

Kids' Corps, Inc.
Policy Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 17, 2021

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

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

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed, no questions at this time. Shawna motioned to approve the April minutes, Jessica seconded. Motion approved.

New Hires: Ronnie went over the two new hires for Family Advocate. No questions at this time. Jessica motioned to approve the new hires, Tasi seconded. Motion approved.

Budget Draft Highlights: Starting in August, OHS mandates all grantees to provide a minimum of 1,020 hours of service for 45% or greater of enrolled children. Dirk reviewed with the members how that will look for KCI next program year. More EHS classes at the Mt. View center will run year round from 7:30-5:30, East classes 1 and 2 and Muldoon classrooms will run 11 months with 5 hours each day. Ridgeline will return to it's original (pre COVID) 6.5 hours a day and run August to June. These changes will guarantee at least 50% of children meeting these requirements. Other budget changes will include adding 6 new teachers and 6 assistant teachers along with 2 floaters for the new Mt. View site. With so many staff under one center director, an assistant center director will also be added. Another change will be to increase the Education Coordinators position to a more managerial position, to lessen the load of the Education Manager so he may focus on more of his senior duties.

Covid Pay and Leave Policy Extension: The recommendation is to keep our current pandemic wage scale in effect until our July 19th Board and Policy Council joint meeting where the FY22 budget will be finalized and permanently revise the wage scale. Jessica motioned to approve the recommendation, Tasi seconded. Motion approved.

American Recover Plan Act: In addition to the base federal Head Start grant, KCI will have the following one time grants available in FY22 and part of FY23. They are the CARES Act (carryover from FY20), the CRRSAA-HET and the ARPA. All Recovery Act funds must be spent on challenges or conditions related to the pandemic. Dirk presented a list of projects for consideration with the Recovery Act fund projects

highlighted. Members reviewed the list. Other monies left over can be spent on projects that have been on the list for some time, like building upgrades, security measures, new janitorial equipment, phone system, etc. Shawna motioned to approve the application for the grants, Jessica seconded. Motion approved.

Advocacy: Key federal decision makers in DC are currently drawing up plans for a national pre-k, this would have a profound impact on the work Head Start does. It is very important that we, as a part of the Head Start community, engage in conversations and contribute to shaping a strong future. Parents have a great opportunity to influence this process by making your voice heard. You can send an email to Alaska's congressional delegation. (Senators Sullivan and Murkowski and Rep. Don Young). Dirk share a sample form letter that parents can use or they can tell their own story. Dirk also shared their email addresses. He stated he would email it out so they can just click on the email address and send their thoughts.

American Recovery Plan: Ronnie presented the latest recovery plan that was sent out to assist families. She went over who would be receiving the new stimulus payments (adult and child, non taxable), how unemployment benefits will go up (taxable), food and nutrition assistance will be distributed, rental assistance still available and more funding for energy and water assistance. Child care payments will help with tax credits and monthly child allowances will take the place of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Discussion on next meeting. July 19th at 6pm. Board and PC joint meeting to finalize wage structure, goals and budget for following year. If have in person but can't do childcare, who could come?

Shawna – zoom only

Jessica – maybe

Brittany – maybe

Noreen – zoom only/phone

More will come as we get closer to meeting date.

Have a great summer, see you in July.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ronnie Brown, FCES