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Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1963 - 1964

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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Secretary

A. L. Anderson, *St. Petersburg*
*Vice-Chairman, Board of County Commissioners**

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*Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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

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

Mrs. Glen L. Keys, *Tarpon Springs*



STAFF

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

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

Ruth G. Mayos, 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*

17th Annual Report

October 1, 1963 - September 30, 1964

PINELLAS COUNTY

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

3455 First Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida

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

During the Year 1963 - 1964 your Juvenile Welfare Board

Eight Children

In 1963-64, 7,141 Pinellas County children were helped by the Juvenile Welfare Board and associated agencies. Services provided included: foster care, child guidance, marriage counseling with parents, licensing of day care facilities, foster care of children hard-to-place for adoption, homemaker service, day nursery care for retarded children, and the coordination of these and other services to prevent duplication or unmet needs.

This Seventeenth Annual Report describes these 7,141 children by telling the personal histories of children who have used one of our eight services. Jack and Timmy, the Downs children, Joel, Brian, Janey, the Smith children, and Tom are helped by the tax dollars of Pinellas County.

We are legally authorized "to provide such services for all juveniles as the Board determines are needed for the general welfare of the county". For the general welfare and because no other funds were available, the Board authorized emergency payments for special services: a survey by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency; payment of salaries and other expenses for additional Juvenile Court staff recommended by this survey; and continuation for the summer months of the educational program at the Youth Study Center in the Sheriff's Administration Building.

The welfare of all these children and the future of these regular and special services has been jeopardized by an opinion of the Attorney General of the State of Florida. This opinion states that the Board of County Commissioners may require whatever changes they deem necessary in the Juvenile Welfare Board budget. This opinion negates seventeen years of successful operation in which the Juvenile Welfare Board has had the authority to determine its expenditures within the legal limits set by the Act. To continue these effective services to children the restoration of the Board's fiscal independence is urgently needed. We recommend an amendment to the Juvenile Welfare Board Act to restore this independence.

Provided for the FOSTER CARE OF 571 DEPENDENT CHILDREN, 112,588 days at a net average cost of \$2.43 per day, plus \$17,179 for salaries and mileage; on emergency basis, supplied the cost of care and rehabilitation for 3 children in a residential center for emotionally disturbed children, \$6,034...	\$290,913
Provided for and helped to maintain the CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC OF PINELLAS COUNTY by paying staff salaries for services to 967 children along with one or both parents...	79,874
Operated a MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELING service for 587 individuals in 375 families with 816 children for a total of 3,893 consultations, and 71 group counseling sessions for 147 persons.....	27,965
Paid salaries and office expenses for the PINELLAS COUNTY LICENSE BOARD FOR CHILDREN'S CENTERS AND FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES; 89 Children's Centers and 175 Family Day Care Homes with a total capacity of 4,725 children.....	18,767
Provided for the FOSTER CARE OF 31 CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION, 5,759 days at a net average cost of \$2.48 per day.....	14,291
General operation and administration, including acting 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.....	4,673
Beginning June 1, 1964, began to pay a portion of the cost of the DAY CARE OF RETARDED CHILDREN (16).....	1,437
Beginning September 1, 1964, began to pay for HOME-MAKER SERVICE for families with children in need, 3 families with 12 children.....	415
GENERAL OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION.....	12,386
SPECIAL SERVICES — NON-RECURRING:	\$450,721
Paid the cost of the survey "Services to Children in Trouble" by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.....	3,800
Paid the salaries of additional staff for the Juvenile Court so that the recommendations of the survey might be implemented without waiting for a new fiscal year.....	10,786
Paid the salary of a teacher at the Youth Study Center for the two summer months.....	1,100
	<u>\$466,407</u>
SOURCE OF FUNDS	
General Operating Account.....	\$466,312
Trustee Account.....	95
	<u>\$466,407</u>

Foster Care for Jack



Jack was a teenage boy who was experiencing difficulty at home and in his community. He was having extreme conflict with his mother and exhibited delinquent tendencies in the community. Jack was well known to the Police Department, the Juvenile Court and the school authorities for various behavior problems such as drinking, fighting, vandalism and theft. Although he had a high I.Q., Jack performed poorly in school, showed no motivation toward securing an education.

Jack's case was eventually brought before the Juvenile Court. Following a preliminary hearing, he was placed in a shelter home operated by the Child Welfare Unit pending an investigation and determination of what services would benefit the boy. During the investigation it was learned that Jack's parents had been divorced when he was very young. It was also determined that Jack's mother had personal problems which prevented her from giving Jack adequate physical or emotional care and that their relationship had deteriorated to the point of their becoming hostile toward each other. Because of his upsetting home life, it was believed that Jack would respond better to casework services if he were separated from his mother. Jack's father, who had remarried, totally rejected the boy and refused to provide any help for him. There were no other relatives willing or able to provide a home for Jack. The Juvenile Court therefore placed Jack in foster care and awarded his care, control and supervision to the Child Welfare Unit.

