



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative  
APPROVED Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, April 9, 2014  
8:15- 10am @ CAP/RW**

**Board Members Present:** Mary Jo McGuire, Jackie Turner, Carol Dawson, Toni Carter, Tyrize Cox, Charles Gill, Chris Tolbert, Denise Stahura, Robert McClain, Mary K Boyd

**Guests Present:** Ryan O'Connor (Ramsey County); Beth Harrison (Ramsey County Attorney's Office); Clyde Turner (Grad Nation Work Group and PACE), Arqam Tariq (Intern in Ramsey County)

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

**Meeting called to order by Boyd at 8:20 am.**

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

Carter lit the Children's Fire with a reading from *Grace, Gold and Glory*, the story of Olympian Gabrielle Douglas. She told part of Gabrielle's life story, which started with struggle but led to tremendous success in overcoming challenges.

**II. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Minutes from the March 12, 2014 Board meeting and accept the information contained in the March update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.**

**III. Ramsey County Equity Framework**

Ryan O'Connor, Director of Policy Analysis and Planning for Ramsey County, gave a presentation on the County's Equity Framework. The presentation will be posted with the minutes on the SPCC website, meeting page. In terms of next steps, the

County Board in March discussed 11 steps, which include three key focus areas: race equity, human resource policy, and services available to youth. Commissioner Carter stated that SPCC will welcome the deeper conversations that link Ryan's presentation contents to the lives of children and youth in Saint Paul.

#### **IV. GradNation Work Group – Project Return**

Anders gave some background on the genesis of the proposal (which was included in the Board packet) and stated that SPCC staff wrote the proposal, based on the work done and direction set through the Grad Nation Work group, since that group was created by the SPCC board in summary of 2013. Beth Harrison from the Ramsey County Attorney's Truancy Intervention Project (also GradNation Work Group member) gave some background on the need that prompted this proposal. There are approximately 500 students per year "lost" due to 15 day drops. Project Return is about finding and returning those kids to school, by first figuring out with the family why the student is no longer in school, then connecting them to supports and resources to address those barrier. This proposal connects with existing successful programs – Never too Late to Graduate, TIP and all associated resources, including Ramsey County's social services. The primary reasons causing students to miss school are "family issues." There was discussion about what the project will do to actually help the students get the support they need to actually learn the skills necessary to graduate, not just re-enroll them.

**Motion to grant \$45,000 to support the initial six month grant for Project Return. Motion approved unanimously.**

There was more discussion that "returning" is not enough – the goal is not to just count number of kids reengaged, but actually the students need to acquire the skills necessary for success. Boyd asked that we also connect with NdCAD to make sure their newly funded work with MFIP families is connected to this effort. There was a question whether this funding is one-time. The GradNation work group expects to request funding for a total of three years (July 2014 – June 2017). Funding requests for the remaining 2.5 years would be brought to the board, and would be contingent upon satisfactory performance against the project objectives. In the long term, the idea would be to self-sustain the project based on revenue recovered for re-enrolled students and costs avoided.

#### **V. Grad Nation Work Group – Attendance Awareness Month**

Anders gave a short overview of the national Attendance Awareness campaign, and how the SPCC could engage in that campaign in Saint Paul for September, along with the City and the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, should they agree to partner with SPCC on this effort.

**Motion to endorse participation in Attendance Awareness month in September 2014. Motion approved unanimously.**

#### **VI. GradNation – Recruiting Promise Fellow**

Staff will send the Promise Fellow posting and publicity materials to the Board, and asks their assistance in getting the word out to potential candidates through each of their networks.

**Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- New grantees presenting on their work; organized by Learn, Grow, Thrive goals, rather than individual grantees
- Recess with Playworks (May)
- Ramsey County Human Services regarding wraparound services
- Police/youth relations (Robert McClain is working on this)
- R.T. Rybak come to talk about Generation Next

**Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.**