



Greater Vancouver Regional District

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File: GVRD (Home)

Please refer to our file number:

SOCIAL SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the Social Services Policy Committee held on Tuesday, August 14, 1973 at 7:45 p.m. in the GVRD, 2215 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver.

Fred Jones acted as chairperson.

S. Persky gave a report on the meeting held July 28 with Phillips, Kelly and the chairpersons from the Policy Committees. There was a discussion of the October deadline. One suggestion was to have interim reports in October and extend the final deadline. However, the politicians are reluctant to do this and no conclusion was reached on this matter.

The second point discussed was the nature of the Policy Committees. Mr. Kelly is quite clear that he sees them as being strictly advisory. He was disapproving of any autonomous action being taken by them, for example - writing letters, sending telegrams etc. It was pointed out that the Terms of Reference are unclear and they are to be clarified.

Out of the problems raised in the July 28 meeting the discussion for the evening evolved. The purpose of this Policy Committee meeting was to 'brainstorm'. There was discussion of the form that decentralization is taking in the Provincial Government, neighbourhood or community government, the question of developing community responsibility and the problems of preparation and training for the front line worker.

Generally it was felt that the key to eliminating some of these problems was the establishment of strong community government - a body with decision making power and responsible to the community. Through this body, with extensive citizen and community involvement, an identification of problems would take place. In having to do this and deal with these problems a self-education process would take place and an understanding of the nature and complexity of social problems would begin. The facilities would be small and manageable thereby benefitting the user, the administrator, and the workers.

Out of the discussion the following points were made. These points are meant only to provoke discussion and provide ideas for possible future direction of the group. They are not policy statements.

1. No facility should be either phased out or scaled down until adequate alternative resources are available.

2. A local organization should be encouraged (such as neighbourhood councils) to foster public education as to the needs of various people. A method of making decisions should be delegated to the local area.
3. The principle should be accepted that social problems should be treated or solved in the local area.
4. The principle should be accepted that we should not separate all facilities by the type of problem.
5. The principle should be explored that employees of local facilities should be residents of that area.
6. A bad administrative structure can stop service to the client. However, a good administrative structure will not necessarily insure service to the client unless the worker has adequate preparation before starting employment, coupled with the freedom to provide the best possible service he is capable of giving to the client.

The next meeting of the Social Services Policy Committee will be held September 11, 1973 at 7:45 p.m. in the G.V.R.D at 2215 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

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