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Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1966 - 1967

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

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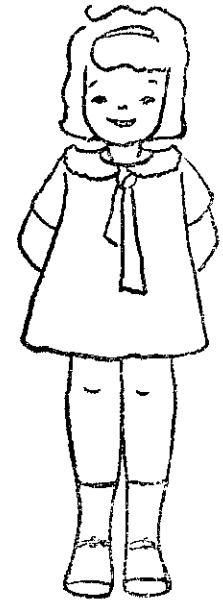
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20

Years of Service
to Children

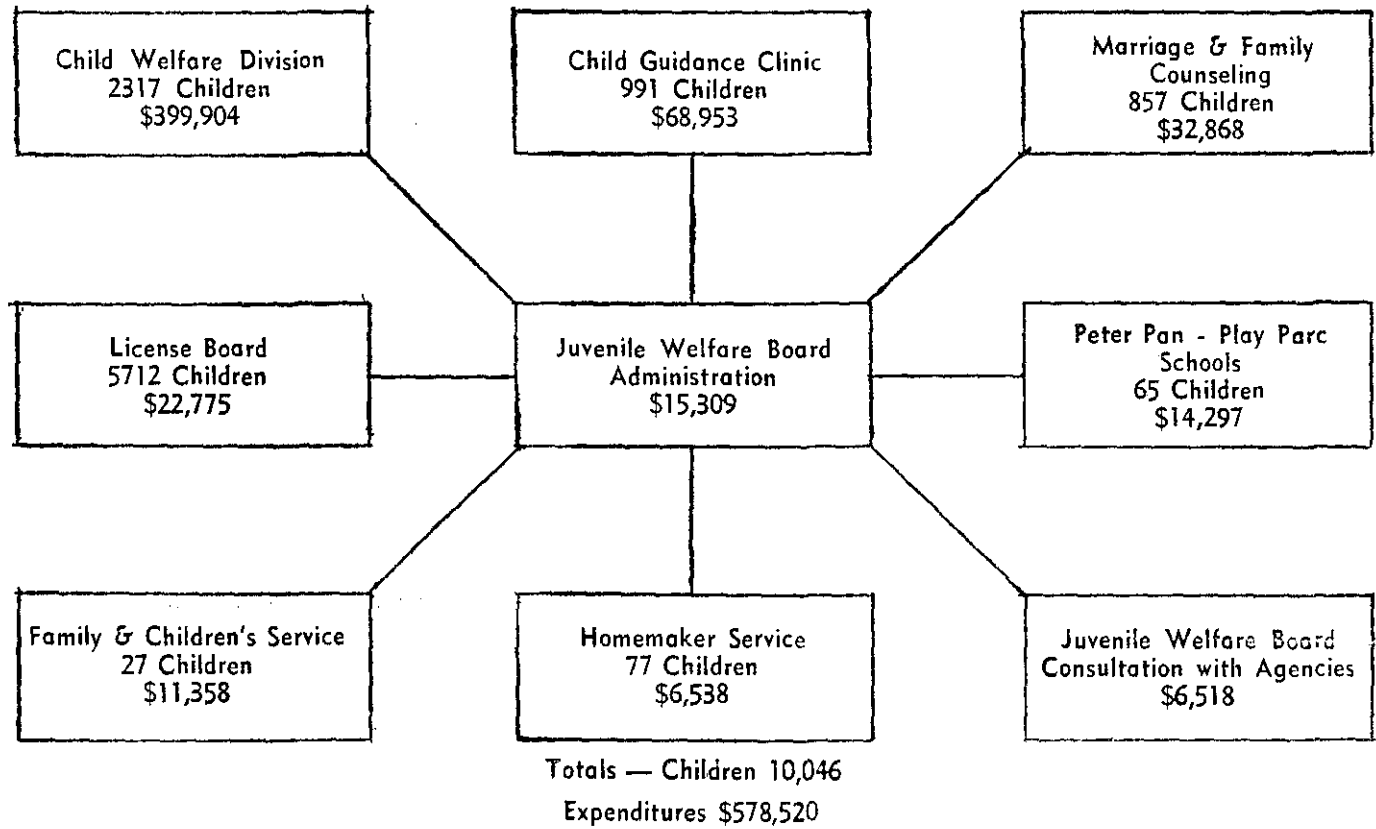
PINELLAS COUNTY JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD
3455 First Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711