The worker secured complete psychological and psychiatric reports on Jack in order to determine the best approach for helping him with his problems. Jack has remained in the same foster home since his placement. Although he initially had many adjustment problems, Jack has responded remarkably well to the efforts of the caseworker and the foster parents in helping him to adjust to his situation and to redirect his attitudes and goals. He has become well identified with his foster parents and appears to have gained the security and stability he needed in the foster home. He no longer presents serious behavior problems at home, in school or in the community. Jack has developed better self-control and self-awareness, his attitude toward authority has improved and he now responds readily to guidance and control. He is doing well in school and is highly motivated toward continuing his education.

Child Guidance for Timmy



Timmy, five years old, stared at his mother in complete amazement as she slowly walked away. "She didn't stay when I told her to!" This was followed by lusty screams as his therapist took him into the play-therapy room.

Timmy's mother had telephoned for an appointment to "talk with someone." She was in tears. Her boy was impossible and she couldn't manage him. Only that morning she had had to call the police to get him down from the roof and Timmy thought it was fun. She was afraid he would become a delinquent.

Timmy's mother was found to be an insecure woman, inconsistent and uncertain in her handling of the child. Timmy's father, killed in an accident when Timmy was four, had always disciplined him. She was frightened at the prospect of raising a boy by herself.

Psychological studies showed Timmy to be a bright but frightened and aggressive youngster unable to tolerate either frustration or limits. Without help he could become a serious behavior problem.

At the start of play therapy Timmy went through a period of intense struggle as he tried to manipulate the therapist as he had his mother. This was followed by weeks of pouting and tears which gradually gave way to a friendly, happy child-adult relationship.

Timmy's mother, with the help of her therapist, came to realize that setting limits gave her son a feeling of direction and security. She was able to be more firm and consistent with him.

When therapy terminated Timmy, still lively, frequently noisy, and sometimes naughty, was a happy child better able to get along with others. His mother will always find him a handful but she is no longer afraid of him. This mother-child relationship has become a good one.

Marriage Counseling for the Downs'



Suddenly Ruth Downs found herself the weekday head of the family. For the first time in years Matt had a job and was no longer venting on the family his dissatisfaction with himself. Ruth no longer felt as if she were walking on eggs, but she was just plain scared at the prospect of dealing single-handed with all the crises that five active young Downs could cook up in a week. Also she was responsible for this turn of events because it had been her ultimatum that had sent them for marriage counseling.

She scarcely dared to hope that Matt could handle the district sales job and she knew it was up to her not to flop on the family end. The five young Downs had reacted to the family tension in individual ways. Mollie, 17, felt shy and unattractive. Bill and Bob, 15 and 14, quarreled incessantly. Bill was an athlete and a dare-devil. Bob seemed to make friends only with potential delinquents. Freddie, 12, had allergies, and Tommy, 9, was failing in school. As a mother, Ruth felt completely overwhelmed. Her usual method of dealing with one child at a time now resulted in chaos.

So Ruth was glad to continue to come for weekly discussions with the marriage counselor. They talked about how differently the children reacted and how Ruth's feeling of helplessness paralyzed her at crucial moments. She began to observe the interaction among the children and to report improvement in family morale as she became more confident. There were still problems, including how to keep Father's place open for him on weekends, but these could be solved as time went on.

License Board for Joel



Joel Davis was vigorous, curious, sometimes defiant, sometimes cuddly — a typical 4 year old. Mrs. Davis wished she could be with him more, but how could the Davises manage if she did not work?

The day nursery Joel attended in X city, Florida, had not been satisfactory. Too many children, cramped quarters, too little adult attention resulted in a silent withdrawal not characteristic of this little boy. However, the Davises had just moved to Pinellas County and Mrs. Davis was determined to make good day care arrangements for Joel before finding employment.

She was referred to the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes. It was reassuring to learn that by law, day nursery, nursery school, and kindergarten buildings must meet certain minimum standards and therefore would be safe. Mrs. Davis described Joel's previous unhappy experience and learned that because nursery workers and kindergarten teachers in Pinellas County had to meet certain educational requirements (including college credit in early childhood education) they should be equipped to understand the needs of individual preschoolers. Since she questioned placing Joel in a group of children again, family day care homes were suggested. These homes receiving no more than 4 children for care are also covered by standards in the License Board Law and are preferable for some children.

Mrs. Davis was given a list of licensed centers and homes in her section. She spent some time investigating each one and finally took Joel with her to visit a small home-like day nursery-kindergarten. Although he was quiet on this first visit she could see his evident interest in the building blocks and fleet of large wooden transportation trucks. Outdoors they stood near a large climbing frame. The friendly teacher remarked casually, "If you like, you may climb it", and after a while Joel did. Mrs. Davis, reassured, felt this might be just the place for him.

Foster Care for Brian



This is Brian. At the time this picture was taken he was eight months old. Although responsive and seemingly quite alert, Brian was unable to sit alone or do other things a child this age should do. Our physicians were fearful he was suffering from some undetermined brain damage.

