

9-30-1973

Juvenile Welfare Board Annual Report : 1972 - 1973

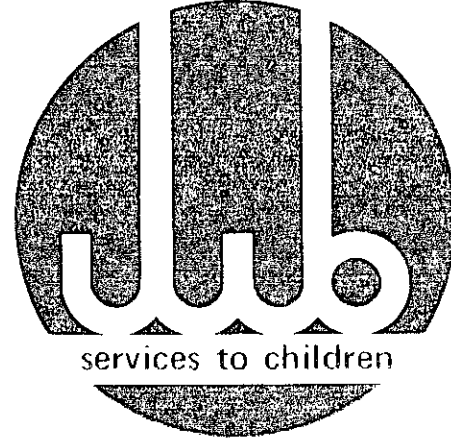
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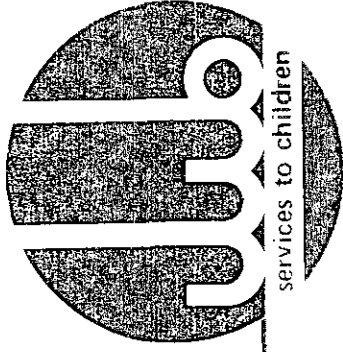
juvenile welfare board
of
pinellas county

ANNUAL

REPORT

For the Year Ending
September 30, 1973

juvenile welfare board of pinellas county



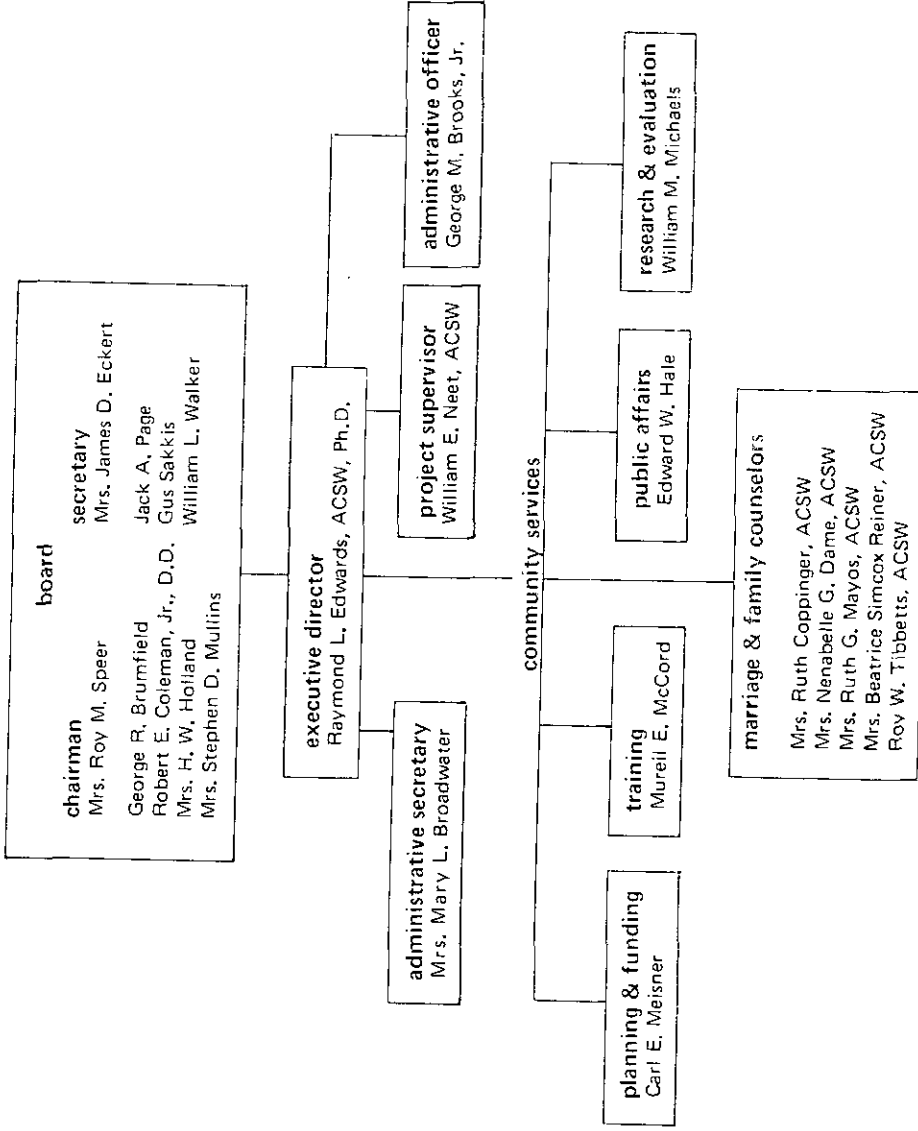
**26th
annual
report**

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juvenile welfare board
of
pinellas county



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The year 1972-73 has proved to be exciting, far reaching and very rewarding. The Juvenile Welfare Board, through its staff, has served 17,240 children in Pinellas County, yet this number is misleading in that these services start a chain reaction that reaches the entire family and throughout the community.

The Board began its new year by implementing many of the recommendations of the Juvenile Welfare Board Study. We enlarged many of the existing programs and added several new ones. We enlarged our staff and have taken on new dimensions enabling us to offer more services to child serving agencies and the community. This may be seen on the organization chart to the left.

Within this 26th annual report you will have an opportunity to learn how the Juvenile Welfare Board was established, what it has come to be, and some of what it has done over these years. The center-fold will provide you with a statistical and financial accounting of our actions during the year as we worked toward providing the very best services to children within our recourses. And, finally, in the last section of this report, you will find a narrative describing the kinds of services we have procured this year through existing agencies in the county. Throughout, the Juvenile Welfare Board has attempted to illustrate strong leadership in order that we may continue to serve an ever larger percentage of children in Pinellas County.

Again we are looking forward to a busy and exciting 1973-74. With God's help, guidance of the Juvenile Welfare Board Study, and continued help and support from the community, we will find many ways to deal with the complex problems of children and their families.