ANNUAL REPORT

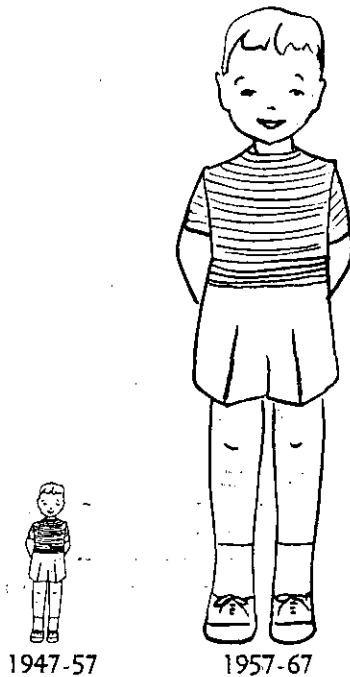
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 1967

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



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Number of Children



In the 20 years since the Juvenile Welfare Board began in 1947, Pinellas County has had a population explosion. During this period, the children in our County between the ages of 10 and 17 have increased 348 percent while the general increase in population has been 247 percent. This increase in the child population is reflected in the number of children served by agencies supported in whole or in part by the Juvenile Welfare Board. In the first decade 1947-57 the average number of children served yearly was 1713; in the second decade 1957-67, 6784.

Rapid population growth brings not only prosperity and business boom but, also the diseases of an urban society — child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency and adult crime, mental illness, marital conflict, and broken homes. To protect the child victims of these diseases, the Board finances a comprehensive network of services designed to strengthen family living. Marriage counseling, child guidance, and protective services SUPPORT the efforts of parents in dealing with their own and their children's problems. Licensing of

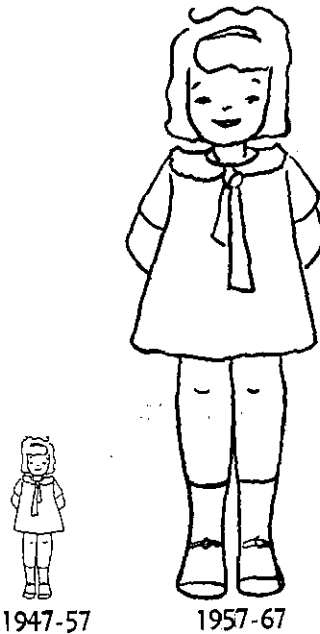
children's centers and family day care homes, day care of retarded children, and homemaker service SUPPLEMENT the actions of parents to help themselves and their children in their own homes. After children are removed from their parents' custody by legal action, foster homes temporarily, and adoption homes permanently, SUBSTITUTE for the care their fathers and mothers cannot give.

These programs of support, supplementation, and substitution, and the agencies that operate them, require a plan, and that plan is the Juvenile Welfare Board, now tested and tried for 20 years. That plan, hailed by the late Senator Estes Kefauver at a hearing of the Senate Committee on Juvenile Delinquency as "a model for the nation", deals with the PREVENTION of the diseases of our urban society by working with and for children, our citizens of tomorrow.

Robert K. Coleman, Jr.

Child Welfare Division - STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Number of Children



The Board is required to care for dependent children, and since 1948 has carried out this duty by allocating funds to the State Department of Public Welfare, District No. 4, in accordance with agreements renewed annually. In 1962, the Board began paying salaries and mileage for staff to administer the program and, in 1965, for the Protective Services Unit. The average number of children in foster care was 301; 160 in the first, and 442 in the second decade. In addition, 4376 children have been served by the Protective Services Unit.

