



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative  
APPROVED Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
8:15- 10:00 @ CAP/RW**

**Board Members Present:** Jean O'Connell, Robert McClain, Mary K Boyd, Tyrize Cox, Carol Dawson, Charles Gill, Chris Tolbert

**Guests Present:** Carolyn Link (Blue Cross Foundation, Elaine Cunningham (CDF-MN) and Deb Holmgren (Portico), Claudia Brewington (Ramsey County)

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

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

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

Jean O'Connell lit the Children's Fire with words from the Huffington Post, from an [article](#) about why teachers need to talk about their own racial bias.

**II. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Minutes December 10, 2014 Annual Meeting and accept the information contained in the December update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.**

**III. Youth Master Plan Update: Health Coverage**

Carolyn Link (Blue Cross Foundation, Elaine Cunningham (CDF-MN) and Deb Holmgren (Portico) presented to the Board on the current status around our Youth Master Plan goal that all children/youth have health coverage. The impact of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act on coverage for children/youth was a central part of the discussion.

Cunningham gave an overview of the data on what the impact of ACA has been on increasing coverage. Young adults (18-34 yo) still have the highest uninsured rates. There have been declines across all racial and ethnic groups, in terms of un-insurance rates. Minnesota covers adults under Medicaid (Medical Assistance), so we expanded eligibility from 100 to 130% of FPG, which increased adults with insurance. The only children covered by MinnesotaCare are immigrant children who've not been in US for five years. Un-insurance rate for children across the US has started to level off (since those populations had lower un-insurance already). We moved MinnesotaCare eligible children into Medicaid. Children up to 275% of FPG can go into Medicaid (so more of a shift than an increase in coverage). Immigrant populations need more support to access insurance. The requirements of the ACA will make health coverage easier to understand in the long run, but it continues to be the case that those who most need help accessing coverage require the most resources to access that coverage.

Holmgren then gave an overview of how the ACA implementation has impacted Portico's experience in connecting people with coverage. Link then gave the funders perspective: 1) access to coverage is really important; 2) outreach/application assistance works; and 3) there is work that still needs to be done. Coverage relates directly to family financial stability. Blue Cross Foundation has a lot of data on the impact of outreach. Staffing, funding, well-trained dedicated navigators have an impact. Portico is the lead entity for Blue Cross Foundation work to increase access in the Metro. There is a tremendous amount of innovation going on in increasing access to coverage. The MNSure funding for application assistance is completely inadequate. There is huge persistence and endurance on the part of both the navigators and the people seeking coverage. There are ongoing issues around the quality of medical care, as well as educating consumers on how to use their new insurance coverage, and to have the persistence to "stay with it." One way to address this is to have experts come in to speak with the Parent Advisory Committees at the Saint Paul Public Schools. The American Indian Parent Advisory Council is a key audience for this work. Another idea is to teach students about health insurance in the schools, perhaps both in high school and with students in higher education.

#### **IV. SPCC Partner Legislative Agenda Discussion**

Councilmember Tolbert spoke briefly about the City's legislative agenda. The three focus areas related to the SPCC agenda are high quality early learning, high quality afterschool/summer learning, and youth jobs. Claudia Brewington spoke briefly about the Ramsey County legislative agenda. O'Connell gave an overview of the Saint Paul Public School District's legislative agenda. O'Connell also offered the chance to participate in the District's Beyond Diversity training. Also, she mentioned that the School Board will vote on the proposed gender inclusion policy in March.

#### **V. My Brother's Keeper**

Advance Consulting provided a handout update on what's happening with the My Brother's Keeper initiative in Saint Paul (and Minneapolis). She also outlined the

opportunity to shift the youth-directed philanthropy project to align with the YouthBank project currently being launched in the United States through YouthPrise. The Board indicated that they want more information to further explore the YouthBank opportunity as a new way to handle our youth-directed philanthropy.

**Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- YouthBank/youth-directed philanthropy
- 2016/17 RFP process and guidelines
- Update on My Brother's Keeper
- Ramsey County Human Services regarding wraparound services
- Kent Pekel from Search Institute- caring adults
- Ramsey Interagency Early Intervention Council – Help Me Grow, SPPN Screening Group and GenNext Screening work group
- Check in with Breaking Free mid-way through the school year
- Michael Rodriguez from the UM on Minnesota Student Survey (social emotional, connection to one or more caring adults, etc.)

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