

**March KHA Board Meeting**

March 26, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

1. **Introductions and Instructions**

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Ms. Oliver called the meeting to order, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then asked the Board to vote to allow Board Member Kevin Gay’s virtual participation in the meeting.

Motion: Connie Hodges

Second: Lawrence Dennis

Approved: 6-0

Ms. Oliver provided a tribute to Women’s History Month and the city’s first female Mayor, Donna Deegan. She also highlighted KHA’s recent participation in Celebrate Reading Week.

Members Present – Marsha Oliver, Lawrence Dennis, Kevin Gay, Connie Hodges, Cynthia Nixon, Carson Tranquille

Members Absent – Meredith Chartrand-Frisch

1. **Partner Presentations**
2. **Take Stock in Children**

Phillip Simmons, Senior Director of Mission Programs

Mr. Simmons provided an overview of the work being performed by the Take Stock in Children program which provides wraparound services to students from middle school through post-secondary completion. The organization also provides opportunities for degree attainment through post-secondary education via a scholarship.

b. **Jacksonville Journey Forward Update**

Charles Griggs, Director of Community Initiatives

COJ Office of the Mayor

Mr. Griggs shared a presentation which highlighted the work of the Jacksonville Journey Forward Committee. He explained that Jacksonville Journey Forward is a community based public safety initiative designed to reduce violent crime and build civic trust. Journey Forward works as a collaborative effort that will research, implement and evaluate targeted prevention, intervention and enforcement strategies.

1. **Finance Committee Recap**

Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

Mrs. Nixon summarized the March Finance meeting which included a review of financial reports. She explained that there were no discrepancies, and the finances are on target. There are minimum dollars being carried over as a result of interest earned. The meeting also included a preliminary review of grant renewals. Mrs. Nixon asked that the financial reports be approved by the Board.

Motion: Cynthia Nixon

Second: Carson Tranquille

Approved: 6-0

1. **Public Comments**

Ms. Oliver explained that public comments would be taken now for all items that will be voted on at the meeting. These comments should only be in reference to 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.

Mr. Frank Emmanuel, Founder and President, of Made a Way Foundation, provided an overview of his organization and shared that he has only drawn down 11% of his funding because his units of service value may not accurately reflect the work being performed. Mr. Darity advised him to work with his Contract Manager to ensure that his Scope of Service translates into the value of his units of service calculation.

1. **Approval of February Minutes**

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Ms. Oliver asked if there were any revisions to the minutes and there were none. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Lawrence Dennis

Second: Connie Hodges

Approved: 6-0

1. **Consent Agenda**

Kenneth Darity, Chief Administrative Officer

1. **Juvenile Justice Diversion Extension Request**

Mr. Darity explained that the Board is being asked to approve a six-month extension for Diversion Services, with an increase in funding in the amount of $500,000, from June 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025. This action item will go through the proper Procurement process once approved.

The Diversion program reduces deep-end involvement in the juvenile justice system by providing prescribed services to divert juvenile offenders from the delinquency system and reduce recidivism. Notable outcomes include:

* Since 2020, the diversion system of care has more than doubled in its capacity to serve justice-involved youth in our community (2019-20=352; 2023-24=917).
* Since 2020, recidivism rates have been consistently low with 95% of youth remaining crime free within 12 months of completing diversion.
* Since 2021, 70% of youth have been assessed and identified with mental health, substance abuse or co-occurring disorders.

Mrs. Oliver asked for a motion to approve this board action item.

Motion: Carson Tranquille

Second: Cynthia Nixon

Approved: 6-0

1. **Approval of Final Budget Submission**

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Grass began by sharing KHA’s success in recapturing the majority of its funding, specifically out of a sixty million dollar budget only twenty four thousand was not spent or encumbered.

The budget will be submitted to the City on April 18th and is $57,554,476. Dr. Grass explained that the budget spreadsheet provided to the Board contains each contract and the number of seats that will be funded in the upcoming year. The budgeted amount includes the provider’s utilization rate, request for renewal and increased units of service rate.

Ms. Oliver asked for a motion to approve the budget.

