

Kids Central Incorporated Board of Directors Meeting April 19, 2011

The Board of Directors of Kids Central Incorporated met April 19, 2011 at Kids Central's Administration Office. Teresa Adkins, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Board Members present: Teresa Adkins, Shirley Rogers, Fred Luntsford, George Aichel, Edward Hutchinson, Ronald Kendrick, William Sturgill, and David Belcher

Staff present: Darrell Edwards, Lindsey Sturgill, Kim Austin, Lisa Barton, and Sandra Harvey

Others present: Policy Council Members Sue Coleman and Dee Strouth

Minutes:

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

Finance Report

Lisa Barton presented the financial statements. Currently, we have spent approximately 75% of our Head Start, 71% of our Early Head Start funds, and approximately 65% of our ARRA funds. In-kind contributions this year have been excellent.

We may be able to receive some funds from Rural Development to help purchase a new bus. We will not know officially until sometime in June. With all the cuts to the federal budget, it is hard to know what funds will be available.

George Aichel made a motion to approve the financial report. William Sturgill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Virginia Head Start Conference. Darrell Edwards reported on the Virginia Head Start conference held in Abingdon April 5 – 7. He stated that Kids Central played a huge part in putting everything together for the conference. Teresa Adkins gave a presentation on the structure of Kids Central and the planning process used to establish our goals and to set our objectives. Kids Central's Family Advocate staff gave a presentation and a repeat presentation on the family involvement program implemented at Kids Central and ideas to increase involvement within Head Start. Kim Austin gave two presentations; one on Ethics in the classroom and one on Attachment Issues of Children. Darrell is the President of the Southwest Virginia Regional Association of the Virginia Head Start Association and he presented and facilitated the regional meeting at the conference.

This conference was the second most attended conference in the history of the Virginia Head Start Association. Darrell thanked the Board members and the Policy Council for their support of the staff that allowed us to be a major part of the conference. We had approximately seventy (70) staff members attend. Our Policy Council Representatives Sue Coleman and Melinda Huffman attended the conference and reported they had a great experience. Board member

Shirley Rogers attended one day and she also reported on the conference and stated that it was great. Comments from our staff, Policy Council and Board were mainly about the professionalism, depth of content, hospitality, and the overall atmosphere of the conference.

Next year the conference will be held in Loudon County in Northern Virginia.

NEW BUSINESS

- Plans for May's Meeting. Darrell discussed the Board membership for the upcoming year, which begins June 1st. The slate of officers for the new year must be selected and Darrell stated he would present the names of the proposed officers at the meeting.
- Awards. It is time for the annual awards presentation. Nominees for the 2010 – 2011 awards must be turned in no later than May's meeting. Awards include the following:
 - The Donald Baker Leadership Award - for Board members
 - Kids Central Service Award – for Staff
 - Parent Policy Council In Appreciation Award – for Policy Council members
 - Kids Central Volunteer Award – for Volunteers
 - Kids Central Community Service Award – for Community Partners
- Board Membership. We currently have low membership on the Board and Darrell would like to see the number of members increase to at least 20. He is officially asking current members to recruit individuals who would be interested in our Board. We have a very supportive Board and Kids Central is growing and will continue to grow, therefore, it is important that our Board membership grow as well.

We are still in need of a member who has a professional Early Childhood Education background. Kim Austin has spoken with Jewell Askins, a former member of our Board, regarding returning to our Board. She has not given Kim an answer to date. Kim states that if we cannot find someone local with the credentials needed, she may have to request the Board take action and allow membership for someone from outside the service area with the necessary credentials.

- Enrollment. Kim presented the enrollment report for the month of March. Our attendance for March was 77%.

Our Program Specialist informed Kim that we need to submit an addendum to our refunding application. She stated that we could not submit a plan based on the loss of ARRA funds when we don't know positively that we will not receive any further ARRA funds. This addendum will state our plans if we do receive ARRA funds. If we do receive ARRA funds, we will hire two (2) Early Head Start Home Visitors and serve 24 more Early Head Start children. By doing this, our Early Head Start program will serve nearly 100 children.

