

(YOUTH) 13th DELINQUENCY / YOUTH L/G SNELL

MINUTES
And
REPORTS
of
GOVERNOR SNELL'S COMMITTEE
On
✓ JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

December 18, 1943

GOVERNOR SNELL'S COMMITTEE

on

J U V E N I L E D E L I N Q U E N C Y

Meeting: December 18, 1943

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Medical School Library

AGENDA

Elda Russell, Chairman, presiding

1. Meeting Opened by Prayer
Dr. George Nace
2. Reading of Minutes
Mrs. George K. Moorehead, Secretary
3. Reading of Chairman's Opening Statement
Elda Russell
4. Report from District Attorney's Office
Mr. Warren A. McMinimee
5. Report: "Attitude of Churches"
Dr. I. George Nace
6. Report: "Medical Group"
Dr. Herman Dickel
7. Report of Activities of Schools toward Curbing Juvenile Delinquency
Mrs. Harry George, Jr.
8. Report of American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary
Miss Elsie Arnott
9. Report of Government and Law Committee
Chief Harry M. Niles
10. Report of Community and Service Clubs
Mrs. George K. Moorhead
11. Discussion
12. Report from the Policy Committee
Elda Russell, Chairman
13. Discussion
14. Adjournment

GOVERNOR SNELL'S COMMITTEE

on
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Minutes
December 18, 1943

The meeting was called to order December 18, 1943, at 10:00 A.M. by Miss Elda Russell, Chairman, in the Physicians' Reading Room of the University of Oregon Medical School Library.

An opening prayer was offered by Dr. I. George Nace.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. George Moorhead, Secretary. Motion to accept minutes as read was made by Mrs. Walroth, seconded by Mrs. Swett. Motion carried.

Miss Russell, Chairman, stated that several states have Governor's Committees on Juvenile Delinquency but there is still a tendency to flounder about without accomplishing definite results. She stated further that many people are sincerely anxious to be helpful but do not know what to do with resulting confusion. It is at this point the Governor's Committee can be of service in clarifying the situation.

There are definite things we can accomplish. One of the many is to suggest and sponsor the formulation of a directory listing all the social service facilities in each county. At the present time there is no directory with two exceptions, one made by the League of Women Voters for Lane County and a second made by the State Public Welfare Commission. In the case of the second directory, the welfare workers are frank in stating it is not accurate and complete and they would welcome a more complete directory. It is the opinion of your Chairman that the most logical group to make this directory would be the O.C.D. Committee on Child Care, Health and Welfare.

Radio Station KOIN has made radio time available to this Committee. Instead of presenting straight talks, it seemed more advisable to work out a youth forum and let youth discuss juvenile delinquency. The first broadcast has already been given.

Committee reports were called for.

Warren McMinnimee reported for the State District Attorneys' Association. The following is a summary of his remarks.

"The greatest need of the State of Oregon now is to know how to combat juvenile delinquency.

The greatest lack in the state is the lack of co-ordination of the citizenry and organization in the counties in combating juvenile delinquency.

Another great need is for some one person, designated to work for and with the juveniles. Less than one-third of the counties in the state of Oregon have full time juvenile workers. However, every county has a single individual responsible for game, has a weight-master, has a person to advise pre-natal care and care of persons over sixty-five; but the child is left uncared for.

Minutes (Continued)

"Still another predominating need is for recreation facilities. Only eleven counties out of thirty-six have places for children to go, other than commercialized recreation centers, I would strongly recommend the opening of schools and churches for recreational purposes.

The lack of aroused citizenry to provide for the welfare of the juvenile is due to the fact that the law enforcement officers do not give out the age or name of juveniles involved in crimes. I would recommend with certain reservations, that of first offenders and sex causes, that the press be given the name and age. Thus, the citizenry may be given a true picture. The state needs the assistance of the 'Big Brother' idea, inasmuch as there is no place to send a boy for rehabilitation other than to Woodburn, which is a State Reform School, or to the State Penitentiary. Due to this situation, many first offenders become repeaters."

(Copy of the report is on file)

Dr. I. George Nace, Executive Secretary of the Council of Churches, stated that the members of his committee had a feeling of frustration, because of the deep-seated and long standing causes of delinquency. Dr. Nace raised the question as to whether juvenile delinquency has increased more rapidly than the delinquency of adults. One of Dr. Nace's suggestions was that churches designate a key person to serve the youth of their community, not only the youth of their church. Also, that the churches be opened to better use for after-school recreation.

He asked that religion be made a normal pattern of family life. There is a decline in Sunday School enrollment. A better organized scheme of presenting the Sunday School to the family should be found, but Dr. Nace does not approve of using the Sunday School as punishment. When a child is brought before the court, first, as a delinquent, that child should not be made to go to Sunday School as punishment; but methods could be provided to motivate the desire in that child to attend Sunday School. Dr. Nace reported that his committee would like to have from thirty to sixty days to make a survey from the church angle. They are eager to face their responsibilities, based upon their findings.

