

9-30-1963

Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1962 - 1963

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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

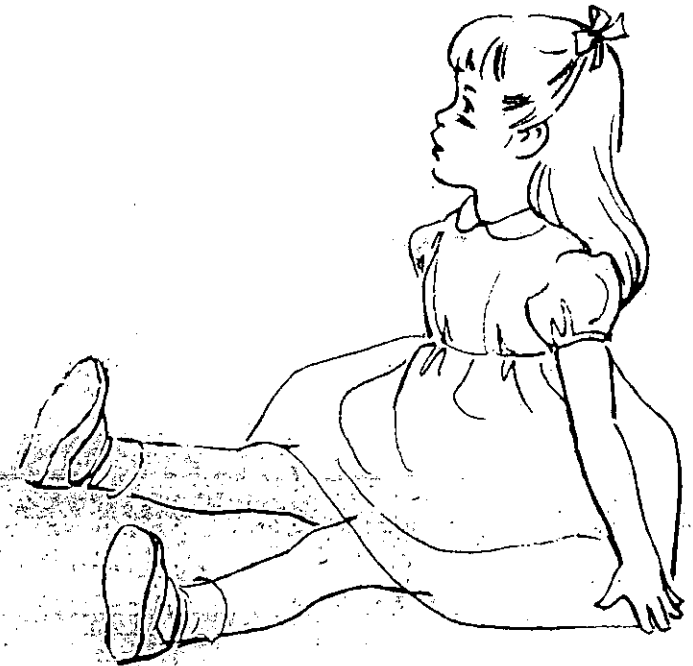
Scholar Commons Citation

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County., "Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1962 - 1963" (1963).
Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) of Pinellas County Reports/Publications. 45.
https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jwb_reports/45

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.

Juvenile Welfare Board

207 County Building
St. Petersburg, Florida



16th Annual Report

October 1, 1962 - September 30, 1963

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

BOARD

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

Mrs. Gus Sakkis, *Tarpon Springs*
Secretary

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

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

William A. Patterson, *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.

6392 Children

The welfare of 6392 Pinellas County children was at stake last year. In 1962-63 the Juvenile Welfare Board and associated agencies helped these children through foster care, child guidance, marriage counseling with parents, licensing of preschool day care facilities, and through other services. In addition, more than 2500 parents and young people attended talks and discussions given by the counseling staff of the Board.

For the welfare of these children, Pinellas County made an investment of \$348,026 in the future—to help these children to become healthy and productive citizens of tomorrow. This investment pays for services planned to cope with dependency, delinquency, and mental illness in childhood when diagnosis, treatment, and control are more easily effected. Our complex and productive society, its changes and progress, makes this investment an inescapable requirement in a nation based on freedom and responsibility.

But the investment of the State of Florida in the welfare of children continues to lack planning and adequate provisions. Some of the more obvious short-comings in State services are:

1. Shortage of institutional care for mentally retarded children.
2. Insufficient residential treatment for emotionally disturbed children since facility yet to be completed will house only 20-25.
3. Lack of a comprehensive and unified mental health program, which directly and indirectly affects the welfare of children.
4. The failure of the Legislature to appropriate funds for the Florida Children's Commission, thus leaving the State without any coordinating and planning agency concerned with children.
5. The unrealistic and arbitrary limit of \$81.00 a month on Aid to Families with Dependent Children, regardless of family size.
6. Inadequate salaries and not enough personnel for the Child Welfare Services of the State Department of Public Welfare.

For the children of Pinellas County, and for all the children of Florida, these State services and programs are urgently needed. Florida, and not just Pinellas County, needs to make an investment in the welfare of its future citizens.

During the Year 1962-63 your Juvenile Welfare Board

1. Provided for the foster care of 402 dependent children—84,970 days at a net average cost of \$2.32 per day—plus \$8,239 for salaries and mileage -----	\$205,770
2. Provided for and helped to maintain the Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County by paying staff salaries for services for 918 children along with one or both parents -----	68,109
3. Operated a marriage and family counseling service for 541 individuals in 355 families with 732 children for a total of 3,580 consultations, and 78 group counseling sessions for 119 persons -----	24,067
4. Paid salaries and office expenses for the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes with a total capacity of 4,318 children -----	17,249
5. On emergency basis, supplied the cost of care and rehabilitation for 2 children in a residential center for emotionally disturbed children -----	9,316
5. Provided for the foster care of 20 children awaiting adoption—3,042 days at a net average cost of \$2.19 per day (7 adopted, 13 in care at end of year) -----	6,670
7. 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 -----	4,673
8. General operation and administration -----	12,172
	\$348,026

