

Kids Central Incorporated Board of Directors Meeting March 15, 2011

The Board of Directors of Kids Central Incorporated met March 15, 2011 at Kids Central's Administration Office. Teresa Adkins, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Board Members present: Teresa Adkins, Charles Hay, Edward Hutchinson, Sister Bernie Kenny, Shirley Rogers, and Will Sturgill

Staff present: Darrell Edwards, Lindsey Sturgill, Kim Austin, Lisa Barton, and Paula Bates

Others present: Policy Council Members Sue Coleman and Melinda Huffman

Minutes:

Will Sturgill presented the minutes of the last meeting (February 15th). With no comments or corrections, **Edward Hutchinson made a motion to approve the minutes. Shirley Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Finance Report

Edward Hutchinson commented on the budget cuts the federal government is trying to make, especially with the Head Start budget. He referred to the information in the article in *The New York Times*. We were mentioned in that article. One of their photographers came here to take photos of our children in the centers.

Lisa Barton presented the financial statements to the Board. She states that we have prepared ourselves for losing the ARRA funds in the next fiscal year, and are actually ahead of the game. These funds would have added an additional 13.4% to our budget.

Currently, we have spent approximately 60% of our Head Start and Early Head Start funds and approximately 50% of our ARRA funds. We have almost reached our required in-kind for the year.

We have been in contact with Mr. Pierce of Rural Development. He thinks we might be able to receive another \$50,000 grant to purchase a bus.

Will Sturgill inquired about the in-kind. Lisa explained what in-kind consisted of, what was required, and how our in-kind chart is constructed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Virginia Head Start Conference. Darrell Edwards discussed the Virginia Head Start Conference. The conference will be held at the Higher Education Center located on the Virginia Highlands Community College grounds in Abingdon on April 4 through April 7. Staff members from Kids Central will be presenting workshops along with Teresa Adkins. Teresa will present "Stop Putting out Fires and Plan for the Future"; Kim will present two sessions; and our Family Involvement staff will also present. All of our education staff along with our administration staff will attend. Schedules can be found on the Virginia Head Start Association's web page.

- Board Development. For the past several years Kids Central has been trying to increase the membership of the Board of Directors. We currently have eleven members. We would like to have 15 – 20 active members. Board members need to recruit new members. We need at least four new Board members. If each current Board member would recruit at least one member, that would double our current membership. We would definitely like to have four more members.

There are several requirements that must be fulfilled concerning the Board's membership. We need an Early Education Specialist, and a Financial Specialist. Darrell thinks Harry Childress is qualified to fulfill the Financial Specialist.

Kim Austin discussed Board of Directors By-Laws in reference to early childhood education. Kim explained that this person must hold a Master's degree or higher and must live within our service area.

Teresa Adkins encouraged everyone to look at perspective members and do some Board development. Darrell stated that when he gets referral information, he would be glad to make contact with the person and introduce Kids Central.

Charles Hay apologized for missing previous meetings. He had some family illness that he needed to take care of and he hopes that he will now be able to attend the meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at today's meeting.

- Enrollment. Currently have 30 children being monitored by the school system because they need to have an IEP but the school system doesn't have the manpower to provide IEPs. This is a problem that we will unfortunately run into more often. There are lots of children that need these services that are not receiving them.

We are planning for next year. Because we will be serving fewer children next year, we will take applications for children who can re-enroll (3 year olds that are turning 4 and are eligible for Pre-K). We will send out acceptance letters to these children and are requesting the parent sign the form to accept the child's slot in our program. Kim will then take the names of these children who are eligible for Pre-K to the school boards and ask them in good faith to not recruit these children. Hopefully, this will assist us with the problem of Pre-K recruiting children that we have already accepted as they have done in the past. The reason we are serving fewer children next year is because we opted to close St. Paul and Nora because of repeated attendance issues and losing the ARRA funds. We will then continue to serve the Early Head Start children that were enrolled through the help of ARRA funds last year.

Our over-income slots will decrease as well due to the cut in the number total Head Start slots for the upcoming year. We are allowed to allot 10% of our total number of slots to over-income families and we will hold over-income slots until the very end of the acceptance process.

We do not have the power to decide who is enrolled and who is not. Eligibility is determined by our ERSA policy. The computer program issues points and the higher the points, the higher the child becomes on the eligibility list. Income eligibility is based on the federal poverty guidelines.

Kim hopes to have the class lists completed and ready by July.

- Family Involvement Update. Lindsey Sturgill, Family Involvement Specialist reported that family involvement is still very good. Family picture days have been a success. Family portraits will be given to each family on a CD before they leave. Our cost for this project was very minimum. The first night we had over 30 families with over 70 people.

FOR THE GOOD OF KIDS CENTRAL/COMMENTS

Darrell Edwards stated that on the last review we had one finding – an evaluation had not been completed on him. He promises that will not happen again. Darrell asked Teresa to appoint two people to form a committee to perform Darrell's evaluation.

Teresa Adkins and Sister Bernie Kenny will conduct the evaluation on Darrell. Teresa requested that Darrell do a pre-evaluation and send to her prior to her and Sister Bernie meeting to conduct the final evaluation.

We have not had any contact with the Regional Office for quite awhile. We submitted a request to purchase buses over six months ago, and we have never received a response. We should have had a risk management review in November, however we did not and we never received any information as to why. We were told that because we used ARRA funds to expand our Early Head Start program, we would be required to have a federal review. We then received a phone call stating we would not have a review. Darrell is concerned that these actions are not good for our program. The Acting Head Start Director, and our Program Specialist from the Regional Office will be at the Virginia Head Start Conference, and Darrell will speak with them to find out what is going on.

The New York Times published an article concerning funding cuts to Head Start. Our program was included in the article. Four of our parents were interviewed and a photographer came to our location and took photos of our center staff and children. The article is posted on our website if anyone is interested in reading it.

Earl Carter stated that he feels we are a very proactive Head Start agency and if all agencies would try to get information out like we do, people would be much more knowledgeable about Head Start.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Kids Central Board of Directors will be held on April 19, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at the Kids Central Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Teresa Adkins adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

William Sturgill
Secretary

Sandra Harvey
Recording Secretary