

1-1-1962

Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1961 - 1962

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jwb_reports

Scholar Commons Citation

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County., "Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1961 - 1962" (1962).
Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) of Pinellas County Reports/Publications. 29.
https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jwb_reports/29

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) of Pinellas County Reports/Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.

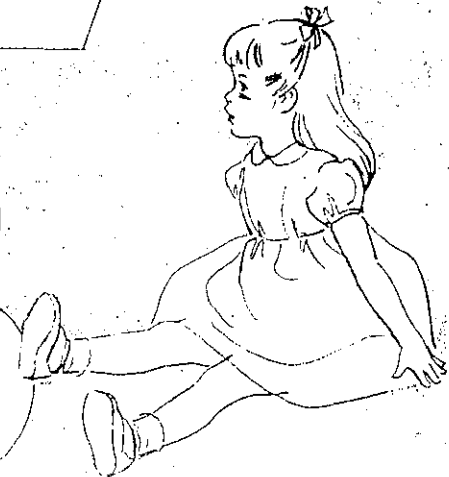
J

15th

W

*annual
report*

B



JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Juvenile Welfare Board

207 County Building
St. Petersburg, Florida



BOARD

Rev. Mr. Robert E. Coleman, Jr., *Clearwater*
Chairman

Mrs. Gus Sakkis, *Tarpon Springs*
Secretary

John W. Bonsey, *St. Petersburg*
Vice-Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

Floyd T. Christian, *St. Petersburg*
*Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Charles O. Parks, Jr., *St. Petersburg*
*Judge of the Juvenile Court**

Mrs. Baya Harrison, *St. Petersburg*
Mrs. H. W. Holland, *St. Petersburg*

STAFF

George H. Finck, ACSW, Ph.D., *Director*

Nenabelle G. Dame, ACSW, *Marriage and Family Counselor*

Beatrice Simcox Reiner, ACSW, *Marriage and Family Counselor*

Brady O. Smith, ACSW, *Marriage and Family Counselor*

Ethel G. Callahan, *Secretary*

Katherine J. Jones, *Administrative Secretary*

*These members are stipulated in the Juvenile Welfare Board Act.
Other members are appointed by the Governor.

Juvenile Welfare Board Law

Chapter 23483, Special Acts of 1945

Section 2. The board hereby created shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To provide and maintain in the county such child guidance, psychological or psychiatric clinics for juveniles as the board determines are needed for the general welfare of the county.

(b) To provide for the care of dependent juveniles and to provide such other services for all juveniles as the board determines are needed for the general welfare of the county.

(c) To allocate and provide funds for other agencies in the county which are operated for the benefit of juveniles provided they are not under the exclusive jurisdiction of the public school system.

(d) To collect information and statistical data which will be helpful to the board in deciding the needs of juveniles in the county. To consult with other agencies dedicated to the welfare of juveniles to the end that the overlapping of services will be prevented.

Fifteen Years of Services to Children

For a decade and a half the Juvenile Welfare Board has been responsible for the powers and duties as listed in the law and described in this Fifteenth Annual Report. In discharging the duty of "deciding the needs of juveniles in the county", the following major decisions have been made by the Board to meet the needs of the children of our County:

(1) To maintain the already existing Child Guidance Clinic and foster its expansion by paying salaries and other expenses equivalent to approximately 56 per cent of the total cost of operating the Clinic.

(2) To provide foster care for dependent children in cooperation with the State Department of Public Welfare which pays most of the administrative costs and some allied direct services connected with this program.

(3) To provide in behalf of children a marriage and family counseling service which the Board determined is "needed for the general welfare of the county."

(4) To support the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes under the provisions of Chapter 61-2681, Laws of Florida, "to protect the health, safety, and mental development" of pre-school children away from their own homes and their own parents.

(5) To demonstrate the need for a homemaker service to be available on a community-wide basis for families and for persons of all ages.

(6) To work cooperatively "with other agencies dedicated to the welfare of juveniles to the end that overlapping of services will be prevented", and to take an effective role in social planning for the welfare of children.

In addition, the Board decided to perform the following services which *should be the clear responsibilities of the State of Florida*:

(1) Residential treatment for emotionally disturbed children.

(2) Payment of foster care for children awaiting adoption.

(3) Staff salaries for the more effective administration of foster care.

