

Kids' Corps, Inc.
Policy Council Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2020

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Brittany Pickens, President	Caitlyn Thompson, excused
Rhonda Drake, VP	Brian Willis, excused
Kaya Avilla, Sec.	Noreen White
Tasi Sablan	Tawnya Palmer
Shawna Bailey	
Jessica Teague-Beach	
Staff Present:	
Dirk Shumaker, Executive Director	
Ronnie Brown, FCES	

Meeting called to order at 5:35pm. *This was a virtual meeting conducted through Zoom.* Welcomes were extended and conversation around family ensued. It was suggested that we all need to gather somewhere (observing social distancing) to just visit and have conversations of well being. Council was asked to think about it and send ideas to Ronnie. Several members stated they missed having dinner with everyone. Dirk mentioned a possibility of having a light dinner delivered to everyone on the evening of our September meeting. Ronnie mentioned doing something easy like everyone make Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup. All ideas and suggestions are welcomed. Dirk stated the PC will remain virtual for the meetings and since recruitment is difficult with the distancing, keep same members for now.

Minutes: April and July minutes were sent out in the PC packet. Members were asked to review. No questions or amendments required at this time. Rhonda motioned to accept both the April and July minutes, Tasi seconded. Motion approved.

EHS Expansion: Dirk stated that the EHS Expansion grant is roughly \$750,000. This would allow KCI to increase to 26 children, birth to 3 years of age. This would also include another Home Base program with another Home Visitor. Since the EHS is more intensive, ratio is tighter at 1 staff per four children at 12 months old. Children could attend up to 10 hours a day, with KCI providing the first six hours and DCA picking up any hours needed by the parent beyond the six hours. This would allow the program to be more flexible for parents needing to look for work, or go to school. Dirk stated KCI should hear sometime in December if the grant is approved. He also stated there is only four grants available for Region X and it's very competitive. Tasi motioned to apply for the EHS Expansion Grant, Rhonda seconded. Motion approved.

Application for Funding to Renovate Mt. View Center:

Dirk stated there is still Earthquake funding available for facilities that could be utilized to help renovate the Mt. View and EHS centers. The plan is to open the EHS center up and instead of two rooms, combine them. It will roughly cost \$50,000 to remove wall separating classrooms at EHS, move electrical, plumbing, lighting, etc. If EHS grant approved, possibly put some EHS children in the Mt. View

center side for next year. Rhonda motioned to apply for funding to renovate EHS and Mt. View, Kaya seconded. Motion approved.

Agency Core Values:

Dirk asked the parents, from their perspective, **What is going well, what do we want to keep doing?**

Parents responded:

- Enjoyed getting the school supplies for virtual classes, packets from teachers to keep children engaged.
- Hire good people, appreciate child being able to talk with their teacher
- All inclusive, no one is left out, helps keep people engaged
- Come together for everyone's kids. Offered support to families, keeps families encourage to keep coming
- Mental and emotional support with Trinity Counseling supports the whole family, not just the child.
- Super cool when you take your child to kindergarten and the teacher tells you they know your child is a Head Start child. Makes you feel really good.
- Kids are ready for kindergarten, you can see and feel that they are ready
- At KCI, teachers have a way of comforting kids that is soothing and welcoming, helps the child feel loved and not pressured to join in until ready
- Teachers are very compassionate toward children who are upset. It's comforting to parent to see their child being treated so well. Helps them be strong for their child.
- Never heard any complaints or disgruntlements from other parents over the years of my child going to KCI.
- My child was in another Home daycare plus Head Start. This gave him greater social environments to help be ready for kindergarten. Parent are appreciative of that opportunity for their children
- Teachers helping parents make plans and assessments (observations) to take to doctor to support parents' concerns
- ASD can learn a few things from KCI

Anything we should stop doing? Parents responded with:

- Our mission and core values are right on
- If it's not broke-don't fix it!
- Don't take away anything from the statements, but could add something if we needed to
- Pretty much captures what KCI is about
- DON'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
- Parent watched staff and management tackle situations that would come up and changes or fixes were done quickly and efficiently-kept the classrooms going strong.

Strategic Planning with Board of Directors:

Dirk mentioned that the board would be meeting on October 10, Saturday (probably virtually) from 10-4pm (with lots of breaks) and invited PC members to join them. This meeting is to begin planning for the next program year and would love parent input if anyone would like to join. Wanted to give enough advance notice to plan on attending. Members just need to let Dirk know if they would like to attend.

New Hires: Ronnie stated only one new hire since last meeting. Parent mentioned they usually get some kind of information on the person. Ronnie explained that they were sent an email with qualifications and information on new hire. She worked with ASD as a special needs assistant teacher. Almost has her two year degree. Kaya motioned to approve the new hire, Rhonda seconded. Motion approved.

Financials: Dirk stated not much different in financials. KCI is looking good, on target with a small surplus left at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2020. The credit card report for July will be included in next month's packet.

Dirk stated that his Executive Report was in the packet and due to time allotted for meeting, asked members to review and feel free to send questions to himself or Ronnie.

Yard signs: Recruitment

Rhonda and Brittany will each take a sign for their yard. Shawna stated she could also take one. Ronnie will get them out to them. Anyone else can just let Ronnie know and we can get them to them.

Parents were asking if teachers could also do things for younger siblings or send activities in the packets that younger siblings can do to feel a part of the activities and fun. Dirk stated he would let the teachers know that this is a desire and could allocate some extra funding to help with the extra supplies needed.

Ronnie brought parents attention to the new Immunization clinics that are still serving families without an appointment. Hand out gave directions and phone numbers. She also handed out information for families on P-EBT that they should have received free or reduced meals could get some reimbursement dollars/extra food stamps since ASD was closed during March, April and May. The flyer listed amount could receive, whom to contact if not received the food bank letters. Parent stated the deadline of August 31 was pushed back to September 15. Also in the packet was a flyer about Unemployment benefits being taxed. Not everyone knows that the IRS taxes UI.

Parents shared ABC Mouse as an online learning program for little ones as an alternative or addition to their virtual classes. Also was BUYNOTHING group on Facebook where people can exchange or pick up needed clothing items for their children. Also in the old PartyCraft store at Takahnu Center is Project Clothes Line ran by police department to help struggling families. Northway Mall is closing but Burlingtons will remain open.

Announcement: Last week of September, Tasi will be undergoing back surgery, we wish you well Tasi and speedy recovery. Let us know how we can help you.

Respectfully submitted by

Ronnie Brown, FCES