



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

Board Members Present: Jean O'Connell, Tyrize Cox, Mary Jo McGuire, Robert McClain, Jane Eastwood, Carol Dawson, Deb Moses, Jackie Turner

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

Guests: Britta Moen (intern with Commissioner Carter), Sharon Kelly (ELCA)

Meeting called to order by O'Connell at 8:28 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

Dawson lit the Children's Fire with words about the best ways to educate children of African descent – the relevance of brain developing environments. She spoke of her sense of humanity toward students – considering the whole child in education. Relationship, relevance, rigor and resilience are each critical. On the relationship piece- you have to love yourself; you have to learn about them; you have to appreciate, acknowledge and listen to them; and treat the individual as a possibility. Then make clear how the material is relevant to students. Think of rigor – not rigor mortis! Teach kids at all of the intellectual levels – especially strategic and critical thinking. Resilience is the “rebounding ball reflex” - make connections, avoid seeing crises as insurmountable problems, accept that change is part of living, move toward your goals, take decisive actions, look for opportunities for self-discovery, nurture a positive view of yourself, keep things in perspective, maintain a hopeful outlook and take care of yourself.

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the May 13, 2015 Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the May update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.

III. Youth Master Plan

Grantees: Summer grantees are both on track in terms of recruitment and operations. Turner asked to note that the John Peterson felt that since the SPCC is giving \$50K, it was overreaching to require that the program serve 300 students.

Promise Fellow: This year's match requirement is \$7,200 per Fellow

Motion to increase the grant to Minnesota Alliance with Youth from \$6,900 to \$7,200. Motion approved.

Attendance Awareness: There a number of additional proposed activities this year include:

- Universal outreach materials for all SPPS schools such as posters, fact sheets, post-cards, book markers and magnets. Information provided to SPPS staff via interoffice mail, newsletters, The Bridge, Principal Playbook and Spotlight.
- Information and outreach materials for community partners including parks and recreation centers, libraries, county human services programs, businesses, faith communities, health care providers and community based organizations.
- Training and information provided to SPPS staff during Opening Week (August 31 to September 4).
- Press event with key leaders including the Mayor, Superintendent, and Ramsey County Attorney.
- Coordination with the 20th anniversary of the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP). As part of the anniversary, TIP will be re-branded to focus on attendance and not just truancy.
- An intentional media campaign with local press TBD
- Participation in a Get Schooled Challenge or other similar contest for students (tentative)
- Targeted interventions at the school level for the most high need families, as available
- Regular attendance data for school building leaders and attendance staff

To do this work, the Office of Community Engagement can contribute some funding, but additional funding is necessary. Those funds would cover Attendance Awareness materials for charter schools, T-shirts for attendance staff in schools, perhaps some media. Basically, the costs are for the non-SPPS work, to create a culture of attendance across the city. Other ideas include LRT or bus signs, incentives for students, etc. Any media event should include large concentration of youth. Consider making it youth-driven. It is hard to raise money for advertising,

and very little is free. Consider community-based media, which is likely a more effective channel. Consider segmenting the message for difference audiences, and also segmenting the channels. 3M will get messages printed on their product (Vomela?). The board approved that our team could fundraise to support this work.

Attendance barrier – chemical use/abuse: There is a huge shortage of CD treatment available to kids in the school. There is some possibility of using some of the new state funding to support CD treatment. Commissioner McGuire will talk to county staff about options that may be available – resources to be put directly into schools (1.0 CD Counselor in high schools). Talk to Ramsey County Mental Health Collaborative to see if they have any resources.

IV. My Brother’s Keeper

Eastwood gave an update on Minneapolis/St. Paul My Brother’s Keeper event on May 19. There was material in the board packet providing an overview. O’Connell suggested a presentation by SPPS staff in August or September on the disaggregation of Asian data. The two Mayors’ offices and Council on Foundations are meeting today to work on next steps for moving the work forward.

The County My Brother’s Keeper launch also happened on June 2. The overwhelming sense is that My Brother’s Keeper is not a program – we need to infuse this in all the work we do. McClain cautioned that we need to think about how to have people of color reflected in the outcomes of the work, not just the inputs.

V. Collaborative Factors Inventory: Participation

There was an overview of the survey responses around the participation and representation on the board. There was discussion about whether the score was lower, because we don’t have formal structures in place (for example, the old Systems Directors group). There was discussion about structuring that work around very specific and actionable. Discussion about contacting Hmong American Partnership - O’Connell to extend an invitation. The Board also approved reaching out to some other potential nominees. There is a sense that our work, here at the SPCC, is achieving more than “vanilla bean” attention to communities of color, but is getting to addressing the issues and supporting the outcomes of youth of color in Saint Paul. There was a discussion about how much our focus is on systems integration, versus doing more empowerment of community organizations. My Brother’s Keeper may be a good vehicle for doing the systems integration. The role of systems integrator and convener is harder to achieve with limited administrative dollars.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- New Lens Urban Mentoring overview
- Kent Pekel from Search Institute– caring adults

- Ramsey Interagency Early Intervention Council – Help Me Grow, SPPN Screening Group and GenNext Screening work group
- Michael Rodriguez from the UM on Minnesota Student Survey (social emotional, connection to one or more caring adults, etc.)
- Follow-up deeper discussions on Collaborative Factors Inventory results: multiple layers of participation; sufficient funds/resources; appropriate pace of development; history of collaborative in the community.
- Presentation of school district outcome data based that more clearly disaggregates “Asian” students.
- Invite David Pinto to board meeting.
- Child Protection Services Redesign report from Commissioner Carter

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am