juvenile welfare board of pinellas county

The Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County was uniquely established by special state statute in 1945 and approved by Pinellas County voters in 1946. The statute, as subsequently amended, states that there be created for Pinellas County, Florida, a Board of Juvenile Welfare consisting of nine members. Four of these members shall be the County Superintendent of Public Instruction, both judges of the Juvenile Court, and the Vice Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Each will serve on the Board during his term of office. The other five members shall be appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. This Board should have the following powers and duties: (1) 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; (2) To provide for the care of dependent juveniles as the Board determines are needed for the general welfare of the County; (3) To allocate and provide 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; (4) To collect information and statistical data which will be

Powers & Duties

helpful to the Board in deciding the needs of juveniles in the County; and (5) To consult with other agencies dedicated to the welfare of juveniles to the end that the overlapping of services will be prevented. In order to provide funds for the Board there shall be an annual ad valorem tax of up to .5 mills and the budget prepared by the Board shall be certified and delivered to the Board of County Commissioners on or before July 1st of each year.

A sound foundation for the work of the Juvenile Welfare Board was provided through a countywide survey of child welfare needs by Mr. J. Gordon Crowe in October 1947. Then in 1964 this early survey was supplemented with a survey by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency focusing on children in trouble. After a quarter of a century of effective operation, the Juvenile Welfare Board contracted in 1971 with the National Study Service of New York for an evaluation of the Pinellas social service delivery system for children and for assistance in establishing program directions and priorities for the years ahead.

