

ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: May 13, 2013

AGENDA ITEM No. 13-05-10

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) Y

SUBJECT: KidScope Resolution

INFO. CONTACT: G. Patrick Rhodes, Superintendent PHONE: 919-732-8126

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution in Support of KidScope.
2. Background Information Sheet.

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this item is to provide an opportunity for board members to approve a Resolution In Support of KidScope.

**BACKGROUND:** KidScope is an early intervention program created in 1988 by a coalition of professionals and child advocates to address a documented need for specialized services to young children who are experiencing social, emotional and/or behavioral difficulties. These children may have any number of development delays.

In 1995, KidScope began using a portion of the old A.L. Stanback School (now Hillsborough Elementary). Additional background information is attached.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact associated with this Resolution.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve a Resolution in Support of KidScope.



# Orange County Schools

200 East King Street  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

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## **RESOLUTION In Support of KidScope**

WHEREAS, The Children's Learning Center provides year round center-based early childhood education annually to 25-30 children ages two to five; and

WHEREAS, The program operates a best practice "inclusion" model for children who are typically developing and those with, or at risk for developmental disabilities in a 50/50 ratio; and

WHEREAS, This type program is considered beneficial to all children and promotes a lifelong tolerance and appreciation for individual differences; and

WHEREAS, The KidScope Program is a valuable educational asset to the citizens of Orange County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Education adopts this Resolution In Support of the KidScope Program.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2013.

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Donna Coffey, Chair

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G. Patrick Rhodes, Superintendent

/pmc



# KidSCOPE

## Early Intervention & Family Support

### Programs Currently Located at 500 North Nash Street

#### **1. Children's Learning Center**

The Children's Learning Center provides year round center-based early childhood education annually to twenty-eight children ages two to five. The program operates a best practice "inclusion" model for children who are typically developing and those with, or at risk for developmental disabilities in a 50/50 ratio. This type of program is considered beneficial to all children and promotes a life long tolerance and appreciation for individual differences.

Services at Children's Learning Center include early childhood education activities, parent education, case management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, transportation, and before and after school care. There are two age-appropriate classrooms with a four-to-one student/teacher ratio in each class.

Children with special needs served at Children's Learning Center fall into two categories: 1) children with a diagnosis such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, arthrogryposis, spina bifida, autism, microcephaly, short bowel syndrome, Williams syndrome, Down's syndrome and closed head injury. Children who are **medically fragile** and have special nursing needs such as feeding tubes, catheters, tracheotomies with tubes, and special dietary needs are also served; 2) children who have behavioral and emotional challenges. These children may need services offered early in life to prevent later problems from occurring in school, necessitating more costly services like BEH classes or social work services.

Children's Learning Center is one of only three non school-based child care centers in northern Orange County with a Five Star Child Care License from the North Carolina Division of Child Development. These are the highest credentials possible for child care centers in North Carolina.

#### **Funding Sources for Children's Learning Center**

Child Care subsidy, from Orange County Department of Social Services and Child Care Services Association, as well as a sliding fee scale for private paying families are available.

Developmental day funds are made available through the State Board of Education to assist in providing special education and related services to eligible children with disabilities who are placed in accredited developmental day centers by local education agencies. These funds provide a six hour educational day (8:30-2:30) for three to five year olds. Some children who qualify for these funds are transported to and from home by CLC, while other children who need child care may purchase before and after care.

Developmental day funds are accessed by DPI through an agreement among the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Division of Public Health (DPH), and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Exceptional Children Division (ECD), for the purpose of delineating procedures and expectations related to the transfer of developmental day grant-in-aid funds for preschoolers with disabilities from the NCDHHS to the NCDPI. To read this agreement in its entirety, go to [www.dpi.nc.us/docs/ec/specialprograms/funding/ddc/agreement.pdf](http://www.dpi.nc.us/docs/ec/specialprograms/funding/ddc/agreement.pdf)



A per child allocation of **\$9,327.00 (\$932.70 per month)** is paid for ten months of special education and related services. At this time, that amount includes all educational day programming and related services. The rate includes **\$50** per child per year for educational supplies, materials and equipment. The amount per child is prorated based on the entry date of the child. These funds supplement the school system's ability to serve children with special needs who are 3-5 years of age. **This is at no cost to the school system.** For example, if Orange County Schools placed seven (7) children into classrooms at Children's Learning Center, state funds of **\$62,289** would cover their services with an additional **\$350** for supplies and materials. These funds are only for use in developmental day center, or in programs where developmental day staff serve children and are not available to school systems to serve children in other types of programs.

The cost to KidSCOpe for serving each child with special needs is **\$2,338.00 per month** which covers special classroom instruction and special therapies such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy as needed by children. This cost also provides for a one-to-six (1-6) teacher/student ratio and Birth-Kindergarten Licensed teachers. Other funding is accessed by CLC such as child care subsidy, state mental health funding, private fees and others to cover costs.

Retaining and supporting developmental services offered to families by Children's Learning Center is in the best interest of both Orange County and Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools. Thirteen to fourteen (13-14) slots are available annually for school system placement in developmental day services at Children's Learning Center. Typically these slots are shared by Orange County Schools and Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools. Frank Porter Graham Child Developmental Center in Chapel Hill offers a reciprocal arrangement for both Orange County and CHCCS district families. This arrangement is not and should not be seen as a way for Children's Learning Center to subsidize children with special needs in the CHCCS district.

