**Kids Hope Alliance - March Board Meeting Minutes**

March 27, 2024

1. **Introductions**

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Marsha Oliver called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. She began by introducing herself and asking the Board members and liaisons to do the same.

Ms. Oliver provided a recap of KHA’s recent activities which included participation in the Mayor’s Literacy Campaign as a part of Celebrate Reading Week. This week of literacy activities included Family Reading Day during which free books were distributed to students and three outstanding student writers received prizes for their book reviews.

Ms. Oliver also highlighted KHA’s support of the Mayor’s Youth at Work program which enables youth to gain work experience with local businesses.

Members Present – Marsha Oliver, Cynthia Nixon, Connie Hodges, Carson Tranquille, Lawrence Dennis, Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Member Absent – Kevin Gay

2. **Special Presentation**

Nico Flowers, Youth of the Year, Boys’ & Girls’ Clubs, Inc. of Northeast Florida

Sallyn Pacjic, Literary Support

Nico Flowers shared his compelling speech with the audience and received a standing ovation. He was presented with a token of appreciation by Dr. Grass.

Sallyn Pacjic was recognized for her philanthropy and generous donations to families during the last two Family Reading Day events.

3. **Governance Meeting Recap**

Meredith Chartrand-Frisch, Governance Vice Chair

Ms. Chartrand-Frisch summarized the Governance meeting previously held on March 25th. Discussion items included 3 grant applications, 1 funding opportunity, and 1 contract. The committee also discussed Governance Board policies none of which were revised except adding a narrative to the Grant Application Matrix.

4. **Finance Committee Recap**

Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

Mrs. Nixon provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting previously held on March 25th. The committee reviewed the financial reports, board action items as well and preliminary budget. She also expressed her excitement about potentially receiving additional resources to support the children in our community and lift the programs that KHA supports.

5. **Public Comments Related to Action Items**

*Public comments will be taken now for all items that will be voted on at the meeting. These comments should*

*only be about those action items below. A separate public comment time will be open at the end of the meeting*

*for any general comments to be made by the public.*

6. **Approval of March Minutes**

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Ms. Oliver asked the Board to review the minutes from the January meeting and advise if there were any revisions. There were no changes, so she asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Second: Carson Tranquille

Approved: 6-0

7. **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Grass provided a recap of the board action items which were previously reviewed and voted on in the Governance and Finance committee meetings which include:

a. The STEM Hub: 100 Black Men & I’m a Star Foundation

Funds from this action item will cover the cost to lease the STEM hub’s building located on Moncrief Road.

KHA has agreed to provide funding for this lease for the next 3 years. The 100 Black Men organization and I’m a Star Foundation deliver technical training to students with a special emphasis on coding.

b. Grant Application: TD Charitable Foundation

If awarded to KHA, the TD Charitable Foundation Grant will fund roof repair/replacement for 15 homeowners. KHA is partnering with the Neighborhoods Department to supplement these repairs which will benefit families who are deemed “at risk”.

c. Grant Application: DCF Criminal Justice Reinvestment

Funds for the DCF Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grant will provide assessments and support to students who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. Future board action items for this grant will include an itemized list of each funding source i.e. cash match, in-kind donations, etc.

d. Grant Application: U.S. Department of Treasury

This grant uses a pay-for-performance model to improve literacy throughout the city. An investment firm is being used to help KHA implement these services and if the program is successful, the federal government will repay KHA up to ten million dollars.

e. Literacy Training & Coaching Contracts: UF/UNF/ELC

KHA will partner with DCPS to provide literacy training and coaching to teachers and students. Funds will be used to improve literacy rates at UF, UNF, the Early Learning Coalition and afterschool providers. These services will occur throughout the summer and fall.

f. Recapture Funds Legislation

KHA will ask the City Council to return $1.4m to its budget to support 8 programs which did not receive funding during their first year of operation. These funds will also be used to support an after-school site and literacy efforts.

After some discussion, Ms. Oliver requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Second: Carson Tranquille

Approval: 6-0

g. Governance Policies Ratification:

22-016 CEO Contract Delegation Authority Policy

22-017 CEO Delegation to CAO

22-018 Small Provider Criteria Policy

22-019 Grant Application Policy

Dr. Grass summarized these 4 Governance policies which have been in effect since 2021 and are reviewed by the board annually. After some discussion, Ms. Oliver requested a motion to approve these policies.

Motion: Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Second: Carson Tranquille

Approval: 6-0

8. **Partner Presentation**

Tony Read, Executive Director, Project Connect, Twin Oaks Florida

Mr. Read summarized the services offered at Project Connect which include case management and mental health support.

9. **Finance Processes Presentation**

Jessica Pitts, Finance Director

Mrs. Pitts introduced her team and provided an overview of their financial processes which include the review and processing of provider budgets and reimbursements, monitoring spending in 1Cloud and preparing audit confirmations.

10. **Administrative Update**

Kenneth Darity, Chief Administrative Officer

Mr. Darity provided an update on recent events which KHA staff have spearheaded including the annual

Vendor Fair, Feeding Northeast Florida’s Food Giveaway and KHA 101 which is a platform for providers to

gain valuable knowledge on the process to qualify and apply for funding.

11. **Strategy Update**

Rodger Belcher, Chief Strategy Officer

Mr. Belcher provided an overview of KHA’s strategic planning efforts which include the transition to Agiloft

(KHA’s new contract management system), the implementation of Results Based Accountability and the

future rollout of a new cyber security network.

12. **CEO Report**

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Grass welcomed Reese Wilson (OGC) to our team of board liaisons. She also introduced KHA’s new

part time staff which include Rachel Zimmer, Winston Seabrooks and Pat Hughes. Dr. Grass indicated that

the meetings with City Council members are going very well. Members have been invited to attend provider

sites and have discussed KHA’s potential ordinance changes and building modifications.

13. **General Public Comments**

Paul Martinez invited the audience to the Boys’ & Girls’ Youth of the Year state competition featuring Nico

Flowers. Leon Baxton thanked Dana Kriznar for her support of reading literacy days in partnership with the

Mayor.

Dr. Grass recognized CIS for their superb reading results. Two of their schools have been recognized by

Beanstack (Mayor’s Literacy partner) for accumulating the highest number of reading minutes in Duval

County. A representative from MYLAC also shared that there are 34 students in the program who originate

from 15 schools. These students recently participated in a Teen Initiative Project (Literacy Bookfair),

distributed 200 free books and were the guests of Mayor Donna Deegan on their recent field trip to City Hall.

14. **Adjourn**

Ms. Oliver adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.