In 1966-67, 111,619 days of care to 596 children cost the Board \$298,709. Payments by the State were \$26,044, or eight percent of total costs. Administration and protective services cost the Board \$101,195; the State \$88,992, plus such expenses as supervision, rent, equipment, postage, office supplies, utilities, etc.

The purpose of protective services, this year operating on a 24-hour basis

every day, is to support the efforts of parents to care for their own children. In situations involving neglect or abuse, the initial approach is to strengthen the ability of mothers and fathers to deal with the problems which underlie their harmful behavior. If this approach fails or if children are abandoned, placement in foster care through Juvenile Court procedure is necessary in order to SUBSTITUTE for the care parents are unable to give.

To discharge the duty to care for dependent children requires the expenditure of 70 percent of the Board's total funds. The Board pays about three-quarters of the costs of foster care, protective services, and administration. The failure of the State of Florida to provide adequate funds for child welfare and the lack of Federal financing allow a tremendous tax burden to remain in Pinellas County. Statements of measures to redress this burden were presented to the Legislative Delegation and to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County, Inc.

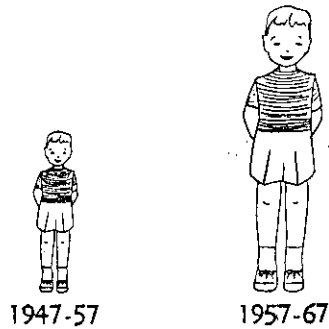
Since 1948, the Board has been allocating funds to the Child Guidance Clinic to fulfill the legal requirement "to provide and maintain such child guidance, psychological or psychiatric clinics for children as the Board determines are needed for the general welfare of the County." The Board decided that the most economical and effective means of meeting this requirement was to support the Clinic which had already been in existence since 1944. Over 20 years of the Board's support, the Clinic, with offices in St. Petersburg and Clearwater, annually has seen an average of 588 children and their parents: 400 in the first decade, and 766 in the second.

fill several professional positions until the end of the fiscal year. Other sources of financial support for the Clinic include State and Federal mental health funds, the Pinellas United Fund, fees, and private donations.

The purpose of the Clinic is to SUPPLEMENT the efforts of parents to understand and cope with the puzzling behavior of their children. The interdisciplinary staff of psychiatry, clinical psychology, and psychiatric social work combines for the diagnostic evaluation and early treatment of mental and emotional problems.

The Clinic has requested Federal funds for building and staffing a day care treatment center for emotionally disturbed children. This facility could offer treatment and training for mentally ill children, except those requiring hospital or residential care. It would make possible effective work with parents and families while the child remained in the familiar surroundings of home and community.

Number of Children

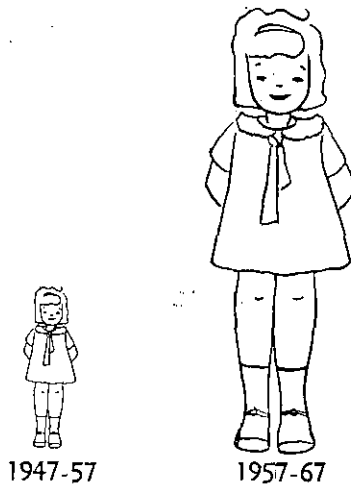


During the year 1966-67, the Clinic served 991 children and their parents at a cost to the Board of \$66,953 in salaries and other operating expenses. The Board's allocation represented 48 percent of the Clinic's total budget of \$143,456. This allocation was a decrease of \$15,140 from the previous year because the Clinic was unable to

Marriage and Family Counseling

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

Number of Children



In 1949, the professional staff of the Board began a marriage and family counseling service to residents of Pinellas County in behalf of their children. The Board determined this service was necessary for the welfare of children. In 19 years, a total of 5908 families with 12,046 children have used the marriage and family counseling service. In the first decade, 1600 families with 3750 children were helped; in the second, 4308 families with 8296 children.

