



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

Board Members Present: Jean O'Connell, Tyrize Cox, Mary Jo McGuire, Jane Eastwood, Toni Carter, Jackie Turner, Carol Dawson, Mary K Boyd

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

Guests Present: Womazetta Robinson-Jones (Director of Children and Family Services at Ramsey County Human Services)

Meeting called to order by O'Connell at 8:22 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

McGuire lit the Children's Fire with words about how we can work with children who've experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences. She also shared a quote from Marian Wright Edelman: *We must always refill and ensure there is a critical mass of leaders and activists committed to nonviolence and racial and economic justice who will keep seeding and building transforming movements.*

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the September 9, 2015 Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the September update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.

III. Child Protection Update

Carter and Womazetta Robinson-Jones from Ramsey County Children and Family Services gave an overview of recent changes to the child protection system. Carter described the Task Force the state empanelled to recommend changes. Resources, training/supervision. There were 93 recommendations from the Task Force [report](#):

screening; response tracks; racial equity/disparity reduction; and a number of others. The implementation is in progress, and some dollars were allocated by the legislature, primarily for social workers (\$22M). Robinson-Jones talked about how the changes are playing out on the ground in Ramsey County. They are getting more cases going through Differential Response (screening in more cases and putting them through an investigative track). Not receiving more reports – screening in more of the cases, and more of those going through the Investigative Pathway and also going into court. Not seeing more kids going into Out of Home Placement, because Ramsey county restructured how that process works a few years ago. Ramsey County received \$2 million, with \$400,000 of the funding based on performance. \$1.6 million is ongoing funding that may be used for staff. In August, the county accepted the \$2M in state funding. They also asked the Board to approve 11 new child protection positions and one supervisor. They didn't get enough applicants for the jobs. They have changed job structures, supervisory ratio and other work context to better serve children/families and maintain the mental health of their own workers. Consider having MACSSA take on the issue of the requirements for families to get licensed as foster care providers –Minnesota's policy and practice seems to disfavor that, due to the requirements of getting licensed. It may be very valuable to research the history of informal adoption, to see how that happened and what the benefits may be, to inform current policy. Commissioner Carter highlighted that it is critical for this group to pay attention to how this works unfolds going forward. Needs to support an ombudsperson to represent families who are in the foster care system – it's challenging to have families have to confront their county worker about challenges and barriers they face. There has to be a way for foster parents' voices be heard, both about the children, but also about the staff. The County wants to put contracts in place with community organizations to recruit families of color to be foster parents. Safe Families is a national non-profit that is coming to this community. They recruit volunteers to help families in crisis as a preventative strategy.

IV. Youth Master Plan

Staff showed a short [video](#) produced by the University of Minnesota on school/county collaboration around delivering services to children involved in the Child Protection system, as the focus on collaboration is central to the SPCC's mission. There was a discussion about what's happening and what else could be done. Turner talked about Seattle's work to co-locate county and district services in one place for families. Once per week, they had to come together to talk about real cases. Often, the system works best when people can actually talk to one another. Workforce Solutions (FAST program) and district are in conversations, and Boyd and Cox will report back.

V. SPCC Administration

Bell Power

Muneer Karcher-Ramos from Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood submitted the following request to the SPCC board, related to our summer 2015 grant to support Bell Power Scholars in the Promise Neighborhood (\$50K). As discussed previously,

they did not hit their target enrollment, and given the “pay per participant” wording in their grant agreement, the SPCC grant would be paid at \$16,720 less than the original grant amount. The burden of that reduction would be on the YMCA. As a result, they moved that amount of funding from their “school year bucket” to “summer bucket for BELL Power.” Muneer is asking SPCC that despite the per pupil rate for BELL Power Scholars this summer based on the real enrollment numbers, would it possible for the SPCC to provide additional funding beyond the per pupil rate for Bell Power this summer so the Y does not take a hit? In other words, we are not asking the SPCC to fund any of the Y’s school year programming. Instead, we are asking for an “exception” to the contract language to not be strictly bound to the per pupil rate for the summer programming dollars from SPCC to support Bell Power. That is, if the SPCC were to grant an exception to the contract language by providing an additional \$16,720 for summer programming, then this would allow the Y to move their other private funding at the same value back into their school year funding bucket. If this is a possible, this would allow the Y to get to full staffing capacity during the school year program. Again, there is not a funding request for the school year programming. There is a request for an exception to the “per pupil” contract language for the BELL Power contract by funding up to an additional \$16,720 from the current contract.

The Board asked if there were lessons learned from this situation. Turner talked about the fact that the District has learned that they shouldn’t have been offering competing programs to the same students.

Motion to provide the \$16,720 in addition to the earned amount in payment for Bell Power Scholars. Motion approved unanimously.

It’s not too late to support the youth workers – the program just started this week.

Record Retention

Staff asked the board for guidance on a record retention policy for SPCC. The county attorney and the data specialist from the county recommend saving for seven years. There was a question about preserving digitally some of the most pertinent records. There was discussion about whether Kathleen Vallenga would like to review the records to help direct what to retain. McGuire will talk to Vallenga, staff will explore the cost of one-time record digital preservation.

SPCC Partner Contributions

Eastwood and Turner and McGuire have been working within their respective bodies to increase their non-restricted contributions to the SPCC budget. Action on the City and County budgets happens in December. The City contribution was increased from \$10k to \$20K. The County and District contributions proposed are increasing from \$40,000 to \$50,000. These increases are all in process to be in place for 2016.

Staffing for Collaborative in 2016

Staff asked the board to provide direction on whether the SPCC would like to do an RFP for staffing. The response was no.

Motion to have the fiscal agent and Advance Consulting move forward with a contract for administrative support for the SPCC in 2016. Motion approved unanimously.

Note the November meeting will proceed as originally scheduled on November 11, 2015 at 8:15am at CAP/RW. While it is Veteran's Day, all Board members responded they could attend, and the building is open for business.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Data Backpack (December)
- Invite Legislative Delegation to board meeting (December)
- 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.)
- SPPS – data on MCA results; Kindergarten Entry Profile Plan

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am

Next meeting: November 11, 2015 from 8:15 – 10am at CAP/RW