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Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1967 - 1968

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21
Years of Service
to Children

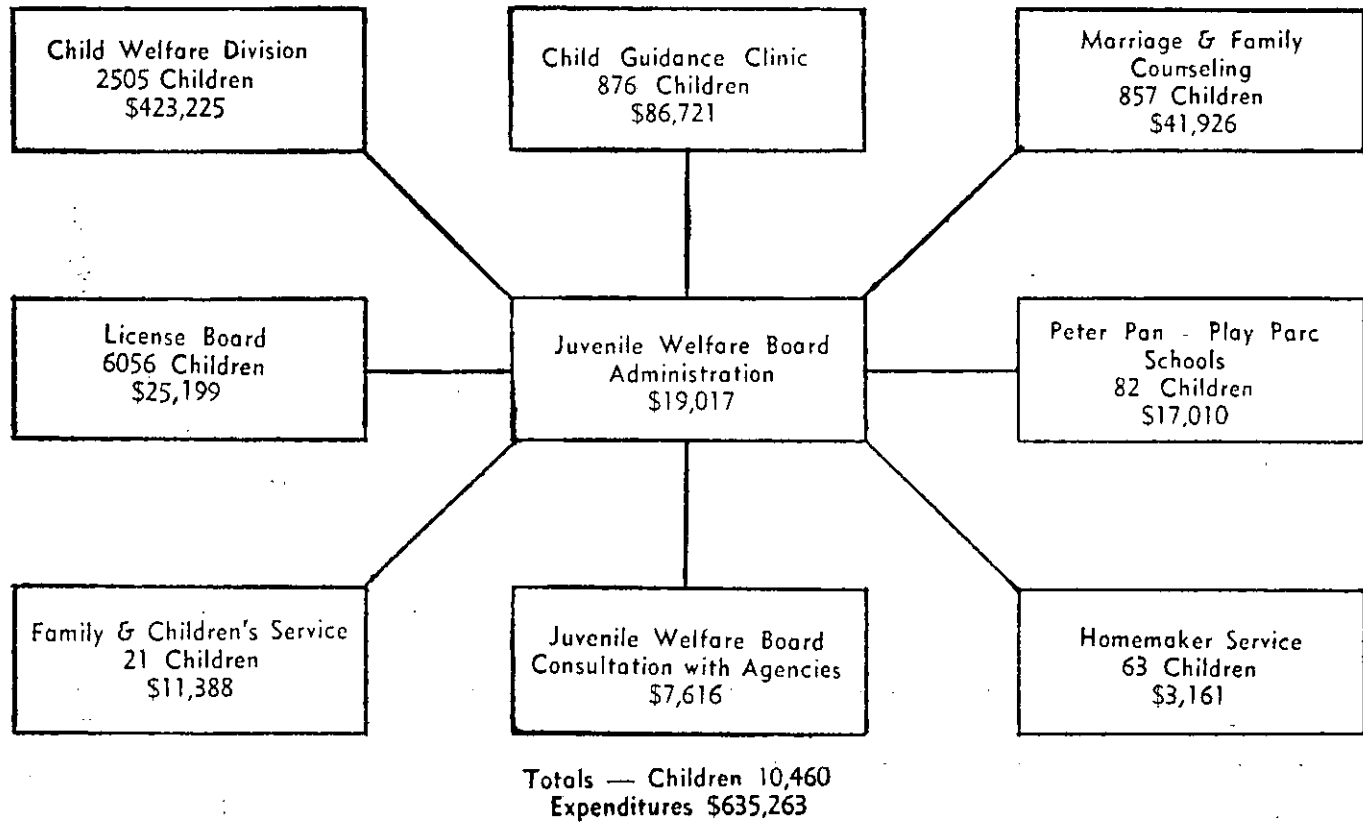
PINELLAS COUNTY
JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
3455 First Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711

CHILDREN GROW UP TO BECOME
QUARRELING AND NEGLECTING PARENTS WHOSE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AND SOCIALLY MALADJUSTED

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 1968

Organizations and Services Financed in Whole or in Part with Juvenile Welfare Board Funds



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A "vicious circle" of dependency, delinquency, and emotional disturbance is illustrated on the cover of this Twenty-First Annual Report. The organizations and services financed in whole or in part with Juvenile Welfare Board funds are interventions at various points in this circle to prevent the transmission of social ills from generation to generation.

We undertake these tasks amid social changes and population increases in Pinellas County. Industrialization and urbanization mean prosperity, and so does a general population increase of 21 percent since the 1960 Census. But social problems multiply more rapidly than population increases and strain the resources of our public and private organizations, our clinics and courts, our schools and health agencies.

This population increase has been greatest among children under 17. With this age group, the increase since 1960 has been 29 percent. Since the increase for the population over 17 was 18 percent, it is evident that the children in our population are in-

creasing half again as fast as the rest of the County population. Some of this population increase has been the result of the immigration of families with children from other states and counties to the business and industrial opportunities of Pinellas County.