## **2. KidSCOpe Community Outreach Program**

The Community Outreach Program provides services annually to over 225 children, age birth through five, who have, or are at risk for, developmental, behavioral and/or emotional difficulties. Referrals to the program come from parents, the CDSA (Children's Developmental Services Agencies), child care providers, DSS social workers, pediatricians, public health nurses, Orange County Schools, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, and others. The Community Outreach Program is designed to be comprehensive and responsive in nature. Interventionists meet children, families and child care providers in the most "natural environment", such as home or child care setting. Main service components include special developmental instruction, play therapy for children, customized evaluation, individual counseling and education for families, technical assistance and training for caregivers, and case management.

The KidSCOpe Child Care Consultation Program was created in fiscal year 1998-99 through a grant from the Orange County Partnership for Young Children. The program goal is to provide mental health screenings to children birth to five in child care in Orange County when child care providers have concerns about a child's ability to succeed in Kindergarten. These screenings identify children who need further assessment, referral and/or classroom consultation to assist teachers in adapting the environment to meet the special needs of these children. The population served consists of Orange County children birth to 5 in childcare settings. Children who are at risk for behavioral and emotional issues receive top priority.

In KidSCOpe's twenty (20) years of operation, the program has served over 2000 children ages 0-6, who were referred for problems ranging from dangerous aggression to debilitating stress in their lives; many more have been profoundly affected by abuse, neglect, divorce or other



traumatizing factors. KidSCOpe remains committed to serving these children and all of the adults to whom their care and early education has been entrusted. In 2005-06, 237 preschool children, 282 parents, and 50 child care providers in 29 child care programs were served. Of those, 62 children were from Chapel Hill, 25 from Carrboro and 150 were from Hillsborough or unincorporated Orange County. Ninety-three (93) parents were from Chapel Hill, 38 from Carrboro, and 151 from Hillsborough and unincorporated Orange County.

### History of CLC

**Children's Learning Center** started in 1973 under OPC Mental Health Center as a day educational program for children with special needs. It was located in Chapel Hill at the Northside Community complex. In the mid-eighties, CLC moved to Efland Cheeks School in Orange County and later to the new Grady Brown School. In 1985, when Public Law 99-457 mandated public school services for preschool children, CLC began serving young children exclusively and, in 1992, when the Early Intervention program started state-wide, Parent And Child Together (**PACT**), an outreach, home-visiting program for very young children with special needs joined CLC to form **Early Intervention and Family Services of Orange County**.

In 1995, OPC Mental Health Center and Orange County Schools collaborated to relocate CLC to Hillsborough as a part of the renovation of the old A.L. Stanback school when it became Hillsborough Elementary School. The relocation of CLC into the old band building was the result of many months of planning between Orange County Schools and OPC. Superintendent William Harrison recommended supporting CLC as a long-term commitment to families of young children with disabilities in Orange County and received unanimous Orange County School Board approval. CLC was granted a long term lease at that time, to be renegotiated every 5 years. Subsequently, OPC undertook a \$100,000 renovation of the building, including the addition of an HVAC system. In 1999, the lease was renewed under Superintendent Randy Bridges.

#### Other Building Improvements

Child Care licensing requires that children spend certain portions of their day in outside activities. In 1999, a new playground, funded by the Orange County Partnership for Children, Child Care Services Association and OPC was built at the cost of \$20,000. With wheelchair accessibility and specialty activities, it was the only playground in the county designed for young children with special needs.

In 2003, OPC paid \$4,500 for new window blinds for the entire building.

In 2006, Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project updated plumbing and replaced ceiling grids and tile at a cost of \$15,000.

In 2005-06, Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project paid \$6,000 for thorough cleaning of the building and grounds care. Orange County Schools provided minimal daily cleaning of the building.

Presently, Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project is paying \$15,000 annually to an outside cleaning company for custodial services. Orange County Schools no longer provides any cleaning or routine maintenance of the building.

### History of KidSCOpe

**KidSCOpe** is an early intervention program created in 1988 by a coalition of professionals and child advocates and funded by the Orange County Commissioners to address a documented need for specialized services to young children who are experiencing social, emotional, and/or behavioral difficulties. These children may have experienced sexual, physical, or emotional abuse or may be delayed in social/emotional development for a variety of reasons which can be remedied. KidSCOpe support is designed to be comprehensive and responsive in nature;

interventionists meet children, families and child care providers in the "most natural environment". Main service components include individual play therapy with children, customized counseling and education for families, technical assistance and training for child care providers.

In 1994, the **Family Transitional Classroom (FTLC)** was added to KidSCOpe. It met a need for intensive, center-based services for children that provided a combination of intensive therapy and family support with childcare. Located at Hillsborough United Church of Christ, this program was closed in September 2006 due to financial constraints.

In 1998, the **KidSCOpe Child Care Consultation** program was created with a grant from Smart Start in order to increase child care providers' ability to service preschoolers with special emotional and behavioral needs.

KidSCOpe was located in several Chapel Hill locations until 1998, when OPC decided to combine all programs for young children under one roof. On January 1, 1999, the **KidSCOpe program** moved to 500 North Nash Street, becoming a part of **Early Intervention and Family Services of Orange County (EIFS-OC)**.

Because of Mental Health reform in North Carolina, OPC was required to divest all of its programs to become a Local Management Entity, or a broker, rather than a provider of services. October 1, 2005, EIFS-OC was divested and became a private provider of services by merging with **Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project, Inc.** From that point, all programs went under the name of **KidSCOpe** and the outreach component became **Community Outreach Programs**, including mental health and early intervention.

The Community Outreach Programs are historically funded by Orange County Government, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, Medicaid, Children's Developmental Services Agency, OPC LME/Area Program, private insurance, private foundations, churches and donors, and the Orange County Partnership for Young Children.