

# **Kids Central Incorporated Combined Board of Directors and Policy Council Meeting and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration June 10, 2014**

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The Board of Directors and Policy Council of Kids Central, Incorporated, met Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at University of Virginia's College at Wise, Cantrell Hall. Will Sturgill, President, of the Board of Directors called the joint meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. after determining a quorum was present.

**Board Members present:** Thomas Williams, Fred Luntsford, Sister Bernie Kenny, Mary Hagy, Bill Dotson, Karen Davis

**Policy Council Members present:** Lisa Meade, Ashley Woods

**Staff present:** Vernon Rose, Jr., Becky Bolling, Amber Mullins, Teresa Blair, Leslie Graves, Lisa Bentley, Christy Fleming, Paula Bates, Janet Sturgill, Terry Gentry, Tammy Mullins, Darrell Edwards, Lindsey Sturgill, Valerie Lee, Carolyn Shepard, Jimmy Bush, Christy Barton, Brittany Sexton, Miranda Ely

**Guests present:** Jacob Williams, McKenzie Williams, Jerrie Adams, Bradley Robertson, Carl Greear

## Presentation of Board Minutes of May 20, 2014, Board of Directors' Meeting

Thomas Williams, Board Secretary, presented the minutes of the May 20, 2014, meeting for review. He then asked for approval of the minutes by the Board.

***Motion by Bill Dotson to accept the minutes as written.***

***Motion seconded by Sister Bernie Kenny.***

***Motion carried by unanimous vote.***

## Presentation of the Financial Report ending May 2014

Christy Fleming, Comptroller, presented May 2014 financials, which were distributed to the members present. Ms. Fleming noted the financial report is a preliminary report as we are at the end of our fiscal year and trying to close out the year. Kids Central is getting ready for the audit, which occurs in July. Board and Council members should have copies of the preliminary financial report in their folders. After opening the floor for questions and receiving none, Ms. Fleming welcomed everyone to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration meeting.

## Monthly Updates

Monthly updates are available this month in written format and include an Education Staff Report, Child and Family Services Staff Report, Health Services Report, E.R.S.E.A. End-Of-Month Report, Nutrition Report and Human Resources Monthly Report. These reports are added as attachments to this month's meeting minutes.

## OLD BUSINESS

There being no old business discussed, Will Sturgill, Board President moved to New Business.

## NEW BUSINESS

Installation of Members for the 2014-15 Kids Central, Inc., Board of Directors.: Darrell Edwards, Executive Director called for installation of the members of the Board of Directors for fiscal year 2014-15. Mr. Edwards gave a roll call of all board members: Teresa Adkins, David Belcher, Bill Dotson, Sister Bernie Kenny, Fred Luntsford, Shirley Rogers, Edward Hutchinson, Michael Standifur, Ron Kendrick, Mary Hagy, Karen Davis, Will Sturgill, Thomas Williams, Harry Childress, and Sherry Tabor. Mr. Edwards asked that these members please stand so that he could administer the oath to them. Mr. Edwards then read the following oath:

“You have been elected to the Board of Directors of Kids Central, Inc., to uphold the highest standards and to execute stewardship of this corporation. As such, this oath is to affirm that you do solemnly pledge that you will faithfully execute the duties of a Board Member of Kids Central for the 2014-15 fiscal year. If you agree, please affirm by saying I will.”

Affirmation unanimous by all members of the Board of Directors present.

Mr. Edwards thanked the members and charged them with being the new installed Board of Directors for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Mr. Edwards called for installation of the members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and gave a roll call of the proposed list of Officers for 2014-15: President – Will Sturgill, Vice-President – Karen Davis, Secretary – Thomas Williams, and Treasurer – Harry Childress. After roll call, Mr. Edwards noted the vote was taken and approved at the last meeting for these members to remain on the Executive Committee. He then read the following oath:

“You have been elected to important positions in the administration of Kids Central. This is an indication of the Board of Directors' esteem and confidence in all of you. We also believe you will uphold the high standards and traditions of our organization, that you will give the best of your executive ability to the furtherance of the interests of Kids Central, to serve the needs of children and families, and to carry out the mission of Kids Central Incorporated. If you agree, please affirm by saying I will.”

