

CHILD WELFARE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

To County Commissioners' Court:

Advocate for the special needs of children

Present an annual report about the Board's work

To Itself:

Maintain an organization through selection of officers and committees, and a schedule of meetings

Set annual goals for the Board

Orient new members and continue the education of Board members

To Child Welfare Units:

Advise Child Welfare staff on written policy

Review the progress of long-range plans for placement of children to ensure permanent adoptions as soon as possible

Assist in recruiting foster parents

Participate in projects for foster children and foster parents

Develop alternatives to foster care

Inform OHS staff of community needs and perceptions

To the Community:

Educate the community on the needs of children, Child Welfare policies, programs and needs

Encourage community and individual involvement in child welfare

Study child welfare issues in the community

Identify gaps in children's services and find the resources to fill them

Monitor services to children in the community

Stimulate reporting of child abuse and neglect

Work for the prevention of child abuse and neglect

Improve community understanding of the welfare client, the abusive parent, and the foster child

Inform the community and special interest groups about pending child welfare legislation

Advocate for the needs of all children in the community through schools, children's programs, and other children's activities

To Agencies, Groups, and Organizations:

Coordinate children's services in the community

Act as liaison with school boards, hospitals, mental health and mental retardation clinics, and other agencies.

Encourage groups to be concerned with children's needs

Help coordinate juvenile probation activities with child welfare program

Work with judicial officials to assure case reviews for children in the court system

Develop and maintain a positive relationship with the local Foster Parents Association

Stimulate law enforcement officials to develop their skills in dealing with children

Encourage participation by local board members in the Regional Council of Child Welfare Boards

Inform legislators of the Board's views on Child Welfare legislation

Inform OHS policy-makers of needed changes in Child Welfare policies

EXAMPLES OF CHILD WELFARE BOARD PROJECTS

Education Projects:

Operate information booths for county fairs. Pioneer days, trade days, and other events

Arrange public service billboards which support reporting child abuse and neglect and recruiting of foster parents

Hold seminars for the public and foster parents on parenting skills

Arrange presentations on all phases of child abuse to school students

Create in-time-of-trouble pamphlets which list telephone numbers to call for different types of crises

Submit special features to newspapers regularly to identify different kinds of family and children crises and telephone numbers to call for help

Purchase or rent video cassettes or films on drug abuse, venereal disease, alcohol abuse, and other topics for showing to high school students

Furnish news release about board meetings and projects

Distribute bumper stickers and posters to urge reporting of child abuse and neglect

Record public service announcements to encourage reporting of child abuse and neglect, to recruit foster parents, and to enlist community assistance in board projects

Arrange to have Child Awareness Month recognized by County Judge and Commissioners' Court

Furnish speakers to parent-teacher programs and other group meetings

Publish a board handbook containing its goals and activities

Furnish church bulletin inserts on foster parent recruitment or child abuse and neglect

Furnish bank statement or utility company inserts on child abuse and neglect

Fund-Raising Projects:

Organize and sell tickets to events such as a pancake supper, hamburger fry, tennis tournament, talent show, community circus, street dance, style show, or musical show

Request United Way funding

Obtain contributions for participants in walk-a-thon, weight-a-thon, or rock-a-thon

Ask churches to make one Sunday collection each year for emergency shelter

Seek church and service group donations

Stage contests with proceeds going to the Board

Appreciation Projects:

Arrange foster parent appreciation and awards banquet

Host supportive merchants, with foster parents and board members providing food

Hold appreciation banquet for board members

Send letters of appreciation to County Commissioners and County Judge, Juvenile Judge, police, and other child agency personnel

Present plaques to foster parents at meeting of foster parents, board members, and County Commissioners' Court

Holiday Projects:

Obtain merchant and citizen donations for "empty stocking" holiday programs

Arrange Easter or Hanukkah baskets for foster children

Host other holiday parties for foster parent families, including gifts for foster parents, their natural children, and their foster children.

Invite civic, religious and school groups to purchase gifts for foster childd

Miscellaneous Projects:

Develop an emergency fund

Hold picnics

Sponsor children at day camp or summer camp

Send birthday cards and gifts to foster children

Organize a parents anonymous group

Obtain funds for homemaker services

Furnish children's interview room with toys

Build emergency shelter and group foster home

Cooperate with Foster Parent Association for foster children activities

Arrange day care for foster children when foster parents work

Host skating party for foster children

Arrange Sunday School class project

Sponsor field trips

Maintain a clothes closet

Develop a volunteer program

Recruit foster parents for a group home