Motion: Connie Hodges

Second: Lawrence Dennis

Approved: 6-0

Ms. Oliver asked the team to clarify the metrics used to determine providers who exhibited strong performance. Dr. Grass agreed to use the phrase “confirmed positive outcomes” to describe these strong performers who can expand their seats, have met their previous year’s goals in areas like reading levels and other data. Dr. Grass also shared that she is working closely with the Boys & Girls Clubs to ensure that their Culinary program is on track, a recent meeting took place to assist them with required deliverables. A 3-5% buffer was also built into each contract’s budget to allow for adjustments throughout the year.

Mrs. Nixon asked for clarification on how providers are impacted when their contracts are converted from cost reimbursement to units of service and Dr. Grass explained that budgeted amounts include a buffer to allow providers to exceed their projected seat count if necessary.

Mr. Tranquille stated that provider’s contracts include the required deliverables and due dates. He also requested that Finance Committee members receive copies of the provider’s requests for renewals and a COJ email address for ease of delivery.

1. **Review of KHA Actions**

Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Grass shared that the SIPPRA Grant was submitted to MBRC to authorize KHA to file legislation to appropriate the grant dollars. However, the legislation was withdrawn because there are some outstanding questions regarding the budget. This determination to withdraw the legislation was based, in part, on guidance from the city council auditors and the legislation can be re-filed at any time.

1. **Board Discussion**

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Ms. Oliver highlighted key words and phrases she recently discovered in news articles, which have both negative and positive connotations. The adage, “what we see depends on what we look for” can be applied to the Duval DOGE initiative. This could be an opportunity to educate the council and the community on the methods, tools and resources KHA and their providers use to address the critical needs of Jacksonville’s children and youth. Dr. Grass shared that KHA has responded to the Duval DOGE committee’s request for data by providing them with dashboards on every program which contain performance outcomes and hours of operation. She has also identified some internal city efficiencies which could help KHA. The Council Auditors have been very helpful, and she looks forward to working with them.

Ms. Oliver reminded the audience of her intent to establish working committees to help guide the efforts and priorities discussed during the December Board retreat. These committees are:

1. **Strategic Services Committee**

Recommendation: Meredith Chartrand Frisch, Chair; J. Carson Tranquille, Vice-Chair

The purpose of this committee is to propose a calendar and recommended timeline for board governance activities and reviews that align with the strategic direction and goals of the organization.

1. **GUIDE Task Force** (Gaining Understanding to Improve Decisions & Effectiveness)

Recommendation: Lawrence Dennis, Chair; Cynthia Nixon, Vice-Chair

The purpose of this committee is to develop and propose a set of recommended tools, systems, and strategies that drive the decision-making and priorities of the Kids Hope Alliance Board.

Both committees will meet and share their initial findings at the Board Workshop on April 30th.

1. **CAO/CSO Updates**

Kenneth Darity, Chief Administrative Officer

Rodger Belcher, Chief Strategy Officer

In the interest of time, updates were not provided.

1. **General Public Comments**

Terri Staten, Soyini Circles Girl’s Corporation, expressed her gratitude to KHA and the Board for their funding, training and ongoing support.

John Nooney spoke about a potential public/private partnership to establish a park on Pottsburg Creek.

Marcia Brown, Teen Leaders of America, also thanked KHA and the Board for the work they’ve done over the last ten years. She raised a question about the status of an Agency Health Report previously recommended by Board Member, Kevin Gay. Ms. Brown recommended that the Health Report include key dates such as the date the agency received, signed, and executed their contract as well as the date they received their advance. Ms. Brown explained that these dates impact the timing of SAMIS reimbursement submissions and utilization rates.

Katoia Wilkins, KHA Director of the Contract Management team, explained that when their team is made aware of an issue with an agency’s conversion to units of service, they work with the provider to ensure that their work is reflected in their units of service value. Several third year contracts are currently being corrected to reflect more accurate units of service values.

Cynthia Nixon recommended that the next Finance Committee include a presentation on how the unit of service values were determined for providers. The KHA team agreed to provide this information.

1. **Adjourn**

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