Shirley Rogers made a motion to approve the addendum to the current refunding application stating what our actions will be if we continue to receive ARRA funds and if we do not receive ARRA funds. George Aichel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Family Involvement Update. Lindsey Sturgill, Family Involvement Specialist reported that she is planning another family movie night at the Central Drive-In. This event has not been finalized but she is trying to have the event scheduled for May 10th. Notices will go out to parents as soon as she has everything confirmed.

Our year-end bash will be held Friday, May 13th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Bullitt Park in Big Stone Gap. Activities include a petting zoo, children’s train rides, Sparky the Fire Dog, a policy car, a fire truck, sand tables, children’s games, prizes, and a cake walk. We are in need of some volunteers to do face painting on the children. The Board members were invited to participate in this event.

FOR THE GOOD OF KIDS CENTRAL/COMMENTS

Darrell reported that Teresa Adkins and Sister Bernie Kenny will conduct his annual performance evaluation and will have it completed by next month.

Wise County is asking Kids Central to sign their annual VPI program contract. By signing that document, we are stating that there is collaboration between Wise County Schools and Kids Central. We have tried for several years to collaborate services with Wise County Schools but to no avail. Continually, eligible Head Start children are recruited by the school system for Pre-K, and yet children that are not eligible for Head Start services and that are not accepted for Pre-K are left without receiving any services.

Wise County has sent fliers home to parents asking if they have children living in the home that are between the ages of 2 and 4. The parents then receive a telephone call stating they need to register the children in Pre-K. We have been receiving calls from Head Start parents informing us what they are being told.

This year, when we accept children to the program from Wise County, we are having parents sign and date the acceptance letter. This guarantees that child a slot for the upcoming year, and to show that we have recruited that family for our program. These are children that should not be targeted for the Pre-K program.

Teresa Adkins and Kim Austin met with Superintendent Jeff Perry last fall and emphasized that we want Pre-K to focus their attention to the children that are not eligible for Head Start services. This would be the best case scenario for all and a win-win situation for the children. The perfect solution would be to have a joint application for all children in Wise County that would be used by both Wise County Schools and Kids Central for children. This would ensure that all children would receive services. Eligible children would attend Head Start, and others would attend Pre-K.

Darrell informed the Board that we don’t have recruitment issues in Dickenson County like we do in Wise County and Kids Central could sign the contract for Dickenson County without having to sign the contract for Wise. The contracts will go to the Governor’s office and it will be noted that we refused to sign.

David Belcher made a motion that the Board refuse to sign the VPI contract for Wise County and to sign the VPI contract for Dickenson County. Ronald Kendrick seconded the motion. After the motion was made, members discussed some information regarding the history of Kids Central and Wise County Schools. Some members were not aware that Wise County VPI Director Donna Bates was once a member of Kids Central’s Board of Directors while employed as the VPI Director in Wise.

David Belcher remembers having similar conversations a couple years ago and no improvement has been made since that time so it is obviously clear that nothing will change now.

David Belcher asked if the motion he made could be changed. He feels like instead of a motion, the Board should make a resolution. **David Belcher made a motion that the Board of Directors prepare a resolution in regards to refusing to sign the VPI contract for Wise County and for agreeing to sign the VPI contract for Dickenson County. This resolution should include all reasons for refusal and agreement for each Lead Educational Authority (LEA). Ronald Kendrick seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.**

Darrell reported that we received a letter stating we will be having a review this upcoming year. The review may take place between September 2011 and June 2012. The Board and Policy Council members are a huge part of our program review. We should receive a 30-day notice to when the review is scheduled.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Kids Central Board of Directors will be held on May 17, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at the Kids Central Administration building.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Edward Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shirley Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

William Sturgill
Secretary

Sandra Harvey
Recording Secretary