Dr. Herman A. Dickel, local psychiatrist, reported for the Medical group. He believes these problems cannot be treated as a mass but must be handled in terms of individual treatment.

"No group of doctors," stated Dr. Dickel, "have a mass treatment that can be applied to juvenile delinquency, but they can study the individual to determine why he became delinquent." He further stated that there are but few facilities in Oregon to take care of these cases, and there is a great need of co-ordination of these facilities.

Mrs. Harry George, Jr., a member of the Portland School Board, reported for the schools. The question raised at the initial meeting of the Governor's Committee, as to how many high school students belong to school organizations, was clarified by Mrs. George. Inquiry of six Portland high schools with a total enrollment of 6,770 indicated that only 2,179 students belong to organized school clubs. In conferring with school authorities, it was learned that they felt the juvenile delinquency problem was not one of school children, but of out-of-school children. In investigating what schools in the state have provided youth clubs,

Minutes (Continued)

it was found that The Dalles and Grants Pass have established "coke bars", where soft drinks are served and supervised dancing with juke-box music is provided. Mrs. George reported that Portland is going to open its schools after hours for craft classes and recreation. This service is to be provided for both in and out of school youth. The Portland School Board will provide the building, heat and lights, while supervision will be provided from funds of the Lanham Act.

Miss Elsie Arnott, reporting for Mr. Daniel McDade of the American Legion, stated the belief that each community should take its own survey and solve its own individual problems.

"The child who first becomes delinquent", she said, "and who comes from poor home environment should be provided for outside his own home. All children need wholesome recreation and leisure time activities."

She stated that Mr. McDade favors the idea of lining up city police and city firemen in the fight against juvenile delinquency; that inadequate care of the dependent child paves the way for juvenile delinquency.

Harry M. Niles, Chief of Portland Police, compared juvenile delinquency to the traffic problem, which can be controlled by rules and regulations but never completely eliminated. He also states that odds are against the juvenile, because adults have commercialized practically everything.

Mrs. George Moorhead, President of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, reports that in a survey made by her committee, all agencies and organizations are intensifying their programs relating to youth activities. It was found that in some communities one organization assumed the leadership, while in another a totally different organization assumed leadership. This would indicate that problems of juvenile delinquency must be met and solved on a local level. Representatives of the many agencies and organizations consulted expressed an eagerness to cooperate in every way with the Governor's Committee. They find there is a definite need of coordinating local efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency. It was found that local organizations do not always know what other organizations in the vicinity are doing to prevent such delinquency. There is no clearing house between localities for the passing on of successful ideas.

Mrs. Moorhead invited the members of the Governor's Committee to attend a luncheon being held for Mrs. Josephine Abbott, Field Representative of the American Social Hygiene Association, who will speak at noon, January 12, 1944, at the Benson Hotel. Mrs. Abbott has been assigned the problem of a reconnaissance study of outstanding projects pertaining to juvenile delinquency. She will report her findings from the eastern coast and the southern part of the United States.

The report of the Policy Committee was read by Miss Russell due to the illness of the Chairman, Dr. Haskins.

Miss Elda Russell, Chairman of the Governor's Committee, in summarizing the reports of the various committees, pointed out first, the need of co-ordinating existing facilities. (This condition may be relieved by a state-wide clearing-house.) Second, each community must determine its own problem; then assume the responsibility of adjustment. Third, the state does need designated leadership in directing a definite program for youth.

Minutes (Continued)

Father Leipzig made the following motion in order to get the report of the Policy Committee up for discussion: that the report be adopted. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Walroth.

Discussion of the wording of the Policy Committee report followed with point #2 being reworded and placed as point #1.

The wording is as follows:

#1. The Governor's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency shall act in an advisory capacity and shall serve as a clearing house for the state.

#2. That the Governor's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency will seek to cooperate with existing agencies and committees and that it replace no other group now functioning.

#3. That its council and guidance be positive and definite.

Considerable discussion as to the functions of the Governor's Committee, the Governor's initial letter was read to the Committee.

Captain Lansing moved that the Policy Committee's report be referred back to the Committee. The motion was not voted on due to lack of a second.

The hour of adjournment, 12:00 noon, had been reached and since there was insufficient time for adequate discussion, Father Leipzig (with consent of the second) withdrew his motion to accept the report of the Policy Committee.

It was suggested that the Chairman confer with Governor Snell in order to further clarify the function and authority of the Governor's committee.

Motion was made by Professor Jameson and seconded by Father Leipzig that the Recommendations Committee meet with the Policy Committee to devise a definite scheme of procedure for this group and whatever is proposed would be submitted to each member of the Committee well in advance of the meeting. Motion carried.

