

**Kids' Corps, Inc.**  
**Policy Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 22, 2020**

Members Present:	Members Absent:
Brittany Pickens, President	Noreen White
Rhonda Drake, Vice President	Caitlyn Thompson
Kaya Avila, Secretary	
Jessica Teague-Beach	
Tasi Sablan	
Shawna Bailey	
Staff Present:	
Dirk Shumaker, Executive Director	
Ronnie Brown, FCES	

Greetings and Welcomes extended: Due to Covid-19, meeting was held virtually. Quorum present.

At 6:05pm, Dirk welcomed everyone. To get started Ronnie asked members the question, *With Covid changing the way we do things, including the way we work, How do you prepare when it's time to do your best focus work.* Many answers ensued:

- Send the kids, cats and dogs out of the room
- Remove the excess stuff on my desk and surrounding area
- Let the children do homework or play a game while I am working
- Still work both my jobs, so I work and then come home to bed
- Get my water, coffee or whatever I am drinking, shut off any noise outside the room and don't answer texts or phone calls, very distracting to work from home
- I don't work from home, too many distractions

Dirk stated how much he and the management team really appreciate the PC for all they do to support KCI throughout the pandemic. Having the meetings from their homes can't be easy and we appreciate it greatly.

Ronnie then asked, *What gives you absolute joy, in terms of a hobby or activity, something you do where you get fully absorbed and lose track of time?* Answers were varied:

- I'm a gamer, play with friends, do pintrest for new recipes and knitting
- Watch favorite shows – unwind time
- Anything outdoors – four wheelers, jet ski's, sledding
- Spending time at family house, forget the time and stay too late
- Reading, puzzles, etc.
- Running, helping others in whatever they may need, reading when I can find the time

Minutes: Minutes for January were reviewed. Tasi motioned to accept the minutes, Rhonda seconded. Motion approved

New Hires: Full time janitor was listed. Rhonda motioned to accept the new hire, Jessica seconded. Motion approved.

Strategic Planning: Dirk asked everyone to review the Strategic Planning on the screen and give feedback to the Core Values listed. Many insights into what KCI meant to them were discussed.

- Question – What is two generational? Means family/parent not just child
- Wellness – KCI has a heavy focus on health, nutrition, immunizations, physicals, vision, etc.
- Respect – mutual respect between all staff, between staff and parents, between child and staff
- Integrity – standing by our core values, not just giving lip service, but living the values
- Support – for family and parent, honor the family traditions, cultures

Many stories were related as to how these values affected them in their daily lives. How KCI Accepted them where they are, they felt they Belonged as a part of KCI, and how impactful it was for them.

Dirk stated the strategic plan would be reviewed again in April.

Next Dirk asked to review the Vision, (something you aspire to reach for) by 2026 have 100% of children 100% ready to succeed in school. How do we make sure this happens? Discussion ensued.

Topic brought up was attendance, should it be a priority? If no barriers, just doesn't bring, what are the consequences? Dirk mentioned that this is an important question that will be addressed in our operational plans.

After discussing the vision statement, members viewed the Operating Priorities:

Priority A

More birth to 5, expanding the footprint of birth to 3 programs and services, role of increased transportation for improving access to programs, more home based services.

Priority B

KCI is a first choice employer where people want to work, opportunities for internal staff development, compensation reflects the value and importance of the work, review of Personnel Policies and Procedures to ensure they reflect the core values, for everyone. Effectively tell our story to prospective staff. Supporting our employer doing rewarding work.

Priority C

Recognized as a community collaborator, clarify the role of partnerships, build a professional workforce by offering staff opportunities to advance their education and careers. Expand partnership with ASD.

Priority D

Have a high performing board and Policy Council that provides effective, inclusive shared governance. How do we recruit new PC members once COVID is more neutralized? Open discussion ensued. Ronnie asked how comfortable they would be taking or making a small video of what they have learned or done on the PC. Why other parents should join. This small video could then be shared with other parents during recruitment. Most parents felt they would be too critical of themselves but willing to try if someone else videotaped them. Project for coming back together?

Financial Report: Dirk showed graphs of Assets and Liabilities and the top 5 expenses through January 31. Our expenditures are under-budget due to lighter spending during the year long pandemic. With a requested carry over of \$381,000 (waiting to hear from OHS) and a one-time Covid grant of \$75,000, KCI

is in a good financial position. We did receive approval to reduce enrollment due to loss of state funding last year. We hope to add slots with EHS expansion grant, which we have not heard about yet. OHS said they will not reduce our Federal Head Start grant due to reduced numbers.

Legislative information: Ronnie shared that each member has two representatives. A senator and House Rep. Each having their own designated district represented by a number or a letter. She explained that included was long distance numbers plus 800 numbers and emails to reach legislators while in Juneau and interim contact means while they are here at home in Anchorage. Since there is no Juneau trips for this year (COVID), KCI will start setting up meetings with their legislators as desired. Schedules will be in March and part of April. Dirk asked if there was anyone wanting to meet virtually and best dates or times. Mentioned was the possibility of talking with aides as an option. Aides were very knowledgeable and will relay information to the legislator if that person was not available. Rhonda and Brittany will make anything available work with a little notice. Kaya stated, no Monday's or Tuesdays.

All members asked if KCI will snail mail the packet, no printing capabilities. Ronnie mentioned that if they wanted the packets in hard copy, she could deliver at same time as food. This was desirable.

Community Assessment: Will work on next month (March) since time is running long at this meeting. Program Update: Dirk mentioned that a class of eight new children was started last week and another classroom of eight will start after Spring Break. Under the Disabilities heading, he mentioned that there was 19 children with a known or suspected disability, usually have 40 or higher. This shows how many children might not be getting services that they need. KCI is hoping to make some summertime classes available for parents wanting more classroom time before their child goes to Kindergarten. More will be forthcoming as plans develop.

Parents wanted to share that the State wide rental and mortgage assistance is still open in Anchorage. Parents also brought up Food banks are still giving out food M-Thursday, 5-7pm at Tahkatnu center. Farmers market at same location is giving out fresh veggies. Lutheran Social Services has a lot more food to give out to people. Has items that you can actually use to make regular meals with. This is Tuesday's only from 1-4, location is 1303 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> 272-0643, all you need is your ID. They also give out diapers and pet food. For more up to date information, you can email to: [programs@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:programs@foodbankofalaska.org)

Next meeting on Monday, March 22. 6-8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Ronnie Brown, FES