Affirmation unanimous by all members of the Executive Committee.

Presentation of 2013-14 Award Recipients: Darrell Edwards, Executive Directors, explained that the Administrative Offices Board Room has a Wall of Fame. It is his pleasure to induct five more members to this Wall of Fame today. In making these presentations, Mr. Edwards read the inscriptions on each plaque that he is giving out today to the recipients of the annual awards. Mr. Edwards stated that he enjoyed this part of his job just about as much as anything else he liked to do.

KCI Staff Service Award: The plaque reads “Recognizing a member of Kids Central, Incorporated, staff for outstanding leadership and dedication and service to children and families, Kids Central and the community, this year’s award recipient is Carolyn Shepard.

KCI Volunteer Service Award: The plaque reads “Recognizing outstanding service to children and families, Kids Central Incorporated and the community.” This particular lady is an import from France. I do not believe she can be with us here today. She has been a value to us in an unbelievable way. She still works with our children even though the Center is closed for the summer. Martine Courvoisier is the recipient of the Volunteer Service Award, and she represents the Fourth World Movement from Dickenson County.

KCI Parent Policy Council Appreciation Award: The plaque reads “Outstanding leadership and service to Kids Central, Incorporated, and the community and dedicated leadership as a member of the Parent Policy Council.” Lisa Meade is the recipient of the KCI Parent Policy Council Award.

KCI Community Service Award: The plaque reads” Recognizing outstanding service to children, families, Kids Central Incorporated and the community.” This year’s recipient is MEOC’s Foster Grandparent Program. Accepting the award is Bill Dotson, Director. For a number of years, Kids Central has had grandparents in our program. You would not believe the value they bring for every center in which they serve.

KCI Donald Baker Leadership Award: Every year, the KCI Board of Directors vote to give a leadership award, named after Don Baker who was our Board President for six years through some of the most turbulent times this organization has ever been through. The plaque reads “For outstanding service to the children and families of southwest Virginia and for unwavering leadership and support towards the completion of Kids Central’s mission. Our Don Baker Leadership Award goes to Bill Dotson.

Mr. Dotson asked if he could speak a word of thanks. He commented that this award was so unexpected. As a two time retiree after working again full time, he stated that service was in him. After retiring from education, then back to a job involving education, senior citizens and children, the Foster Grandparent Program does do good work in every instance that we have. It blesses his heart to be a part of the program, Kids Central seeing all the good the program accomplishes there. Thank you so much. I really appreciate the award and will do my best to keep up the good work.

Darrell Edwards, Executive Director, announced that the business meeting had been completed. Now, the celebration begins. We chose to do a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to celebrate 40 years of operation, which not many businesses get an opportunity to celebrate. A lot of people who are in this business who make it 40 years, it is a huge milestone. For us to have been through 40 years with budget cuts, legislative mudslinging, political footballs, we have survived and thrived. This company is as strong as it has ever been. Our excellence in leadership and service is our hallmark. Please let me introduce Will Sturgill, Board President to say a few words.

Will Sturgill, Board President, presented a speech about Kids Central, Incorporated. Kids Central is such a wonderful program. This program gives kids a Head Start in their lives. I cannot think of anything more important than making sure our children have a chance in this world. They have a chance to go after their dreams and be whom they have dreamt to be. This program changes lives for the better. This program makes a big difference in children at an age that really matters and helps children do better in school and become better students. This program also provides role models who teach kids how to learn, helps them learn important values that they can hold for a lifetime, and provides meals to children who may otherwise be going hungry. This is a great program; it is very special for all of us to be a part of it. Kids Central has made a big difference to thousands of kids over the last forty years, right here in this

community. This is a true educational jewel that because of the parents, teachers, administration, Policy Council and Board Members past and present, it continues to be a pillar of the community and is helping kids make the transition to primary school while providing important values for a lifetime. Each and every child deserves an opportunity to make something out of themselves in this world. This program helps give them that opportunity. I thank you all very much for being here today.

