



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative  
APPROVED Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
8:15- 10:00 @ CAP/RW**

**Board Members Present:** Mary Jo McGuire, Robert McClain, Toni Carter, Jackie Turner, Peter Grafstrom, Jean O'Connell, Rebecca Noecker

**Staff Present:** Laurie Davis and Christa Anders (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Co-Coordinators); Beth Leindecker (Fiscal Agent)

**Guests Present:** Debra Holmgren (President – Portico Healthnet), Carolyn Link (Executive Director - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN Foundation) and Elaine Cunningham (Bridge to Benefits Director - CDF-MN); Mary Vanderwert (SPPS Board of Directors); Jacqueline Statum Allen (SPPS Assistant Director, Strategic Planning and Policy)

**Meeting called to order by O'Connell at 8:20 am.**

**I. Call to Order and Children's Fire**

Toni Carter lit the Children's Fire with reminders that we have the power to **care** and the power to **listen** and the power to **act** to make change. "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." (Margaret Wheatley). "Listening is a magnetic and strange thing. A creative force. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand. Ideas actually begin to grow within us and come to life." (Brenda Ueland - Tell Me More). Finally, Nelson Mandela reminds us, "There is no greatness in acting small."

**II. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Minutes from the March 9, 2016 Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the March update from Advance Consulting and the March financial report. Motion approved.**

**III. Health Insurance Coverage Presentation & Discussion**

Debra Holmgren (President – Portico Healthnet), Carolyn Link (Executive Director - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN Foundation) and Elaine Cunningham (Bridge to Benefits Director - CDF-MN) presented current information on health care coverage for children/youth in Minnesota and St. Paul. Current grantees do not include any focused on increasing access to coverage. Some suggestions for future opportunities in this area:

- Disparities in insurance coverage continue to exist which impact health-related inequities such as higher infant mortality and higher rates of chronic disease. Outreach needs to focus on putting the right tools in place for populations of color.
- Significant rise in cost sharing. State needs to focus on controlling the costs borne by patients and align patients with the right kind of health care programs.
- Most of the uninsured have some pathway to coverage and outreach needs to focus on improving awareness of different options. Tax credits are still underutilized (22% of uninsured could be eligible).
- More study is needed on the impact of churning and transitioning between program coverage options.

Some additional summary points provided, to SPCC as funders:

- Why does this matter – coverage is necessary, but not sufficient. Important for financial stability of families.
- It really works – people know how to enroll people in coverage now – we’re at an all time low; but disparities are real and persistent.
- Among the things that work – trained, expert navigators, one-to-one, culturally competent staff, and it takes multiple contacts to get the coverage in place and maintained. Navigators need to be funded appropriately and have this work as their core mission.

With regard with what SPCC could do to increase coverage for American Indian and African American children/youth. Working in schools, use Early Childhood Screening as an opportunity to connect families with coverage. Again, 60% of the uninsured are potentially eligible for public coverage. Consider using Bridge to Benefits as part of Early Childhood Screening to connect families. Also making tighter connection between SPPS and Portico (actually placing navigator in SPPS space, which would be provided for free). Another issue raised by the Board – having insurance doesn’t mean you know how to effectively use the coverage; nor does it necessarily lead to better health. In addition, the County would like to know what is working, and not working, with the health care system for county-supported people. Another issue – what is happening in hospitals to insure newborns have coverage before they leave the hospital? What about employers whose employees may be eligible for publicly-funded coverage? Can we work together to make sure families are getting access to the best and lowest cost (and cost-sharing) coverage. The Board would like to get that information to their own HR departments to make

sure that they are best helping their employee families. (Jackie to talk to Portico about that.)

#### **IV. MTC Busing for SPPS Students: Discussion**

Jackie Allen from Saint Paul Public Schools gave an update on SPPS using Metro Transit for students. There is a pilot going on at Johnson High School during this school year. The pilot involves an 8:30 start time and using Metro Transit, rather than yellow buses. So far, the results are very promising. Next it will expand to Creative Arts High School. This board and other child advocates need to work together to make sure Metro Transit is focused on the long-term benefits of this approach, as it will generate long-term ridership, in addition to benefits for students and families.

#### **V. Board Updates and Connections and Items for Future Meetings**

Upcoming community events:

- EveryBody's In – April 16, 2016 – more info coming from Mary K Boyd

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- New Lens Urban Mentoring overview
- Early Learning Focus: Screening, SPPS KEP Plans, Gen Next K Readiness Plan (invite Rep. Pinto)
- Results Based Accountability – NdCAD, Deb Moses, Toni Carter to talk about that framework and how it may fit the SPCC's work.
- SPPS data on ACT scores
- Turner to present on proposal for new middle school on the Eastside
- Saint Paul Police Department – community relationships, community policing.

**Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am**

**Next meeting: April 13, 2016 from 8:00 – 10am at CAP/RW**