The question of expenses involved in Committee meetings was informally discussed and the matter was left with the Chairman to discuss with Governor Snell.

Father Leipzig raised the question of the next meeting and stated that Saturday was a poor day as far as he was concerned and Mrs. George suggested that we allow ourselves more time for deliberation and that a morning session was not long enough. The consensus of the group was that an all day meeting on either Tuesday or Thursday would be expedient. This was left to the Chairman and Secretary to work out.

Senator Howard C. Belton made the motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Professor Jameson. Motion carried.

The following people were in attendance:

Hon. Warren A. McMinimee
Capt. Walter Lansing
Chief Harry M. Niles
Dr. Samuel H. Jameson
Dr. Glenn A. Bakkum
Hon. Howard C. Belton
Hon. Walter J. Gearin
Dr. I. George Nace
Rev. Francis P. Leipzig
Mrs. Isaac Swett
Mrs. Harry H. George, Jr.
Mr. George Sheviakov
Dr. Herman A. Dickel
Mrs. George R. K. Moorhead
Mr. Daniel M. McCade
Mrs. Frank Walwroth
for Mrs. Frank Von Borstel
Miss May Darling
Mr. Ernest Baker
Evan Sax
Miss Elda Russell, Chairman

COPIES OF SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Because of Governor Snell's interest and anxiety for Oregon's youth, he has appointed this committee known as the "State Committee on Juvenile Delinquency."

Governor Snell expects us to obtain facts to enable us to make definite and practical recommendations for controlling and preventing Juvenile Delinquency. He not only hopes but requests that the State of Oregon formulate and adopt a cooperative program which coordinates the activities of all official and private agencies in meeting this emergency, the increase of Juvenile Delinquency. However, whether in peace or in war Juvenile Delinquency is a grave problem. In other words, our problem is here. We must face it and we must intelligently attack it. Emphasis should primarily be placed on a review of the community resources available; and then a definite plan to utilize such resources to maximumity.

Just as there is no one cause for delinquency, so there is no one method of prevention; but every adult who comes in touch with young people has a specific and definite responsibility with regard to them. From adults, children learn how to live; from their actions, children form concepts of ethics and morals; from adults, children need encouragement and guidance.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

"To determine the thinking of school people on a state wide basis as regards the problem of juvenile delinquency a letter was sent to all Portland high school principals and to some state people. The letter asked for a survey of the school sponsored clubs, whether or not they were recreational in nature, what duplication of membership was to be found and the opinion of the principal on a solution of the problem. The percentage of answers received was very low, due no doubt to the heavy load most school people are carrying.

Six schools reporting in Portland listed a total school enrollment of 6,770. Of this number the total school sponsored club enrollment was 2,579. Excluding duplication the enrollment was 2,179 and the number of clubs in those schools was 78. Most of the clubs had some recreational program. The majority of the principals felt the problem of juvenile delinquency was one of the out of school youth. All felt that recreational centers should be open to the out of school youth. Most of them felt the responsibility was that of the parents.

Reports from The Dalles and Grants Pass told of recreational centers, run largely on a plan similar to the U.S.O. for teen age youth and indicated that they were quite satisfactory.

The Portland school board is recommending the opening of six schools, on an experimental basis during the month of January, for a program of week end recreational and craft classes. These are to be open to any youth who conforms to the correct social standards. The city park bureau will furnish trained supervisors and the parent-teacher organization will help as chaperones. If the plan is satisfactory it will be continued indefinitely.

At the present time this is the only information which has come to this committee."

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Sub-Committee's Reports (Continued)

AMERICAN LEGION REPORT

"Child Welfare is and has been for years a major plank in the program of the American Legion but so many demands have been made on our time and resources in the interests of the war effort and civilian defense that only lately has the Department of Oregon been able to take any steps toward combatting the rising rate of delinquency among our juveniles.

As Department Commander I have made inquiries from one end of the state to the other touching on the problema and have come to these conclusions.

1. Each community should conduct its own survey and solve its own problems. To do this some clearer definition must be provided of just what constitutes 'Juvenile Delinquency' and available community services for controlling delinquency should be assessed. Both measures can be provided by a state committee.

2. In laying down the broad outline of any community program care should be taken to include provisions not only for the control of delinquency but also for the health and care of the majority of the juveniles who are in the main meeting the demands of our present world successfully.

3. Greater publicity should be given the necessity for parental cooperation and pressure brought to bear on those parents who by indifference and neglect pave the way for delinquency.

4. Make a survey of all places of amusement to ascertain where curfew and other regulations are violated.

5. Arouse, if possible, the spirit of leaders in the high school student bodies and have the acts of the minority spot lighted and properly labelled as 'unworthy'.

6. In line with this, it is my judgment that any community program to be successful must have the full cooperation of the schools.