The Board has temporarily plugged these gaps in the network of County services to our children and calls on the State Legislature to take action:

(1) To provide a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children.

(2) To give the State Department of Public Welfare authority to place children for adoption.

(3) To provide adequate salaries and administrative costs for the Child Welfare Services administered by the State Department of Public Welfare.

Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County, Inc.

Many of the crippling emotional problems suffered by adults have their origins in childhood and can be prevented if they are recognized and treated in their early stages. The very frightened child rarely just outgrows his fears and the angry and hostile child needs understanding and affection.

To help parents help their children grow up to be happy and well-adjusted adults, the Clinic has a twofold program, namely, direct services to patients and mental health education for parents and other persons who work with children.

During the current year, 720 children and their parents were seen for a total of 5,400 contacts. Parents consulted the Clinic for a wide variety of problems. They ranged from such things as sassiness, untidiness—all normal child behavior but often disturbing to the adults around him—to the very serious problems of severe depression, threatening to injure himself or others and even fire setting. The majority of parents however, consulted the Clinic for problems that fell between these two extremes such as poor school adjustment, inability to get along with others, or fearfulness.

Direct services to patients include diagnosis of the child's problem using different psychological techniques, a psychiatric or neurological examination if indicated, an evaluation of his physical development or an electroencephalogram. After the diagnosis has been completed, the parents may be seen individually or in groups for counseling. When necessary, the child is also seen for play therapy, alone or along with other children, depending on his needs.

It should be emphasized that parents who are concerned about their child's behavior, even though it may be quite normal for his age, are encouraged to consult with the Clinic staff. When parents are worried about their child, the child often becomes anxious; when they are relaxed the child feels secure.

Disseminating information to the public on child behavior, both normal and abnormal, is an important and continuing activity of the Clinic. Mental health education is carried on by different members of the staff who meet with various lay and professional groups to discuss the many problems which affect growing youngsters and their parents. Children not only need understanding and acceptance, they also need firmness and direction if they are to grow up to be happy and productive adults.



Foster Care

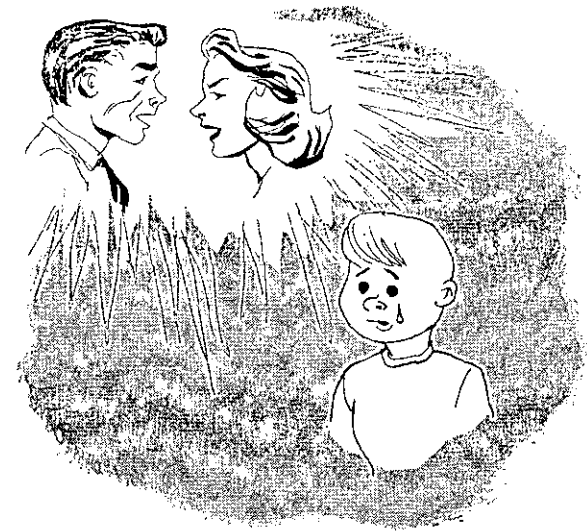
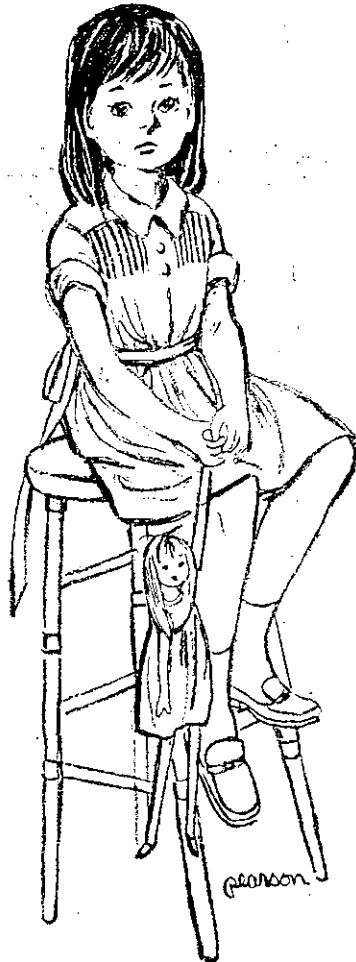
This little girl needs foster parents who can give a new home and a substitute family to her and her doll. She represents the 360 children in foster care with the Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare, supported by the funds of the Juvenile Welfare Board. She also needs the counseling of an understanding social worker who will, if possible, help her own parents to work out plans for rejoining her family in a permanent and secure home.