In 1966-67, the marriage and family counseling staff aided 424 families with 851 children at a cost of \$32,868 to the Board. This cost represented the salaries of two full-time and one part-time counselor, a secretary, and the time of the Director which remained after the fulfillment of his administrative responsibilities. These staff members were helped in their diagnosis and treatment of marital problems by regular consultation with the psychiatrist-director of the Child Guidance Clinic.

The Board pays for marriage and family counseling as a service in behalf of children, designed to SUPPORT the efforts of husbands and wives to become more effective parents through the resolution of their own conflicts. Successful marriage counseling removes from children the threat of family break-up and insures a domestic climate suitable for their emotional growth and development.

For the coming year, the Board has been able to add to the marriage and family counseling staff a social worker, who will be assigned to the three day nurseries supported by the Pinellas United Fund. The voluntary organizations which operate these day nurseries cooperated in a request for a counselor to work with the parents of the children and with their staff members. The Board has agreed to supply this counselor because this preschool social work makes possible the earlier discovery and treatment of children's social psychological and emotional problems.

Pinellas County License Board For Children's Centers And Family Day Care Homes

Number of Children



1947-57

1957-67

To insure the safety and protection of young children away from their own homes and parents the first License Board Law was passed in 1951; a second in 1957; and the present Act in 1961. Financial responsibility by the Juvenile Welfare Board began in 1951 when the Board determined this was a necessary service for children. Since 1958 the License Board has had a separate staff and budget, and now shares office space with the Juvenile Welfare Board. The Chairman of the License Board is the Juvenile Welfare Board's designated representative, the Director.

Up to 1958 the License Board had issued 196 annual licenses to kindergartens, nursery schools, and day nurseries and 181 to family day care homes, with a licensed capacity of 8416 children. In the past ten years, annual licenses have been issued to 786 children's centers, and to 1891 family day care homes with a total licensed capacity for 41,760 children. These licenses include year round Headstart Centers, but the public school kinder-

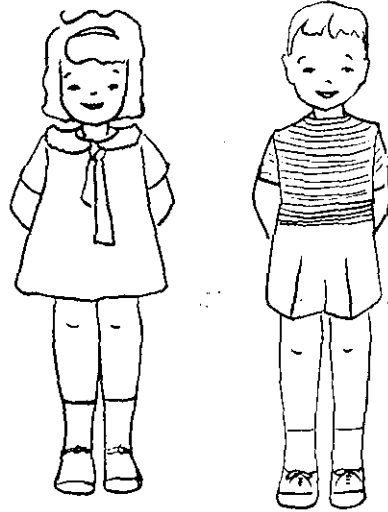
gartens which annually enroll approximately 2300 children.

In 1966-67, 95 children's centers and 305 family day care homes with a capacity of 5712 children were issued licenses. The cost of the License Board's operations was \$22.775 or \$4.00 per child per year.

The tremendous increase in day care reflects the need of parents to SUPPLEMENT their own efforts to provide for young children. While mothers work or train for jobs, their children are safe and protected in licensed facilities. Also, kindergartens and nursery schools meet the group needs of children for experiences in early childhood education.

The greatest advance in the past decade has been in the quality of care for children. In 1958, only 28 percent of the staff members in children's centers met the educational requirements for their positions; in 1967, 93 percent met the educational requirements, and all others were in the process of meeting them.

Family And Children's Service, Inc.