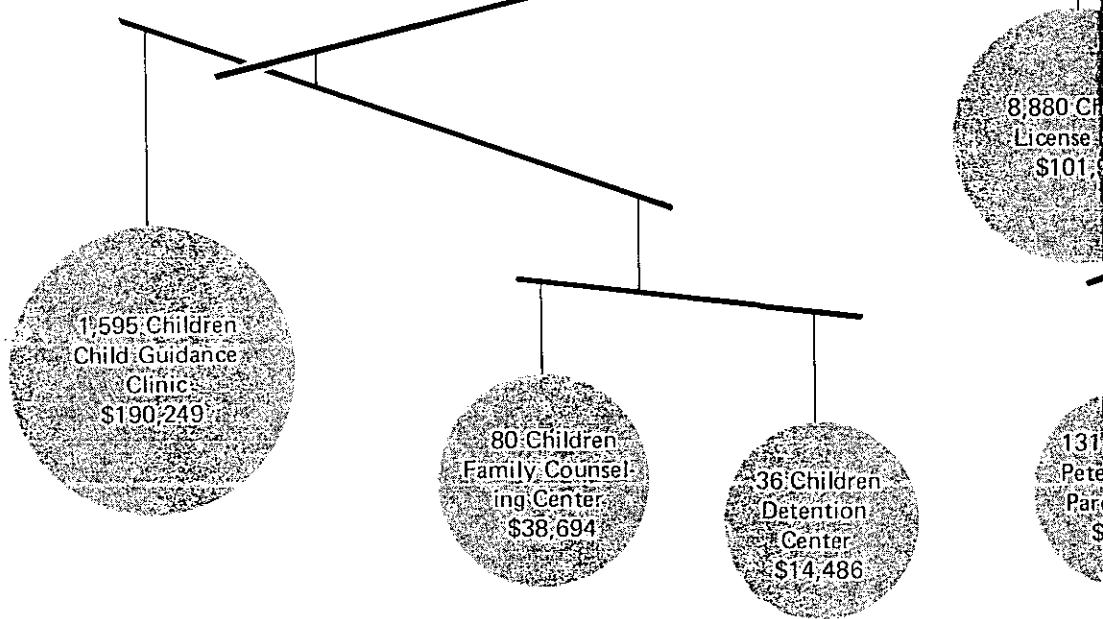
As will be noted in the pages which follow some of the earliest programs funded by the Juvenile Welfare Board continue to receive financial support. Other programs have been taken over in whole or in part by the state or another local agency. Meanwhile, with the growth of the county tax base and the assumption by the state of major programs previously funded by JWB, the Juvenile Welfare Board has been able to coordinate new programs and expand existing services. Except for the Marriage and Family Counseling service or short-term demonstration projects, the