Darrell Edwards, Executive Director, gave credit to his cohorts. He spoke of the joy he receives serving with the people he serves with every day. As the Chief Executive Officer of this corporation is the climax of a lifetime of service for him. He has been in this field for over 40 years and has seen hundreds of thousands of children in organizations such as the Boys Clubs, Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He could not stand here in front of you and tell you that he is not nervous knowing the value of the what we do of the staff in this room, and the people with whom we are surrounded, thinking about the ultimate product this company produces, our own children that will eventually be leaders of this community. For old folks like him, know that your role is one of leadership. That is what Kids Central is doing for you. It is helping you to find your role.

Mr. Edwards went on to say: Dear friends, associates and supporters of Kids Central, Incorporated. Kids Central's Head Start story dates back to 1965. An idea in 1965 of President Lyndon Johnson to provide summer and educational activities and nutritious food continued his war on poverty. Wise County and the City of Norton was a part of that program. Even though the Head Start program was run in Wise County and Norton, it was sponsored and administered by an agency and was not incorporated as a company. It was not until 1974 that Articles of Incorporation were completed and tax exemption status sought for the Wise County Head Start Corporation. Over the years, the name has changed. On several occasions, it has changed drastically just to recognize the areas that we serve. It started with a Wise County designation and then added Norton. It was not too much longer that other areas were being served, and we needed to reflect those additions. After adding Dickenson County, the name need to be changed to Appalachian Regional Community Head Start or ARCHS. With the addition of the Early Head Start program services for children ages birth to three, a new name was then needed, and Kids Central was born. Kids Central, Incorporated moved away from a top heavy management system to a grass roots mentality to serve Virginia. This move gave more resources to the classroom and to the teachers and also to the parents and the kids themselves. Kids Central Incorporated moved from an administrative budget of 25 percent to today an average of nine percent. Kids Central, Incorporated is a leader in children's services statewide. We have a highly qualified staff of 108 people providing a wide range of services to 420 enrolled children. It is not hard to see why Kids Central Incorporated is a successful company. From the beginning, this program has worked with some of the finest people in the country. The children and families being served by Kids Central, Incorporated are among the best anywhere in this country. Ingrained with the DNA of a fighting spirit and a zest for life, Kids Central, Incorporated has weathered all storms and battles with regulations, budgets and politics. After each skirmish, Kids Central recovered with a vengeance to be more resilient and wiser at what we do. As Kids Central, Incorporated launches its 40<sup>th</sup> year in the service of our area, we take the opportunity to thank the many who have contributed to the success of Kids Central. Many people have served on the Board of Directors. Many volunteers and parents who have served on the Parent Policy Council. The staff who have upgraded their skills and uphold the KCI brand name. This reputation was forged over the last 40 years became our hallmark of excellence, excellence in the design of educational programs, excellence in the delivery of educational programs, excellence in quality and service to our children and families in our community. With your confidence and long-standing partnership, we are encouraged and motivated to serve even better. Each requirement becomes our challenge to innovate and each challenge an opportunity to rise above to gain confidence, understanding and expertise. As we move forward, let us build upon the strong foundation and together with our next generation work towards delivering beyond excellence. Thank you for being a partner with Kids Central.

We have prepared a slide presentation for you. I will not read the slides as they are self-explanatory. But, we wanted to give you a broader picture of who we are as a company and what we do in this area. As the presentation runs, please keep in mind that we are forty years old and have been through a lot with a lot of changes; our company has changed; the name of the company has changed. Mr. Edwards proceeded to present the slide presentation as a road map to our company over the last forty years. During the presentation, the staff members of KCI delivered to members of Board of Directors commemorative jackets in recognition of their service to the Company. After the presentation and speaking for himself and the Board of Directors, Mr. Edwards thanked all who attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and everything they each do for the children in our communities.

Ms. Lindsey Sturgill, Family Engagement Specialist, presented a slide show made by one of our classrooms to enjoy during our noon meal.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Kids Central, Inc. Policy Council will be held on Wednesday August 13, 2014, and the Board of Directors will hold their next meeting Tuesday, August 19, 2014, both at 11:00 a.m. at the Corporate Office in Norton, Virginia.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

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Thomas Williams  
Board of Directors Secretary

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Lisa Meade  
Policy Council Secretary

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Valerie A. Lee  
Recording Secretary