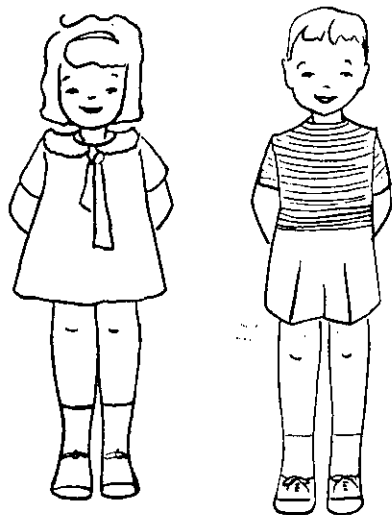
In 1962, the Board began to allocate under agreement with Family and Children's Service, Inc., funds for the foster care of children hard to place for adoption—children handicapped physically, mentally, emotionally, or culturally who required extended foster care during remedial work on their handicaps in order that they might become adoptable. In the six years in which the program has been in operation, 79 different children have been in care and 56 have been adopted. The foster care of these 56 children, had they not been adopted, would have cost Pinellas County \$56,000 a year. In 1966-67, 27 children were in care, of whom 14 were adopted. The foster care of these children cost \$11,358; all administrative costs were paid by Family and Children's Services, Inc.

Adoption is a legal means to SUBSTITUTE for the care, which a child's own parents are unable to give, a safe, secure, and permanent home. It

provides for husbands and wives, biologically unable to have children, a means by which they may have sons and daughters of their own.

Present problems in adoption include how to expedite the placement of older children; how to assist a family to adopt two or more brothers or sisters or a child with recurrent, major medical expenses; and how to divide responsibility between the State Department of Public Welfare and the several private, voluntary adoption agencies. Most important of all is the necessity for adoption agencies, public and private, to realize they are dealing with a situation which has changed rapidly from a scarcity of babies for adoption to a surplus in which the available supply exceeds the eligible demand. The rush to relax rigid rules and regulations should not, however, lessen for infants and children that protection which is the primary purpose of all adoption laws and agencies.

Peter Pan School For Retarded Children Play Parc School For Retarded Children



The allocation of funds to pay for the day care of needy retarded children began in 1964 with a written agreement between Peter Pan School and the Juvenile Welfare Board. In 1966, a similar agreement was reached with Play Parc School for Retarded Children in the northern part of the County. With both these organizations, the needs of individual children for the Board's funds are determined by an income scale graduated according to the number of persons in the family.

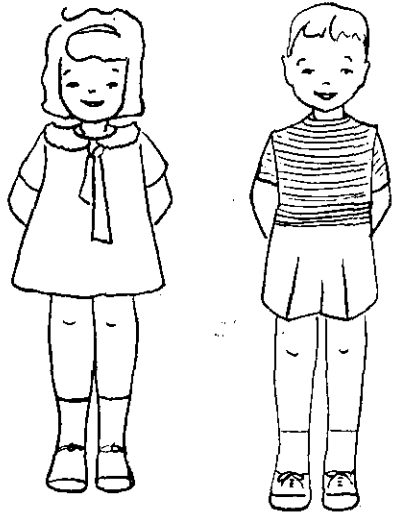
In 1966-67, 51 children were served by Peter Pan School and 14 by Play Parc School. Funds supplied by the Board were \$10,800 for Peter Pan; \$3497 for Play Parc School. The number of retarded children in day care totaled 171 since the program began in 1964.

Day care for retarded children is designed to SUPPLEMENT the efforts parents are able to make to care for their own children. Over and above these

efforts, day care provides the advantages of group experiences, the early evaluation of a child's capacities, and the beginning of a remedial and re-training program. It also allows some relief for hard-pressed parents who must also care for other children. Finally, day care permits the determination of whether institutionalization away from home is necessary or whether continuing education and training in the Special Education facilities of the Pinellas Schools is possible.

Problems caused by the variability of State Aid are recurrent and will continue until some firm matching basis is established. A State regional center for the study and evaluation of the retarded is to be constructed, and the direction this program takes will influence local efforts to provide day care for retarded children. The ways in which Federal programs for the construction and staffing of facilities for the mentally retarded affect the local situation are not yet apparent.