Surveys & Studies

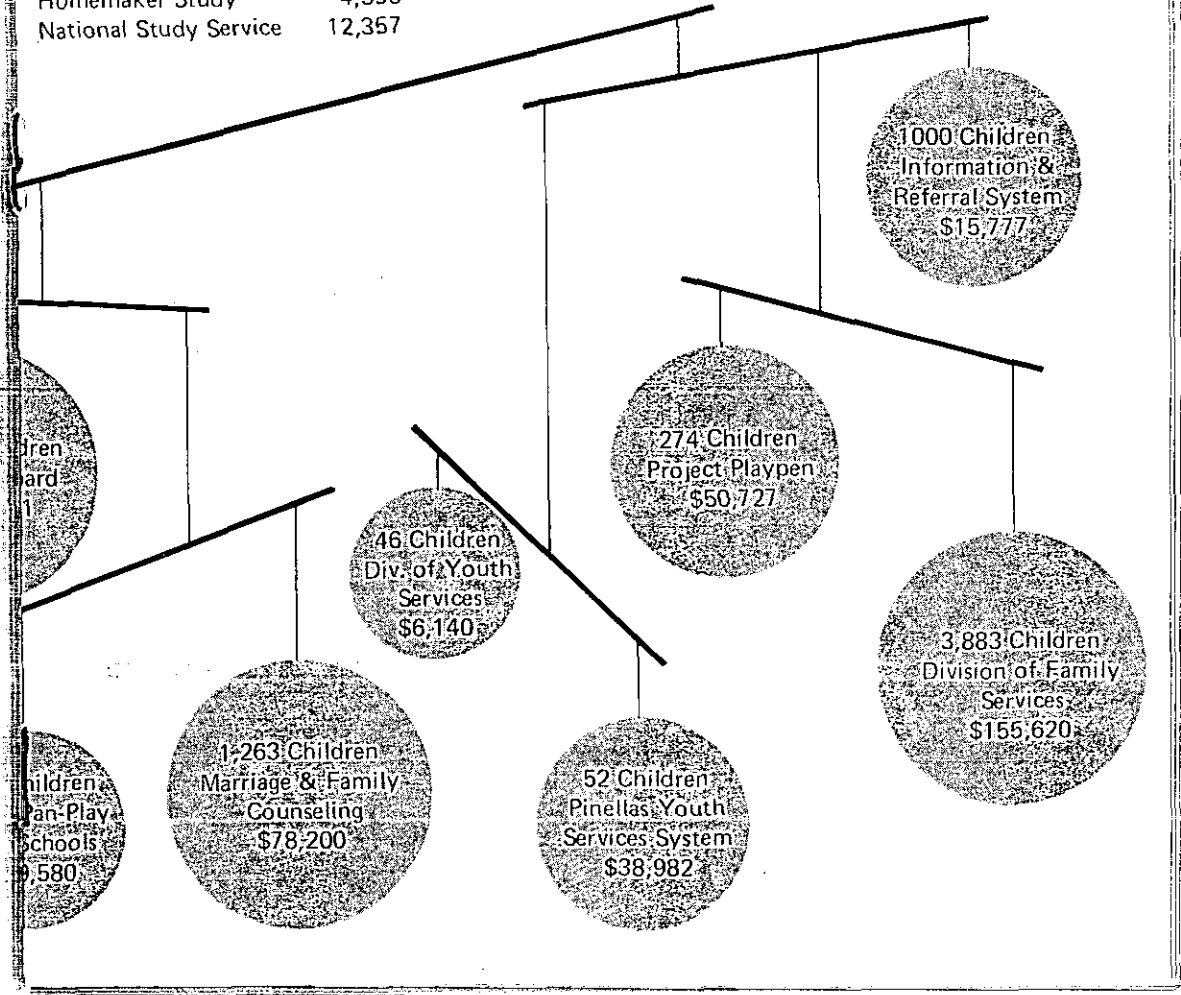
Program Support

ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES FINANCED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITH
JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD FUNDS

Children Served 17,240
Expenditures \$817,687



Administration	\$ 42,940
Community Services	27,408
Homemaker Study	4,596
National Study Service	12,357



supported by



juvenile welfare board

This past year has brought many changes and a new direction to the Juvenile Welfare Board's effort to serve the children of Pinellas County. Much of this resulted from the Juvenile Welfare Board Study mentioned on page five. Central to its recommendations was an emphasis on additional staff to direct and coordinate - administrative and fiscal affairs, in service training and staff development, communication and information, research and evaluation, and planning and funding. The latter four positions, along with a quarter time Day Care Consultant, now comprise the Community Services component which, with the executive director, will analyze the study and make staff recommendations to the Board for short and long term goals. They will also review funding requests and initiate pilot demonstration projects in accordance with the goals established.

On the preceding two pages is a graphic presentation of how the Juvenile Welfare Board's funds were allocated and the number of children served by each of these allocations. The agencies, both public and private, that were selected for JWB support were those most appropriate to provide the needed services to children. JWB support has enabled them to widen their scope and to function more effectively.

In the main, the investment in children provided by the Board's actions fall into two broad categories - basic preventive and that of secondary preventive, rather than wholly corrective. At first, let us explore those programs which are essentially basic preventive in nature.