Source of Funds

General Operating Account -----	\$347,594
Trustee Account -----	432
	\$348,026

Foster Care



424 children received care in foster homes during the year 1962-63 from Juvenile Welfare Board funds. The Child Welfare Unit of the State Department of Public Welfare assumed care, control, and supervision of 402 children placed by the Juvenile Court in foster care. Family and Children's Service, Inc., provided homes for 20 children hard to place for adoption. Two children were in a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children.

Although the number of children in foster care with the Child Welfare Unit increased from 360 in 1961-62 to 402 in 1962-63, the number of days of care decreased by almost 3000. This decrease was the result of the Juvenile Welfare Board's providing funds for sufficient staff to work out long-range plans for children, including permanent placements with other relatives. Instead of an increase in days of care which has averaged 20% a year, sufficient staff effected a decrease of 3%. Sufficient staff not only made possible better services for foster children, but also more effective and efficient administration.

The passage of the State-wide Adoption Law by the 1963 Legislature will ultimately facilitate the adoption of children who are difficult to place because of health, race, or other factors. Until the necessary machinery is fully provided by the State Department of Public Welfare, the Juvenile Welfare Board will continue to provide funds to Family and Children's Service so that Pinellas County children can be afforded the permanent protection of suitable adoption homes and new parents.

The 1963 Legislature has provided for a small residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children at Gainesville. Even after this center is built, a need for this vital service will still exist because the emphasis of this new center will be on teaching and research.

The 1963 Legislature has provided for a small residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children at Gainesville. Even after this center is built, a need for this vital service will still exist because the emphasis of this new center will be on teaching and research.

Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County, Inc.



918 children and their parents were seen at the Clinic during 1962-63. Of this number, 223 patients were carried over from the previous year and 247 patients were either in diagnosis or treatment at the end of the year. 37% of the patients were seen because the parents themselves recognized that all was not well with their children; 47% were referred by the schools, the court, or other agencies; and 16% by local physicians, ministers, attorneys and other professional persons. Some children were only temporarily upset by factors in their environment, while

others were seriously disturbed and needed extended treatment.

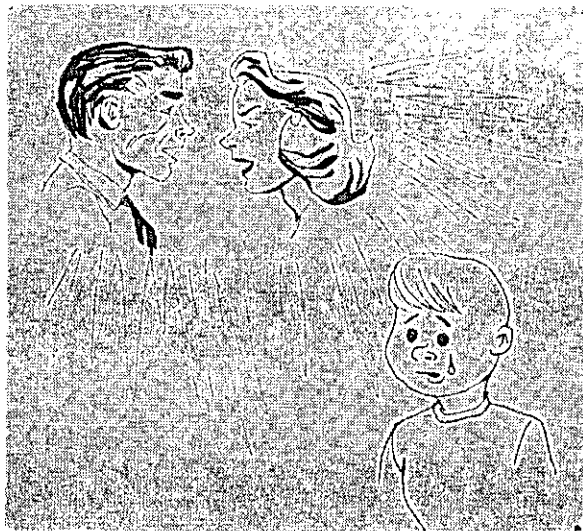
The child who is doing poorly in school, who is fearful and withdrawn, or who is angry and irritable, is an unhappy child. It is often his way of saying that something is wrong with his world and he is in need of help if he is to grow into a productive and creative adult.

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

The Clinic receives its support from a variety of sources. The Juvenile Welfare Board gives 61.6% of the total budget, the state and local health department 9.7%, the United Fund of South Pinellas 10.9%, the United Fund of Central Pinellas and the United Community Fund of Dunedin 9%. The remaining 8.8% comes from contributions and fees from parents who can and want to pay for the Clinic services.

The Clinic has been able to obtain the full-time services of a Psychiatrist-Director, Richard M. Free, M.D. Under his direction, the Clinic can expand its program, both in direct services to patients and in consultation and mental health education for persons working with children.