In years past he would have been transferred to long term foster care as unadoptable because our agency did not have funds to provide long time follow-up care for temporarily unadoptable children, but with the help of Juvenile Welfare Board funds for hard to place children, Brian was continued in our care. He was followed closely by medical specialists. His foster mother gave him abundant attention and stimulation.

A brain wave test at one year showed no apparent abnormality. Exercises under a doctor's supervision were prescribed and faithfully administered by the foster parents. Weak muscles were strengthened and at 18 months Brian took his first steps. By age two he was a typical toddler and he was catching up rapidly in all areas. He began to talk and to feed himself. Our doctors pronounced him ready for adoption. Parents were found for him and for the past several months Brian has been in his permanent adoptive home where he is receiving the love and care of his very own family. Without Juvenile Welfare Board support we could not have written this happy ending to Brian's story.

Consultation with Other Agencies for Janey

The story of 8 year old Janey and her family illustrates how a child can be helped by pooling community resources through the Multi-problem Family Committee. This Committee was inaugurated by the Juvenile Welfare Board in 1955 and has continued to function with regular monthly meetings attended by representatives of all the helping agencies.

Janey was helped by meeting her needs but also by meeting the needs of her family which consisted of two adolescent half-brothers and her divorced mother.

1. The Family and Children's Service supplied the family counseling;

2. The County Attorney's office cooperated in obtaining support from the father of the two boys;

3. Public Welfare Department, through the Aid to Dependent Children, granted support for Janey;

4. County Welfare Department supplemented the budget when necessary and furnished medical care through the clinic;

5. The school, including principals, teachers, Special Education, School Social Workers, followed the school adjustments and needs of the children;

6. County Health Department followed the immunization of Janey;

7. Bureau of Vital Statistics was contacted to obtain a birth certificate so that Janey could enter school;

8. Child Guidance Clinic accepted Janey in treatment for extreme fear, shyness, and absence of speech;

9. Vocational Rehabilitation Service accepted responsibility for determining employability of the mother;

10. Juvenile Court and County Sheriff's Youth Counselors participated around problems of pre-delinquent tendencies of the boys.

Through the untiring efforts of the agencies involved, Janey is now talking and has recovered from her fears sufficiently to have meaningful relationships with others, the mother has recovered from her resistance to agency help for fear of losing her children; a hearing aid provided by Vocational Rehabilitation Service has made her a better mother and homemaker and has encouraged her to look for employment. The boys both benefited by training provided through the school job training program and are now gainfully employed full time.



Day Care for Tommy



Tommy arrived at the Peter Pan School in August, 1964. His mother visited the school with him requesting information for admission. We were told that he had recently been operated on, having suffered a sub-dural hemotoma. He responded to surgery alleviating the primary distress, but resulting brain damage due to hemotoma left him with cerebral palsy and possible mental retardation. Tommy wears a short leg brace on his left foot. Upon admission at Peter Pan, he was fitted for a special helmet, and due to his size, a super play pen was constructed measuring 12 by 14 feet. It was in this play pen that he spread his wings and learned to walk. Since he resisted swallowing, it was necessary to plan a special feeding program for him. After a great deal of patience, Tommy finally cooperated at lunch time and now feeds himself quite well. He is able to walk unassisted and now that his mental retardation is more apparent, we are preparing him for entry into the Special Education Classes in St. Petersburg that he will be eligible for when he is six. The service at Peter Pan has allowed Tommy's mother to take a job but even with both parents working, it was decided after careful evaluation of their financial position that the family could only afford \$2 per week for tuition. The Juvenile Welfare Board pays the remainder of his tuition, which amounts to an additional \$8 per week.

Peter Pan School serves preschool retarded children regardless of race, color, creed or the ability to pay. It provides an atmosphere free from competition of the usual neighborhood environment, enabling these children to develop at their own pace. The service quite frequently is primarily to the mother of the child, since she must live with this situation 24 hours per day 52 weeks per year. The school building is currently being expanded to provide overnight care when necessary. Peter Pan operates 52 weeks per year, provides transportation and serves a hot lunch each day.

Homemaker Service for Mary Smith's Children



Mary Smith had been in the psychiatric ward for three weeks, and her illness had been hard on Jim and their children. The nurse in the hospital told Jim about Homemaker Service. Jim called immediately and the Homemaker Supervisor visited the same day.

She found three active boys, ages 5, 6, and 8, a very inactive 18-months old boy, and a distraught 28-year old father. A homemaker was assigned to the home from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. while Jim was at work. Since Jim could pay only \$0.60 per hour, the balance of \$1.15 was assumed by the Juvenile Welfare Board.

It was obvious to the homemaker that all the children needed physical examinations. The pediatrician also recommended a psychiatric examination for the baby, who did not walk, talk, or take solid food. Arrangements were made for weekly visits by the public health nurse to give support and guidance to the homemaker in order to meet the family's general health needs.

The last report from the homemaker stated, "The baby seems happier and is more active. Today he drank from a cup. He can run and has learned to play with his toys. The older boys have learned to care for their rooms before leaving for school."