It is well established that as much as half of a person's intelligence potential is determined by age four,

Day Care

and that participation in a good day care program can stimulate a child to reach his full potential in later life. So as to help each child, as well as afford a safe environment for children whose mothers are entering the work force at an accelerating rate, the Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes (wholly supported by JWB) screens and advises a well coordinated network of nurseries, kindergartens, and family day care homes. On-going training and social services are now offered each of the day care mothers as well as the children's centers staff. There are presently 632 licensed day care facilities serving the residents of Pinellas County.

In an attempt to further improve the quality of day care, the JWB demonstration project, Project Playpen, has been continued and expanded. Here, with matching federal funds, children under the age of three are afforded a well structured child development program which provides the best possible environment for encouraging each child to grow and learn at his optimum rate. It is hoped that the techniques learned from this innovative program will eventually reach all day care facilities.

JWB is well aware that for children, either physically or mentally retarded, a different type of developmental day care is required. Both the Pinellas Association for Retarded Children (PARC) and the Upper Pinellas Association for Retarded Children (UPARC) provide excellent services to this group through their Peter Pan and Play Parc preschool programs. JWB is providing financial support to further their work and help more chil-

Retardation

Homemaker Study

dren in need.

In many cases day care isn't the answer. Some families need short term assistance, as in the case of a sick parent. To bridge this gap in services, JWB, along with the United Way and IN-STEP (Integrated Nutrition and Social Services to Elderly Persons), performed a feasibility study proposing the establishment of a Homemaker-Home Health Aide Program. With cooperation from other funding agencies, it is expected that this program will commence next year under the auspices of the Family Counseling Center.

Marriage and Family Counseling

A wholesome home environment, for all children, is dependent on adjusted and happy parents. Therefore, family stabilization is of utmost importance. Through the years, JWB has offered a direct service effecting this stabilization through its Marriage & Family Counseling. In terms of enhancing normal child growth and development, we consider this program to be one of basic prevention. In another dimension, it has not only afforded the Board national publicity through professional journal articles, but the case work performed by this program alerts the Board and staff to a vast number of supportive needs yet unfulfilled. One of these identified needs is Family Life Education which we intend to pursue this coming year through a project developed by the Family Counseling Center.

Mental and Emotional Illness

The Child Guidance Clinic of Pinellas County is probably more involved with programs that are secondary preventive. Receiving nearly half of their financial support from JWB, this agency is instrumental in the diagnostic treatment of mental and emotional problems

affecting all children from every walk of life. In performing their services to children, cooperation is necessary with most child serving agencies in the county. Consequently, JWB has been working with the Child Guidance Clinic in securing a substantial federal grant to provide an outreach into areas of the county inadequately served. JWB will provide a share of the matching funds to make this program possible.

When children go astray or are living in an inadequate home situation, provision for their care and healthy development becomes society's responsibility. An answer in meeting this responsibility is that of providing supervised homes for groups of these dependent and neglected children. The State of Florida has recognized this need, and such activity is now a function of their Division of Family Services. However, the state has not assumed responsibility for the funding of group homes in Pinellas County. In order to provide the services of group homes, the Juvenile Welfare Board has subsidized this state agency by providing funds for facilities and personnel in seventeen group homes. We have also subsidized institutional care, at the Montanari Center, for one child this year.

Some of the children served in the Division of Family Services group homes are child abuse cases. Child abuse has been a neglected but critical area, both in terms of child injury and that of *counseling the parents* to recognize and control their urge to strike out. The state has instituted a toll free number (800-342-9152) for reporting child abuse statewide but has insufficient local staff for handling them. Again, JWB has seen the need to supple-

Group Homes

Child Abuse

ment the staff of the Division of Family Services with a unit of three social workers to provide direct assistance in these cases.