Homemaker Service - VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION



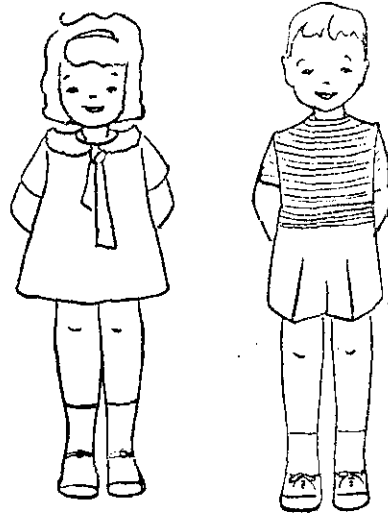
Homemaker service to families with children, as an operation of the Juvenile Welfare Board, began in 1953. In 1964, the Visiting Nurse Association inaugurated a full-scale homemaker and home-health aide service for persons of all ages which became County-wide in 1967. In the interest of an efficient and effective program, the Board entered into an agreement with the Visiting Nurse Association to reimburse that agency for homemaker services to children whose families were determined to be in need.

In 1966-67, 22 families with 77 children were assisted in whole or in part by the Board's expenditure of \$6538. Since 1953, 341 families with 1289 children have received homemaker service. Ability to pay for the service, in whole or in part, is determined by an income scale graduated according to the number of individuals in the family.

Homemaker Service is designed to SUPPLEMENT the efforts of parents to care for their own children in times of great, but temporary, emergency. In the absence or incapacitation of the mother, a homemaker, as a temporary mother substitute, is placed in the home during the day in order that the care of children can continue and the father may remain at his regular work and income. In this way, homemaker service prevents the break-up of families and the emotional upset caused by hasty removal.

The rapid expansion of the Home Health Aide Program of the Visiting Nurse Association is the result of needs long unmet and the availability of funds under Medicare to care for persons over 65. The homemaker part of the program which concerns children is proportionately small, and care will need to be exercised that the needs of children are recognized and met.

Consultation With Other Agencies - JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD



The Juvenile Welfare Board Act requires the Board to collect information and to consult with other agencies in order to decide the needs of children and to prevent the overlapping of services. None of the previously described SUPPORTIVE, SUPPLEMENTARY, or SUBSTITUTIVE services, required by law or determined by the Board, could be effective without social planning and cooperative programming. Above all else these services must be fitted into the pattern of other public and privately supported organizations without gap or overlap. These responsibilities and duties the Board has fulfilled throughout the twenty years of operation, although no valid estimate of the number of children involved is possible because the Board works with agencies and organizations, rather than with individual children.

In 1966-67, the time of the Director and Administrative Secretary used for consultation, planning, and reporting cost an estimated \$6518.

The first program of services for the Board was outlined after a 1947 survey made by J. Gordon Crowe and sponsored by the Junior League of St. Petersburg. This survey method for the scientific planning and developing of programs for children was also used by the first Director of the Board, Herbert D. Williams, Ph.D., for a study of problem children in the public schools. From this study in 1949, a program of "In-School Counseling" was developed to demonstrate the need for school caseworkers, psychologists, and guidance counselors. In a similar way, the Board in 1963 contracted for a survey by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency which recommended a detention facility, expansion of Juvenile Court staff, the transfer of protective services to the Child Welfare Division, and adequate personnel for working with children in foster care. In each instance, the survey method has facilitated an objective scrutiny of a problem and made possible effective progress toward its solution.

PINELLAS COUNTY JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD

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Secretary

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

Nenabelle G. Dame, ACSW
Marriage and Family Counselor

Raymond L. Edwards, Ph.D.
Marriage and Family Counselor

Ruth G. Mayos, ACSW
Marriage and Family Counselor

Frances M. Carnegie, *Secretary*
Katherine J. Jones, *Administrative Secretary*

*These members are stipulated in the Juvenile Welfare Board Act

Other members are appointed by the Governor