Because State funds have been inadequate for providing all the needed administrative expenses, the Juvenile Welfare Board began in 1962 to pay salaries for two social workers and other operating costs in addition to the expense of foster home care.

Since the Legislature failed to pass a law enabling the State Department of Public Welfare to insure the adoption of children, the Board has attempted to meet this need in our network of services to children. During the year, funds for foster care have been allocated to the Family and Children's Service, Inc., in order that five children, difficult to place for adoption, could be immediately transferred to that agency and the adoption process speeded up.

Another gap in State services is any treatment facilities for emotionally disturbed and mentally ill children. The Board has during the year paid, in whole or in part, for the care and rehabilitation of three children at a residential treatment center out of State.

Foster care for children adjudged dependent or neglected by the Court, the security of permanent adoptive parents, and residential treatment for the emotionally disturbed are ways in which the Juvenile Welfare Board provides primary preventive services for the children of our County.



Marriage And Family Counseling

Children are the real victims of marital conflict, family breakdown, and divorce. To prevent this destructive damage to our children, the Board offers marriage and family counseling to all residents of the County for the welfare of their children. In the past year, the parents of 740 children used this service.

Marital conflict and family dissension are major contributing causes to the dependency, delinquency, and mental illness of children. Marriage counseling is one of the chief means through which family life can be strengthened and children helped by their parents to grow up healthy and happy to become the good citizens of tomorrow.

Even the most obvious cases of apparent incompatibility and marital conflict do not necessarily doom a marriage to mutually destructive divorce. A husband and a wife can learn, with the help of a professional marriage counselor, to re-open channels of communication or establish channels where none had previously existed. But, in this delicate task, amateur "advice" is at best futile and at worst malignant.

A professional marriage counselor aids the two partners in an embroiled marriage to understand each other, to communicate and to sympathize, to lower the barriers built of the grudges, the exclusions, and the isolation that separate them. The marriage counseling staff of the Board are professionally trained marriage counselors, with memberships in the American Association of Marriage Counselors and many years of experience in dealing with complex emotional problems.



Children's Centers

More than 4100 young children may attend the 81 kindergartens, day nurseries, nursery schools and the 128 family day care homes licensed by the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes. The license, required by law (Chapter 61-2681, Laws of Florida) insures the protection of the health, safety and mental development of the children enrolled. Minimum standards included in this act cover such factors as staff, physical plant, sanitation, safety, and record keeping.

A seven member License Board created by the law supervises the licensing program and maintains an office with three staff members in the County Building. Finances for the licensing program are provided by the Juvenile Welfare Board with County Commission assent.

The first complete year of operation under the current law shows a continuation of the progress gained under two preceding licensing laws. The inclusion of standards within the law has required the immediate compliance of a number of centers formerly holding temporary licenses. This compliance is seen most readily for those centers which remodeled or extended buildings to conform to the indoor space requirement.

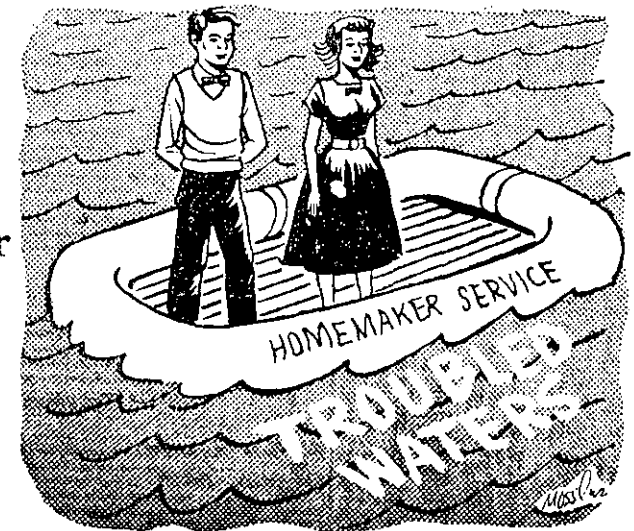
The number of centers has increased by nine in the last year and provided more opportunities for young children to have group experience.

Because of the legal requirement of college courses in early childhood education for staff members of children's centers, Pinellas County child care is on a higher level than elsewhere in the State. During the year there were more than 100 enrollments by teachers in courses pertinent to this educational requirement.