Adoption

Placing older children and those with emotional or physical handicaps for adoption has been most difficult and largely overlooked. JWB, in agreement with the Family Counseling Center, attacked this problem with the formation of Project CAN (Children with Adoptive Needs). This has been a highly successful program placing 56 such children in this year alone, and once again providing more children an opportunity to grow up in a normal, healthy environment.

Diagnostic Screening

When children are accused of actually breaking the law there is often a period of time before the case can be adjudicated. Recognizing that imprisonment at this time could be most harmful, JWB, together with the Pinellas County Detention Center and the Child Guidance Clinic, is providing a diagnostic screening of these children and youth. When they are able to return to their own homes they may do so under the supervision of the Community Youth Leader Program. In

Non-Secure Detention Homes

other cases, the Juvenile Welfare Board has funded three Attention Group Homes (non-secure detention) where supervision and guidance may be offered. Next year, with revenue sharing funds from the City of St. Petersburg and through the auspices of JWB, counselors will be available, on a 24 hour basis, to offer assistance to all children and youth in trouble.

Wilderness Camps

Five years ago, at the suggestion of JWB, the Jack and Ruth Eckerd Foundation established two "wilderness camps" - Camp E-How-Kee for boys and Camp E-

Nini-Hassee for the girls. The camps provide a unique method of counseling and guidance for a limited number of emotionally disturbed and socially maladjusted youth. The successful techniques developed here will be a guideline for additional such camps presently being proposed by the state. JWB has continued its financial commitment in supporting individual boys and girls residing in these camps for approximately one year.

After children are adjudicated delinquent, the Board's concern has been with providing surroundings most suitable for socially accepted adjustment. As a result, the Juvenile Court Group Homes were established and this year they were placed under the Pinellas Youth Services System. To further this important work, JWB is supporting one home for girls and two for boys, as well as providing "cultural enrichment" funds for the youth in four other group homes, made possible through a federal grant using JWB matching funds.

In order to help delinquents on an individual basis, a Volunteer Friend Program was established within the State Division of Youth Services. However, state funding for a Volunteer Coordinator, to locate and train the "volunteer parents", did not materialize for Pinellas County. The Board, feeling the importance of such a program, has funded this position within the Division in the hopes that the state will assume the responsibility next year. Here again we have a most successful program filling a very definite void.

Today, by phoning 443-0476 any hour of the night or day, Pinellas County residents may be accurately

Delinquency

Volunteer Friend

Information and Referral

directed to the social agency equipped to answer their questions and help solve their problems. With cooperation between JWB, the United Way, and three municipalities, the Information & Referral System was researched and established. Agencies also may refer clients to other agencies through the system. Much work need to be done to make children and youth themselves aware of this service, but we plan to improve this availability during the coming year.

In order to make the services of JWB, the License Board, and Project Playpen more available to upper-County residents, a new office was opened in Clearwater in June. In these few months it has become clear that this move is filling a need of long standing.

Much has been accomplished through inter-agency cooperation but we look forward to much greater coordination through the Community Services group in the years to come. An example of such coordination was the JWB Battered Child Institute which brought together all the county agencies concerned for two days in the latter part of September. It was so successful that a committee of agency directors, under the direction of JWB, are expected to apply for a federal grant to establish a demonstration project for the prevention and treatment of child abuse in the county.

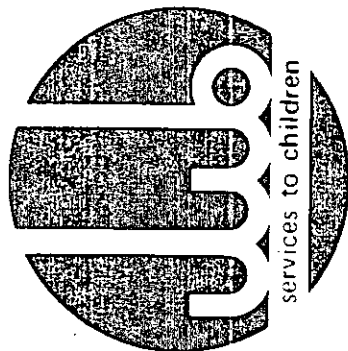
We look forward to a busy and rewarding year ahead. The needs are there. We will be identifying them and then seeking viable solutions as we continue our quest to improve services to children.

Clearwater Office

**Inter-Agency
Institute**

ANNUAL REPORT

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juvenile welfare board of pinellas county

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