



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative
APPROVED Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, October 9, 2013
8:15- 10am @ CAP/RW**

Board Members Present: Chris Tolbert, Mary Jo McGuire, Elona Street-Stewart, Denise Stahura, Charles Gill, Carol Dawson, Tyrize Cox, Toni Carter

Others Present: Charlesetta Roilack (Intake Mgr), Cynthia Hassan (Senior Screener) and Linda Hall (CMH/Delinquency Mgr) (Ramsey County); Christa Anders and Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Co-Coordinator); Beth Leindecker (SPCC Fiscal Agent)

Meeting called to order by Tolbert at 8:19 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

Dawson lit the Children's Fire with words about a CNN program on charter schools (*Black in America: Great Expectations*), which discusses there are five gaps that impact our students of color: preparation gap; time gap; teaching gap; leadership gap; and belief gap. It's our work to focus on closing those gaps.

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the July 10, 2013 Board meeting and accept the information contained in the September update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.

III. Discussion with Ramsey County Children and Family Services

Charlesetta Roilack (Intake Mgr), Cynthia Hassan (Senior Screener) and Linda Hall (CMH/Delinquency Mgr) gave a general overview of the child protection system in Ramsey County. They described their processes and outcomes, including approach to services. Their work is all based in the belief that families love their children and want to do the best they can for them. They are working with CASCW at the

University of Minnesota in evaluation of a major federal grant. The [Comprehensive Family Assessment](#) process is at the center of that work.

They discussed the great disparities in service levels available, particularly early on, and for children of color. For example, parenting support, mental health and other preventative services. Further questions should be directed to Cynthia Hassan (Cynthia.hassan(at)co.ramsey.mn.us; Charlesetta Rolack (charlesetta.rolack(at)CO.RAMSEY.MN.US; or Linda Hall (linda.hall(at)co.ramsey.mn.us).

IV. High School Graduation

The Grad National work group has been meeting monthly. The Board reviewed the focus group report, from the national Grad Nation focus group with high school drop outs in Saint Paul. The data from the report could be useful in legislative work in 2014.

There was a discussion of the State of Minnesota's implementation of the MEIRS data system, which uses administrative data to flag for districts which students have a significant number of risk factors for dropping out. SPPS is still exploring whether to implement the MEIRS system.

The Grad Nation work group recommends participating in the SPPS School Choice Fair, raising issues for parents/guardians to consider when selecting a high school for their child. The idea is that we'd have a booth at the Choice Fair to share this information and engage parents in conversation. January 11th is the School Choice Fair.

V. Youth Master Plan

Staff solicited bids from several minority-owned business enterprises to print the Youth Master Plan data update. The goals are to pick a competitive, high quality bid.

Motion to print the Youth Master Plan data booklet through Visions printing. Motion approved.

VI. Freedom School Discussion

There were 351 enrollees this summer, and 282 attended at least 80% of the time. There were 100+ scholars participating in the after-care program, and nearly 100% of parents participated. This was the first year of SPAC serving as fiscal agent for the program. The total budget was over \$636,000. They know that next year they have to work on getting the per participant cost reduced. SPAC cannot be the fiscal agent going forward. If the Freedom School is going to continue, a new fiscal agent will need to be identified. Dr. Hill (formerly with SPAC and Freedom School) is now a full time SPPS employee. Cox indicated that SPPS is committed to continuing the model, details to be determined. They also see that there is demand and would be support for more than one Freedom School program in the City. Comparison of

different Freedom School programs in the Twin Cities will be in the Wilder evaluation report.

VII. Grant Review Process and Update

Motion to give \$250 stipends to the two community members of the grant review team. Motion approved.

The Board asked that the Stipend Policy be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board directed staff to start exploring a per participant cost basis for granting LCTS funds. Staff and fiscal agent should talk to the Department of Human Services and come to the board next month with information and possibly a recommendation.

Staff explained to the Board how the grant review process is set up, particularly with regard to the American Indian applicants.

Councilmember Tolbert will not be at the November 13 meeting, but indicated that he will be in full agreement with the Review Committee, unless he emails the board to indicate otherwise.

Other Items

Check out this great story about an American Indian member of the Minnesota Youth Council: <http://www.tcdailyplanet.net/news/2013/10/04/native-youth-takes-education-reform-through-minnesota-youth-council-0>.

Also, the five gaps highlighted by Dawson in the lighting of the Children's Fire are also explained in this publication by the African American Leadership Forum: <http://ericmahmoud.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/5Gaps.pdf>

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Future community of care topics: scaling up evidence using SPPN as example; parent engagement.
- Invite newly elected officials to the December or January board meeting to facilitate some transition.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.