a four year term to the Juvenile Welfare Board, and that Mrs. John Strickland be suggested for reappointment for a four year term. This motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned until the 25th day of September, 1952, when the next meeting will be held in Clearwater.

Kathleen Strickland

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