



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative
APPROVED Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
8:15- 10:00 @ CAP/RW**

Board Members Present: Robert McClain, Mary Jo McGuire, Karri Kearns, Alfreda Flowers, Rebecca Noecker, Mary Vanderwert, Peter Grafstrom, Anna Ross, Toni Carter, Heather Kilgore, Christine Smith

Not in Attendance: Bruce Thao, Jackie Turner

Staff Present: Laurie Davis and Christa Anders (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Co-Coordinator)

Guests Present: Pam Gokey, Barb Fairbanks, Kristin Kinney from American Indian Family Center. Mitch WalkingElk, Diana Johnson with Nathan, Nolan and Nina Berglund and Jody Nelson from Indigenous Youth Ceremonial Mentoring Society at GAP.

Actions Since August Meeting

- **Motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted at the August meeting, including June 14 board meeting, financial report for July and July update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved electronically.**
- **Motion to accept the resignation of Anna Ross as Community Representative to the SPCC board. Motion approved electronically.**
- **Motion to move Alfreda Flowers from Community Representative Alternate to Community Representative. Motion approved.**
- **Motion to close the nominations for Community Representative to SPCC board. Motion approved.**
- **Motion to accept Christine Smith as Community Representative Alternate to the SPCC Board. Motion approved.**

Meeting called to order by McClain at 8:25 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

Ross lit the Children's Fire with some words about her time on the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative. She expressed thanks to the board for all that she's learned by sitting at this table. She shared that since she was a child she's been taught think about the three generations before her, and the three that come after in all the decisions that we make and encouraged us to continue in that tradition.

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the August 9, 2017 Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the August update from Advance Consulting and the August finance reports. Motion approved.

III. SPCC Community Representative

The board expressed thanks to Anna Ross for her service as Community Representative to the SPCC board, and welcomed Christine Smith as the new Community Representative Alternate.

IV. Youth Master Plan Updates

Staff distributed a summary of the mid-2017 reports from Learn, Grow, Thrive grantees.

Staff updated the board on the 3K Blueprint project progress, and will be bring a final Blueprint the SPCC at the October meeting.

V. Learn, Grow, Thrive Grantees: American Indian Grantees

Staff from American Indian Family Center and GAP's Indigenous Youth Ceremonial Mentoring Society presented on their SPCC-funded projects. There was discussion about how these culturally-specific projects, which focus so intentionally on building cultural identity as a foundation for all other learning. There was grounding in the history of the many way Native culture and language have been denied and erased, and how critical it is to support and build that cultural identity, starting early. Mictch closed with advice he received from an elder, that is "the spirit can speak to the children much more effectively than we can."

VI. 2018 SPCC Administrative Support Discussion

SPCC board discussed the options for obtaining administrative support for the Collaborative in 2018 and beyond. (Advance Consulting was not present for this discussion.

There was a discussion about whether or not an RFP should be created for the staffing of the Board. Members agreed that the current Staff are meeting the needs of the Board and are very responsive to all members. However, with that being said, the Board agreed that, as a Board, we need to have more clarity as to what our goals will and should be in the upcoming year. Also, a discussion pursued around re-visiting the purpose of the Board (e.g., funder vs. direct impact in what is happening with children in our community). Chair

McClain stated that he and Peter Grafstrom will be reviewing the by-laws next week to see what is stated in them and whether we are abiding by the current by-lays.

A suggestion was also made that it should become standard practice that the executive committee annually evaluate the performance of the staff so that feedback is provided regularly and expectations are clear. It was also suggested that the Board research other small foundations to get comparative information around how they are staffed, expectations of staff and the costs.

It was noted that the next year will bring many changes in the community that could affect the Board, such as a new mayor and a new school superintendent. A recommendation was made that the Board consider implementing an annual retreat in order to do strategic planning and to establish annual goals.

It was agreed that various Board Members would research other small foundations for comparison so as to inform the Board prior to approval of the 2018 Staff contract. Also, the Staff will be asked to prepare a proposed contract with duties, tasks and costs for the Board to review.

VII. Sharing & Discussion

Meeting adjourned 10:00.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- SPPS Update: ACT scores, other outcome data, data disaggregation update (REA); Eastside middle school proposal (Turner) – AFTER March 2017
- Ramsey County Attorney – Triad, juvenile justice, school violence
- Ramsey County Youth Continuum of Care (McGuire/Carter)
- City Education Update: Parent Powered Texting (Grafstrom)
- African American Futures Initiative (Stephanie Battle)
- Dr. Gothard – October or December?

Next meeting: October 11, 2017 from 8:15 – 10am at CAP/RW.