

JOHANNESBURG INDIAN SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD
AT 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER
1948, IN THE INDIAN CLINIC, 15 BREE
STREET, FORDSBURG, JOHANNESBURG.

PRESENT: Mrs. A.W. Hoernle (in the Chair) Miss Alexander, Mr. A. Carrim,
Mrs. Choughulay, Mr. W. Ernest, Mrs. W. Ernest, Miss B. Francis,
Miss J. H. Granger, Miss E. Katz, Mrs. I. Kuper, Miss E. Marlowe,
Mr. K.G. Moodley, Mr. S.D. Royeppen, Miss E.M. Hunt, (Hon. Secretary).

APOLOGIES: The Rev. B.L.E. Sigamoney.

1. SIGNING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 26th August 1948 and 2nd September 1948, having been circulated, were taken as read, and the Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes as correct.

2. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

(i) Rietfontein Hospital for Non-Europeans.

Mrs. Hoernle read a letter from the Secretary for Health, Union Government, Pretoria, acknowledging our letter in connection with the Rietfontein Hospital for Non-Europeans, informing us that the matter was receiving attention, and promising a further communication as soon as possible.

NOTED.

(ii) Land.

Mr. Royeppen informed the meeting that there was a stand, 150' x 40' on the corner of Lovers Walk and Park Road which was for sale at £8,000, and he wanted this information to be passed on to the Regional Committee of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

IT WAS AGREED that the Secretary write to Mr. Rheinallt Jones in this connection.

3. SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 1948.

"During the month of August I paid the following visits:-

| | |
|--|------------|
| Fordsburg | 44 |
| Vrededorp | 52 |
| Doornfontein, Bertrams | 25 |
| Jeppe, Cleveland, Denver | 9 |
| Booyens, Turffontein, La Rochelle and Ophirton | 32 |
| Ferreirastown, Newtown | 34 |
| Newclare, Newlands, Albertsville, Sophiatown | 74 |
| Alexandra Township, Waterval Institute ... | 7 |
| Total | <u>277</u> |

Visits paid by Miss Marlowe 65.

CHILD WELFARE: We applied for Maintenance Grants in three cases. One case is in receipt of an Invalidity Pension. The other two cases are widows with minor children. One widow has three children and lives in Benoni. She intends to live in Johannesburg as soon as she can find a house and the Maintenance Grant has been applied for on a Johannesburg address. We have informed the Court of the facts of the case and that the children are attending school in Benoni.

POOR RELIEF. We applied for rations in two new cases. In one case we applied for payment of the rent of £1/10/- per month, but according to the Union Social Welfare Department the basis for allocating rent in peri-urban areas will permit only a maximum amount of 5/- being allowed in this cases. Where people have no income and are unable to pay their rent they will be ejected.

MEDICAL CLINIC. We attended to one hundred patients in eight clinic days. We innoculated eleven children against diphtheria and vaccinated five. Two children were reported to the Municipal Health Department for suspected T.B.

DENTAL CLINIC. Children from the following schools attended our clinic:-

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Bree Street School | 65 |
| Indian High School | 30. |
| Indian Girls' School | 112 |
| Gold Street School | 52. |

Children from the Waterval Institute did not attend owing to transport difficulties. We have altogether 5 sessions per week.

GENERAL. The Baragwanath Hospital requested our assistance in a Chinese case. The Social Worker at the Hospital had approached several charitable organisations without success. The case concerns an old Chinese man who had been treated for pulmonary tuberculosis and had been discharged from hospital not cured. He could not be admitted to Rietfontein as there were no vacant beds. We investigated the case and found that he has distant relatives who were looking after him. I informed the Chinese Consulate and told them to apply for an Old Age Pension for him. I also informed the Public Health Department.

Solomon Thomas of Kliptown was taken to the Baragwanath Hospital on the 27th and 28th August 1948. The doctor who examined him declared he was not sufficiently ill to be hospitalised and simply referred him to medical outpatients. We visited the family yesterday and found no improvement in his condition, mentally or physically. I will now endeavour to have him admitted to Sterkfontein Mental Home, Krugersdorp.

I have visited the old man Naga Daya on several occasions and have given him parcels of food and sweets. He is well looked after by the other people living in the house who cook for him and sit him in the sun. He is contented and satisfied.

Tolsie Muthoosamy is the foster-child of Mrs. Ramsamy and under the supervision of our Association. Six weeks ago she was taken to the Coronation Hospital on the advice of the Clinic doctor who suspected pulmonary tuberculosis. Mrs. Ramsamy visited Tolsie frequently and noticed that her condition, instead of improving, was becoming worse. Her sister took her home on the 28th September, dying. She blames the hospital for neglecting the child.

4. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT.

Tolsie Muthoosamy.

Miss Katz reported that Tolsie Muthoosamy had died that day, Thursday, 30th September 1948, at 2.30 p.m., and that the family wanted to know whether they could draw her share on the inheritance which was in the Savings Bank Account with the United Building Society, for funeral expenses.

Mrs. Hoernle expressed her profound regret at the news of the death of the child, and

IT WAS AGREED that one-eleventh of the money in the Savings Account with the United Building Society should be withdrawn for funeral expenses.

At this point Mr. W. Ernest and Mr. K.G. Moodley arrived.

5. CASH STATEMENT FOR AUGUST 1948.

The Cash statement was presented by Mrs. Hoernle, and was accepted.

At this point Mrs. I. Kuper left the meeting.

Mrs. Hoernle inquired what the position was with the Muslim Institute, and Miss Katz replied that the Association continued to render a small amount of assistance to the Institute, such as sending out monthly statements and making monthly payments, and it was suggested that Mr. I. Coovadia, the Chairman, be approached for a donation to Association funds.

AGREED.

Salary, Miss Marlowe.

At this point Miss Marlowe left the meeting.

On Mrs. Hoernle's proposal,

IT WAS AGREED that Miss Marlowe's salary scale be altered from £25 per month, inclusive of Cost of Living Allowance as at present, to £20 per month, plus the Social Welfare Cost of Living Allowance, and that this change take effect from 1st July 1948.

Miss Marlowe returned to the meeting, and Mrs. Hoernle expressed to her the appreciation of the Committee for the excellent work she was doing for the Association.

7. LEAVE, MISS KATZ.

IT WAS AGREED that Miss Katz be granted seven days' leave, from 2nd October to 9th October (inclusive) which period included the Public Holiday on 4th October, and that she be allowed to use the Association's car during that period provided she paid all running expenses.

At this point Miss Alexander arrived.

8. GENERAL.

Discrimination.

It was pointed out that when application was made recently to the Social Welfare Department for a family allowance for an Indian woman, Mrs. Botha, the Social Welfare Officer reported that he had had instructions not to take on any new cases for Indians. It was also pointed out that Old Age and Invalidity Pensions had been increased from £2/5/- per month to £3 per month, except for Indians, for whom it was still £2/5/-.

IT WAS AGREED that the Secretary write to the Secretary of the National Council for Child Welfare to inform her:-

- (i) Of the Social Welfare Officer's report in the above instance,
- (ii) Of the present situation in regard to Indian Old Age Pensions and Invalidity Pensions in spite of the obvious fact that the cost of living had risen for them as well as for Europeans and Coloured people;

and to ask:-

- (i) That this matter be put on the Agenda for the next meeting of the National Council for Child Welfare,
- (ii) That the National Council for Child Welfare press the Government for a rectification of this discrimination.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 5.55 p.m.

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