Kids Hope Alliance - November Governance Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2023

1. Introductions and Instructions

Connie Hodges, Governance Chair

Connie Hodges called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and began with introductions of Board members and KHA Staff.

Members Present: Connie Hodges – Committee Chair, Meredith Chartrand-Frisch - Committee Vice Chair and Lawrence Dennis

Other Board Members Present: Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Members Absent: None

2. Public Comments

Ms. Hodges explained that public comments would be taken specifically for each item on the agenda. At the end of the meeting the public will also have an opportunity for general public comments.

3. New Business

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

Overview:

Dr. Grass indicated that KHA is being allocated $5.8 million dollars from the Mayor's $26 million dollar transition budget. Each action item, with the exception of the RFP, stemmed from one of the Transition Committee’s recommendations, which is comprised of members of the public.

a. UNF Intensive Summer Literacy

The UNF Intensive Summer Literacy program originated in the Public Safety Transition Committee led by W.C. Gentry. This program was operational during the Jax Journey era and was formerly known as the Summer SAIL pilot and led by Dr. Cheryl Fountain. FIE begins on January 1, 2024 and will be an overlay for up to 20 of our existing programs. It provides intensive literacy tutoring and a concentrated curriculum. The contract is for $850,000 and has three annual renewal options. Ms. Hodges asked for a motion to vote on this action item.

Motion - Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Second - Lawrence Dennis

Approved 3-0

b. CAP Youth Artist Program

This Cathedral Arts Youth Artist program is an idea which stemmed from the Arts, Culture and Entertainment Transition Committee. Lucy Chen, VP of Advocacy and Community Engagement at Cathedral Arts, explained that this program was the result of a UNF study which found that students' academic scores were boosted by arts related field trips. Ms. Chen reflected on the success of the field trips which 2,200 students participated in during the Summer of 2023 at the Florida Theatre. This program also includes professional development for DCPS teachers.

This contract begins on January 1, 2024 and the funding amount is $100,000 with up to three annual renewal options. Ms. Hodges asked for a motion to vote on this action item.

Motion - Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Second - Lawrence Dennis

Approved 3-0

c. Ferst Readers Early Literacy

This action item was a recommendation of the Public Safety Transition Committee. The Ferst Readers program is an increase of $100,000 for an existing sole source program targeting 0-4 year old's and is currently operating in 28 child care centers. Participating students will receive a book which they can take home monthly as well as a book for their classroom library. Ms. Hodges asked for a motion to vote on this action item.

Motion - Lawrence Dennis

Second - Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Approved 3-0

d. Afterschool and Summer Literacy Expansion

This action item was a recommendation of the Public Safety Transition Committee. Effective December 1, 2023, this expansion of existing programs enables providers to serve additional afterschool/summer students and enhances security measures for programs with 100 or more students. The increased contract amount totals $1,900,000 and has up to three annual renewal options. Ms. Hodges asked for a motion to vote on this action item.

Motion - Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Second - Lawrence Dennis

Approved 3-0

e. Pediatric Mental Health Support

This action item was a recommendation from the Health and Wellness Transition Committee. The Angel Kids Foundation is the largest provider of health support for children on Medicaid in Jacksonville. Their 9 locations provide preventative services which include therapeutic, mental health and behavioral services for children and their families. This funding of $430,000 goes into effect January 1, 2024 and has up to three annual renewal options. Ms. Hodges asked for a motion to vote on this action item.

Motion - Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Second - Connie Hodges

Approved 3-0

f. Workforce Development Education and Training Services RFP

This program is utilizing funding (up to $250,000) from the Jacksonville Upward Mobility legislation and provides targeted training sessions, apprenticeships and skills development to disconnected youth. Today's vote is for KHA to move forward in advertising the RFP. Ms. Hodges asked for a motion to vote on this action item.

Motion - Lawrence Dennis

Second - Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

Approved 3-0

4. Discussion of Activities and Timelines

Connie Hodges reviewed the annual activities, timeline and role of the Governance Committee. The timeline covers November 2023 - July 2024. Dr. Grass then led the discussion regarding dates for upcoming Governance Committee meetings which will take place on January 16th at 2:00pm, March 25th at 9:30am, May 15th at 9:30am and July 17th at 9:30am.

The next steps include the Governance Committee reviewing the Board's Bylaws and identifying opportunities for improvement.

5. Public Comments

Mr. Leon Baxton, Communities in Schools, thanked the Board for approving the additional seats and security costs at provider sites. He also emphasized the importance of providing mental health support to students and their families. Mr. Kenneth Darity acknowledged the exemplary work being done by Angel Kids in providing medical care, case management and wrap around services. Marsha Oliver thanked the providers for their hard work in delivering services and meeting the needs of youth and their families. Dr. Grass thanked KHA's staff for their amazing work. Rodger Belcher wrapped up the meeting by expressing his excitement about the work that's being done by KHA staff and the Board.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Connie Hodges at 10:52 am.