As the licensing program has become better known, more inquiries have been received from parents seeking licensed homes and centers in which to place their children.

During the past year, other activities of the License Board have included consultation and cooperation with the Community Welfare Council on a study of children's centers supported by the United Fund. Also, the License Board, in cooperation with the State Department of Public Welfare, the Family and Children's Service, the Children's Home Society, and Catholic Charities has begun a register of foster homes in the County to the end that duplication of effort is avoided.

Homemaker Service



In 1953 the Juvenile Welfare Board established a homemaker service in behalf of children. The purpose of this homemaker service for children is to place in the home temporarily a specially trained substitute mother to help maintain and preserve family living that is threatened by death, illness, social maladjustment, ignorance, or other problems. Thus homemaker service prevents the break-up of families and enables children to continue to live together as a family unit in their familiar environment. Fathers can continue their regular work and support, paying part or all of the cost of the homemaker service. For families of three or more children homemaker service, even on a long-time basis, is less expensive than foster care.

The Board believes that this essential service is valuable to all families, regardless of age or composition. For this reason, the Board in November 1961 requested the Community Welfare Council of South Pinellas to make a study of the feasibility of extending homemaker service to all families and individuals on a community-wide basis. This study has now been completed and has received the support and endorsement of many organizations. The Community Welfare Council has been asked to organize a homemaker service, either as a separate agency or in combination with already existing agencies. When this organization is completed, the Board will gladly turn over the operation of its homemaker service in behalf of children.

During the period of this study and planning, the Board has continued to operate its homemaker service, but has not trained and replaced the part-time homemakers on its staff. Housekeeper service from State Department of Public Welfare has been available to families in need. Funds for this service come from State and Federal child welfare funds and, if used in this way, are not available for other direct services to children, which must then be paid for by the Juvenile Welfare Board. Even though the Board's net cost for homemaker service was only \$417 for four families totaling nine children, many other families received a somewhat similar service from the State Department of Public Welfare.



Consultation with Other Agencies

The Juvenile Welfare Board Act requires the Board "to consult with other agencies dedicated to the welfare of juveniles to the end that the overlapping of services will be prevented". To fulfill this requirement the Board serves as a clearing house for information concerning children and fosters, in every possible way, the cooperation of all children's agencies and organizations. Cooperation, teamwork, and communication among these agencies demand systematic and planned consultation.

The Board also has the duty "to allocate and provide funds for other agencies in the County which are operated for the benefit of juveniles provided they are not under the exclusive jurisdiction of the public school system". To discharge this duty, the Board has entered into written agreements with the District No. 4 Welfare Board, the Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County, and Family and Children's Service. These agreements cover the functions of these agencies and the purposes for which the Board's funds are provided. In addition, continuing consultations are held with these agencies and monthly reports made to the Board.

Members of the Board and staff also fulfill these duties through representation on the boards of other organizations such as the Child Guidance Clinic, the United Fund of South Pinellas, the Community Welfare Council of South Pinellas, the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes, the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the Pinellas County Schools, and many others. To the never-ending task of planning better services for our children the Board and staff are committed, both by law and by conviction.

DURING THE YEAR 1961-62 YOUR JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

1. Provided for the foster care of 360 dependent children— 87,710 days at a net average cost of \$2.04 per day ----	\$171,742
2. Provided for and helped to maintain the Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County by paying staff salaries for services to 720 children along with one or both parents	59,102
3. Operated a marriage and family counseling service for 517 individuals in 353 families with 740 children for a total of 3078 consultations, and 86 group counseling sessions for 94 persons -----	22,910
4. Paid salaries and office expenses for the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes, 81 Children's Centers and 128 Family Day Care Homes with a total capacity of 4,100 children ---	17,732
5. On emergency basis, supplied the cost of care and rehabili- tation for 3 children in a residential center for emotionally disturbed children -----	11,479
6. Acted as a clearing house for information in consultation with other agencies for the better functioning of all child welfare services, including services to the public schools --	4,508
7. Provided for the foster care of 5 children awaiting adop- tion -----	930
8. Prevented break-up of 4 families with 9 children through use of Homemaker Service -----	417
9. General operation and administration -----	9,965
	\$298,785

Source of Funds

General Operating Account -----	\$298,765
Trustee Account -----	20
	\$298,785