It is not enough for the Juvenile Welfare Board, charged with the legal duty to provide necessary services for children, merely to keep abreast of this flood-tide of population increase and social problems. New innovations and inventions are necessary for progress, for breaking the "vicious circle" we have illustrated.

The Twenty-First Annual Report reviews the services we provided for children during 1967-68. We have attempted to improve and strengthen these services and to discover new ways of dealing with old problems. With continued help from all the community and its resources, we look forward to another year of service to the children of Pinellas County.

Robert E. Coleman, Jr.



Child Welfare Division - STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE



The Child Welfare Division of District No. 4, State Department of Public Welfare, is the Board's agent for discharging its legal responsibility for the care of dependent children. This responsibility is two-fold: foster care of children separated from their own parents by order of the Juvenile Court and placed in foster homes; and protective services for children who are neglected or abused. The Board began financing these protective services in January 1965 and, since February 1967, staff members have been available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In the three years before protective services began in 1965, the number of children in foster care increased 81 percent. In the three years since 1965, the number of children in foster care has *decreased* by ten percent. The total cost to the Board for protective services (salaries and mileage) in 1967-68 was \$57,485. Since the prompt and efficient intervention of the protective services resulted in few-

er children in foster care and, since each child costs slightly over \$1000 a year, the protective services have actually saved money for the County's taxpayers. The greatest saving, however, was better service for children: the strengthening of families to cope with their own problems or the effective placement of those children who for their own welfare had to be removed from inadequate homes.

Foster care, protective services, and administration required two-thirds of the Board's total funds, or \$423,225. The State of Florida pays less than six percent of the total cost of foster care, less than 50 percent of the administrative costs other than supervision, rent, utilities, office expenses, etc. The Board pays more than three-quarters of the total costs of foster care, protective services, and administration of these programs. To redress this inequitable situation, adequate State financing and Federal matching funds for comprehensive child welfare services are urgently required.

Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County, Inc.

In 1967-68, the Child Guidance Clinic served 876 children and their parents with the assistance of the Juvenile Welfare Board which is legally required to provide and maintain clinics for children. The Board's allocation for the salaries of Clinic personnel was \$86,721 or 26 percent greater than in the previous year. The Board's support was approximately 50 percent of the total expenditures of the Clinic which also received funds from State and Federal mental health appropriations, the Pinellas United Fund, fees, and private donations. Since July 1967 State and Federal funds have been allocated on a grant-in-aid basis. The Clinic owns and operates buildings in St. Petersburg and Clearwater and makes office space and secretarial service available for the marriage and family counseling program of the Board in Clearwater.

Through scientific diagnosis and professional treatment, the Clinic helps parents to understand the puzzling behavior of their children and

to deal with it more effectively. The inter-disciplinary clinic team of psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, and psychiatric social worker, in addition to direct service to patients, offers a mental health education program to community organizations. The Clinic also works with schools, courts, ministers, and social agencies for the resolution of mental and emotional problems. The earlier these problems can be discovered and identified, the greater are the chances of successful intervention.

Plans for a day care treatment center for emotionally disturbed children await the completion of a comprehensive mental health plan for the County. The Clinic has been working on the establishment of a research and training program for clinical psychologists in cooperation with other treatment and training agencies. In-service training of the Clinic staff has been enhanced by the visiting psychologist program sponsored by the American Psychological Association.



Marriage and Family Counseling -

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

Marriage and Family Counseling represents an attempt to break the "vicious circle" by intervening with quarreling and neglecting parents in order to help their children. The Board's experience of 20 years of work with married couples indicates that marital conflict is the central factor in much family disorganization, often becoming visible through emotionally disturbed children, school failure and drop-out, juvenile delinquency, experimentation with drugs and drink, illness, and violence. We have also observed that when parents are emotionally close, they can do little wrong in the management of their children.

In 1967-68 the Marriage and Family Counseling staff conducted 3735 interviews concerning 410 families that included 857 children. The total cost of this program was \$41,926. Beginning in February 1968, this work included the services of a full-time counselor assigned to work with the children, parents, and staff members of the Community Day Nurseries, North and South.

and of the Happy Workers' Nursery in St. Petersburg. These three day nurseries, supported by the Pinellas United Fund, are operated by the Child Care Committee and the Children's Interracial Committee. Since this expanded service began, the importance of the early discovery and treatment of children's problems has been clearly demonstrated. All our evidence in working with children and their parents strongly supports the conviction that the earlier the intervention, the greater are the possibilities for successful remedy.

The staff continues to seek improved ways of dealing with complex human problems, encountered daily. In order to be able to offer the best professional counseling, staff members have attended training institutes and conferences where clinical experiences are shared and studied. An account of the Board's experience in working with a current social problem was published in the July 1968 issue of *Child Welfare* entitled, "The Real World of the Negro Teen-age Mother."