7. In any appraisal of factors influencing the growth of youth a 50 percent rating is given the home, about 35 per cent to companions and associates. A poor home, one where parental influence is absent offers the greatest obstacle to success of any program. Far better for a boy or girl if the parents are dead or removed.

8. Wholesome recreation and leisure time activities are needed for all children. The support of all our drives by the schools is evidence of the enthusiasm which youngsters feel when given a change.

9. Some approach should be made toward contact with service men in or near communities, giving them the facts, etc.

10. Anything that keeps the juvenile off the streets at night, away from beer parlors and questionable places at all times, will keep lower the crime rate.

In Portland I'm in favor of lining up the police and fireman as shock troops in the fight. I'm going to ask Captain John Keegan, Commander of Post No. 1 to make prevention of juvenile delinquency a post project.

Sub-Committee's Reports (Continued)

"I'm asking Multnomah County Council to be in readiness to adopt any set of resolutions or program which may develop from this committee.

In closing let me urge that a definite and positive program be adopted, one that John Q. Public can understand. That, I can assure you will bring the whole hearted support of the American Legion and Auxiliary."

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS' REPORT

"The sub-committee delegated to make a precursory survey of what organizations were doing to prevent juvenile delinquency in the state of Oregon was composed of Mrs. Isaac Swett, Senator Howard C. Belton, Representative William Gearin, and Mrs. George Moorhead, Chairman.

The following organizations were contacted:

Oregon Civilian Defense Council, Committee on Recreation and Committee on Child Health and Welfare
Portland City Recreation Program
Council of Social Agencies
Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers
Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs
Woman's Christian Temperance Union
League of Women Voters
Chamber of Commerce
Elks
Community Club Federation

While details of what the different organizations and agencies are doing are available, in the meeting of the committee to recapitulate the findings of each member, it seemed desirable to formulate a consensus of the information obtained.

1. All agencies and organizations have intensified their program relating to youth activities. In the city of Portland the Recreation Program has been greatly stepped up with \$176,000 of Lanham Act money being made available and extended use being made of public school buildings.
2. It was found in some communities one organization may have assumed the leadership while in another community, it will be a different organization. As an example, the Parent Teacher Association has a good program going in Baker while the Civilian Defense recreation program is not well developed. In Klamath Falls the City Government itself assumes the responsibility for recreation.
3. The attitudes of agencies and organizations is that they are eager to cooperate in any way they can to be useful in a total program. In Lane County the President of the League of Women Voters stated that they would welcome not only suggestions but active help from the Governor's Committee in coordinating the efforts of the many local organizations to prevent juvenile delinquency.
4. Many expressions of opinion were given to the effect that use should be made of existing agencies and facilities, such as greater use of school buildings and school personnel.

Sub-Committees' Reports (Continued)

5. It was found that local organizations do not always know what other organizations are doing in their community to prevent juvenile delinquency and that local communities do not know what other communities are doing, which indicated the need for a clearing house in order that one community may know what has been successful in other communities. As an example, the city of Klamath Falls has a Mileage Tax that provides seven to ten thousand dollars a year for recreation. The details of this might well be made available to other communities.

Another example of clearing information from communities is the survey or investigation made by the Lane County League of Women Voters of the Laws relating to this subject and the survey of local conditions in Lane County.

In ascertaining the extent to which the Recreation Program had been developed throughout the state by the O.C.D. and the Federal Security Agency, Mr. W. R. May was most helpful. He made his personal files available and wished to make this suggestion to the Governor's Committee: That members from the Governor's Committee confer with the individual Civilian Defense Coordinators in order that they might have accurate knowledge of what really is being done for youth throughout the state under Civilian Defense. He feels that it is very difficult to get reports and that unless conferences were held in the local communities, that the Committee would not have accurate information.

It is the sense of this committee that the Governor's Committee might well coordinate the existing efforts that are being undertaken in the state and that they might act as a Clearing House for information regarding outstanding projects."

COPY OF THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER

October 16, 1943.

Hon. Howard C. Belton
State Senator
Route 1, Box 253
Canby, Oregon

Dear Senator:

I am quite alarmed about the rather sharp increase in juvenile delinquency. The figures, statistics and information coming to my desk indicate that some action should be taken and I am appointing a strong state-wide committee to deal with this problem. I want the committee, first, to get the absolute facts concerning the problem, to investigate and explore the situation as far as possible and then to make definite recommendations toward the program of education, cooperation among the various agencies, and coordination of the activities of various groups, agencies and officials, and to recommend legislation --- if in the wisdom of the committee such is deemed necessary --- all to the end that a constructive program might be devised which will alleviate the present alarming condition.

I should like to have you serve as a member of this state-wide committee as you can contribute valuable assistance to its program. I hope that I may have an acceptance from you immediately as I should like to announce the committee membership within a few days.

Sincerely yours,