

Kids' Corps, Inc.
Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 25, 2021

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

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

Opening the meeting Dirk asked members to think about something positive they read, watched, heard, was a part of and share with the group. Many wonderful answers of positive engagement were shared.

Minutes:

September minutes were reviewed. No changes at this time. Rhonda motioned to accept the September minutes, Noreen seconded. Motion approved. October minutes were for recommendations since no quorum was present.

New Hires:

New hires were reviewed and positions along with start dates mentioned. Rhonda motioned to approve the new hires, Kaya seconded. Motion approved.

Selection Criteria:

Both the EHS and HS selection criteria were reviewed. Brittany and Ronnie went over each area of change and why the changes were important to KCI. They talked about the shift to three year olds if ASD opens more Pre-K's and OI families up to 129% having a chance to get 3 year old in, if no four year olds are on wait list. This allows families to continue to work with KCI for two years and if EHS grant approved, fill slots as parents are able to get back to work, school, training. Changes in wording was needed as the dynamics of families are changing. Discussion ensued. Jessica motioned to accept the new changes to the selection criteria, Kaya seconded. Motion approved, recommendations will be taken to the board of directors.

Federal Grant Carryover Request:

Under normal circumstances, Federal monies are not carried over into the new program year. With COVID 19, classrooms have been closed, buses not running, food services greatly reduced, staff positions not filled when vacated and classroom supplies needed reduced has left KCI with unspent Federal dollars. With about \$215,000 of the continuation grant and \$165,000 for COVID, we are asking for

carryover of approximately \$380,000. Rhonda motioned to request for carryover, Noreen seconded. Motion approved.

Early Head Start Supplemental Grant:

With the EHS expansion grant still under consideration, OHS has asked KCI if we prefer to keep HGS expansion as a separate grant or include it as a supplement with our current Head Start and EHS grant. Dirk went over the advantages and disadvantages of keeping separate or combining. With changes in how deficiencies are counted, CLASS system changes, looking at two reports versus one report, re-competition all or nothing, much discussion ensued. Recommendations were to combine the grants. Rhonda motioned to request the combination of grants, Noreen seconded. Motion approved.

Executive Directors report:

Dirk spoke to the group about ASD reopening some classrooms now and more in a couple of weeks. KCI will be looking at opening another classroom at the East center with 8 children only in mid February if everything goes well with Anchorage covid numbers staying low. This classroom will run 9-1pm part day. Our collaborative classrooms started back last week with part of class going Monday and Tuesday and rest of class going Wednesday and Thursday. Time will tell if our numbers of covid stay low. Members asked about doing in person meetings, Dirk stated maybe by May or June. KCI will continue to do screenings, distancing, masks. Keep diligent, don't let our guard down.

Dirk reviewed credit card expenditures and financials from September through December.

Audit – Dirk explained that our audit was done virtually and no findings.

Bus services will not be started at this time, will start up again with new program year if all goes well.

United Way receives "Cares" dollars and are contracting with restaurants to deliver lunches for children to nonprofit agencies like KCI and Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. This has been extremely helpful to families needing the extra food resources. Places that have delivered to KCI is 49th State and Fat Ptarmigan, just to name a few.

Juneau – Dirk let members know that there will be no trips to Juneau this year but to keep an eye on them and be prepared if we need to start phone calls and parent letters to support Head Start.

Community Assessment:

Dirk spoke about doing the community assessment every five years and will be starting the process in March/April. He asked the members to think about some questions they feel are good to ask parents about their communities. What should we ask, what do we want to know? What do we need to hear about? Members gave thoughts like: How easy is it to access resources? (some thought real easy, others thought they were just put on waitlist, no help, or years out to get any assistance.) What community resource did you need and was unable to access or receive. Dirk asked members to bring 5 or 6 questions to next meeting.

Next meeting is February 22nd at 6pm. (Trying to get back to normal dates and times)

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronnie Brown, FCES