CHILDREN WHOSE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AND SOCIALLY MALADAPTED CHILDREN GROW UP TO BECOME QUARRERING AND NEGLECTING PARENTS

Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes

To prevent the neglect of children and to protect their health, safety, and mental development in children's centers and family day care homes, the Florida Legislature in 1961 passed a law creating the License Board and defining its powers and duties. In 1967-68, this protection covered 6056 children in 96 children's centers and 307 family day care homes, an increased licensed capacity of 344 children from the previous year. The cost of the License Board's operations was \$25,982 of which \$783 came from license application fees and \$25,199 from the Juvenile Welfare Board.

In addition to the facilities approved by the License Board, approximately 3000 children were in the kindergartens of the Pinellas County Board of Public Instruction. Ten Head Start centers with almost 500 children were included in the licensed facilities.

The License Board has been preparing amendments to the 1961 law for submission to the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation. No major changes are contemplated, but certain

typographical errors and omissions need to be corrected, as well as the time limitations on the License Board's authority to act promptly in emergency situations involving suspension, revocation, or denial of a license application.

A current need in day care is for children under two who cannot be cared for in licensed centers without the special finding by the License Board that no family day care homes are available. Many working mothers, however, are unable to pay the full commercial rates for child care and some means of supplementing their payments is greatly needed. One plan for partial coverage of this need has been the formation of a committee to explore programs for the care of children under two.

A valuable service performed by the License Board is supplying information concerning child care facilities to parents of young children. In the past year, more than 500 inquiries have been answered with facts about locations convenient to home or work.



Consultation with Other Agencies - JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

CHILDREN WHOSE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AND SOCIALLY MALADJUSTED PARENTS WHOSE QUARRELING AND NEGLECTING GROW UP TO BECOME

By statute, the Juvenile Welfare Board has the duty to consult with other agencies concerned with children and to collect information which will be helpful to the Board in deciding how to meet children's needs. To this legal requirement, the Board adds its expressed and increasing purpose to provide for, and pioneer in, new ways to meet old problems.

During the year 1967-68, the Board has worked with the Jack and Ruth Eckerd Foundation in the establishment of Camp E-How-Kee. This year-round camp has broken new ground in the use of a camp setting for group therapy for emotionally disturbed and socially maladjusted boys. The Director has been appointed by the Board as its representative on the Advisory Committee for the Camp.

During the year, discussions were begun with the Juvenile Court and with the Child Welfare Division concerning the use of Juvenile Welfare Board funds to finance homes for dependent or delinquent girls. Provi-

sions have been made in the 1968-69 budget for two different kinds of homes: a group home to be operated by the Juvenile Court; and a special foster home administered by the Child Welfare Division.

In February 1968, a counselor was added to the marriage and family counseling staff to serve as a school social worker for the three day nurseries supported by the Pinellas United Fund. Already the discovery and treatment of children's problems, as well as those of their parents, is demonstrating the wisdom of intervention in the "vicious circle" as early as possible in their development.

These three projects are examples of the Board's consultation with other agencies: with a private enterprise; with other public agencies; and with organizations supported by the United Fund. It is only through this kind of innovation, imagination, and invention that we can find new ways of meeting the needs of children in trouble and distress.

Homemaker Service - VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION



In 1967-68, the Visiting Nurse Association provided Homemaker Service to 21 families with 63 children at a cost of \$3161 to the Juvenile Welfare Board. Ability to pay for the service in whole or in part was determined by an income scale graduated according to the number of persons in the family.

Early in the fiscal year, the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association announced that, because of the pressure of services for persons over 65 in the Medicare program, the Homemaker Service for families with children would have to be terminated after September 30, 1968. Since the Homemaker Service has been too small to be operated separately, the Juvenile Welfare Board requested the Child Welfare Division of the State Department of Public Welfare to expand and develop their existing housekeeper service using the Board's funds for this purpose. The housekeeper service makes funds available to families with needy children to

pay for the services of a housekeeper the family is able to locate themselves. Both homemaker and housekeeper services are intended to replace the ill, absent, or incapacitated mother and to permit the father to continue in his usual work and income.

The Community Services Council has undertaken a study of the need for Homemaker Services and may be able to encourage an existing agency to add this service to other activities. If the Council is unsuccessful, the Juvenile Welfare Board funds can continue to provide needed housekeeper services to families with children through the Child Welfare Division of the State Department of Public Welfare. Efforts will then be made to recruit a staff of available housekeepers who will operate under the supervision of the Homemakers Service will be provided to prevent the break-up of families and to enable children to remain in the familiar surroundings of their own homes.

PINELLAS COUNTY JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

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*These members are stipulated in the Juvenile Welfare Board Act

Other members are appointed by the Governor