Marriage And Family Counseling



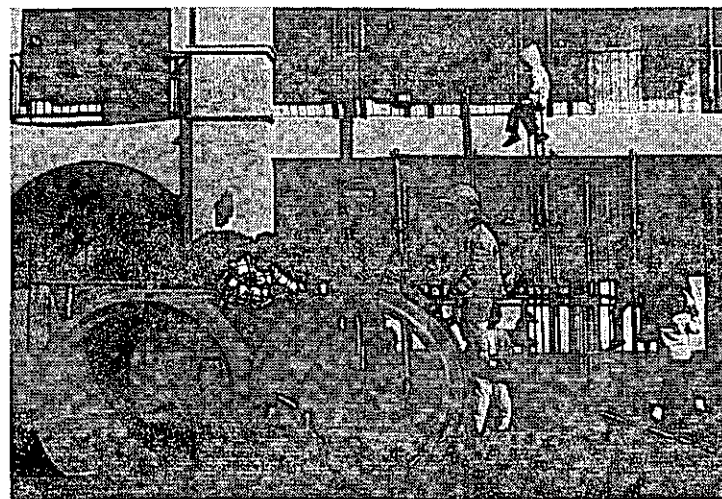
The future of 732 children was in doubt last year. In 1962-63 the marriage and family counseling staff helped 541 husbands and/or wives. Among them they had a total of 732 children, many of whom now have happier homes.

Children are the innocent victims of marital conflict and threatened divorce. To prevent this damage and to promote the welfare of children, the Board offers marriage and family counseling to residents of Pinellas County.

In addition to 3580 individual counseling interviews, the marriage counseling staff conducted 78 group counseling sessions. These sessions included one series for a group of wives, also seen in individual counseling, and another series for unmarried mothers resident in the Florence Crittenton Home. In this second group, 119 different girls were included during the course of the year.

Since group counseling is a comparatively new technique for dealing with marriage and family counseling, the staff had the opportunity of sharing this and other new experiences at the meetings of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Florida Conference of Social Welfare, and the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Articles describing marriage counseling and other services of the Board appeared in *Social Casework*, *News of Child Welfare* (Danish), *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and in various newspapers.

Children's Centers And Family Day Care Homes



4318 children were out of danger last year because the Pinellas County License Board protected their health, safety, and mental development in children's centers and family day care homes in accordance with Chapter 61-2681, Laws of Florida. The Act incorporates minimum standards for these centers in respect to staff, physical plant, sanitation, and safety. Licenses granted only upon satisfaction of these standards are currently held by 83 kindergartens, nursery schools, and day nurseries with a capacity of 3798 children, and by 163 family day care homes with a capacity of 520 children. Licenses show a general increase, particularly for family day care homes which totaled 35 more than last year. Eight new children's centers opened in September, 1963.

The educational requirement for children's center staff members makes possible their temporary employment while they continue their studies. In addition, a continuation of college study is required of qualified teachers. As a result, more than 120 teachers and workers were enrolled in courses during the year. This number exceeds last year's by 20.

The program of the Board is carried out by three staff members in a County Building office, and is financed by funds provided by the Juvenile Welfare Board with County Commission approval.

In addition to work directly involved in licensing, the staff consults with license applicants, teachers, prospective teachers, parents, and others in regard to such matters as planning centers, meeting the educational requirement, improving programs, and placing children. The staff also cooperates with other agencies (i.e. Community Welfare Council, State Welfare Department, Children's Home Society, Family and Children's Service, various church groups, etc.) in helping to interpret the needs of children in group or family care, to provide better services, and to avoid duplication of effort.

Consultation with Other Agencies



The Juvenile Welfare Board is required by law to consult with other agencies concerned about the welfare of children. To this legal requirement is added the Board's concern for the effective cooperation between agencies and for leadership in planning better services for children. The Board acts as a clearing house for information about children and fosters teamwork and communication through consultation with individuals, agencies, and organizations.

During the year, progress was made toward the development of a homemaker service for all families and individuals. The Community Welfare Council of South Pinellas and the Pinellas County Health Department have given leadership to the community's concern for this needed service. The Visiting Nurse Association has agreed to establish a homemaker service during 1964. In 1962-63 the housekeeper service of the State Department of Public Welfare has been available to families with children, and no direct expenditures were made by the Board.

Many discussions and consultations were held throughout the year concerning a survey of Juvenile Court and other services dealing with delinquent children. The Juvenile Welfare Board offered to pay for the cost of a survey to be made by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. This offer has been accepted and a citizen's committee for this survey appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge. From this survey there hopefully will come a blue-print for future development.