



**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative  
APPROVED Minutes  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015  
8:15- 10:00 @ CAP/RW**

**Board Members Present:** Jean O'Connell, Tyrize Cox, Mary Jo McGuire, Robert McClain, Jane Eastwood, Deb Moses, Toni Carter

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

**Meeting called to order by O'Connell at 8:21 am.**

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

McClain lit the Children's Fire with words about his granddaughter at the start of the new school year, and how one of our jobs is to help parents learn how to navigate school systems. It our whole community's job to educate our children. He also spoke of the many issues in our community that must be addressed, before they can even get to read, writing and arithmetic.

**II. Consent Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Minutes from the August 12, 2015 Board Meeting and accept the information contained in the August update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.**

**III. Appreciation**

The staff and board expressed their appreciation to long-time fiscal agent Mike Hagen for his dedicated service to the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative. His expertise and wisdom and historical perspective will all be missed!

**IV. Youth Master Plan**

Cox provided an update on Attendance Awareness Month. The kickoff event was last Thursday, hoping to drive a citywide message about attendance, and shared the

postcards that are being given to families and information on other attendance-related efforts. Truancy Intervention Project (TIP) is now called School Attendance Matters (SAM).

Davis provided an update on the current Learn, Grow, Thrive grant-making process. Twenty five proposals were received, requesting approximately \$2.4 million. Six were screened out by staff due to significant shortfalls in meeting our guidelines and/or review criteria. Others went to review team today. Given the amount of time involved in the review process (estimated at 30 hours per reviewer), staff recommends a stipend of \$650 per community reviewer.

**Motion to provide a \$650 stipend to community reviewers. Motion approved with McClain not voting.**

There was discussion that the stipend is available to community reviewers not on the board and community representatives from the board.

Staff distributed a summary of mid-year progress for current grantees. McClain and Davis gave an update on their conversation yesterday with the interim Executive Director and a board member from Breaking Free about their Strategic Action Plan. There was a discussion about whether a funders' collaborative could help non-profit organizations who get to this growth tipping point to help them through the transition. There is a blind optimism among some non-profits, and they don't see what is happening to other non-profits around them and try to learn from their struggles. In the end, that harms the community when services are lost.

Fiscal agent provided an update on 2015 budget and on staff recommendation to preclude any "off cycle" grants until 2017, which would allow the funding typically set aside for "off cycle" grants in 2016 to be directed into the current RFP funding pool. This is consistent with the Board's direction that all current "off cycle" grantees be required to apply through the RFP if they are interested in funding for 2016 and/or 2017. Note there is projected under-spending in the current Breaking Free and Freedom School grants which is not included in these estimates. Hagen provided some information on what is happening with the LCTS funding, which appears to be diminishing for reasons that are not clear, but have something to do with state policy and action.

**Motion to increase the funding available for the 2016-17 grantees to \$1,150,000. Motion approved.**

There was a discussion of the attached summary of Youth Master Plan data update information. Staff recommends not updating data this year, due to cost, duplication with Generation Next's more robust data dashboard, and lack of new data on connection to caring adults and lack of data on Kindergarten readiness. MPS and SPPS will be doing the Minnesota Student Survey, selected questions, every year. We could ask Generation Next if the connection to caring adult questions could be

included. The board would like the to see the annual update to children free from abuse and neglect from Ramsey County.

**Motion to not update Youth Master Plan data in 2015 and to update the board and stakeholders with new information as it becomes available.**

**V. My Brother's Keeper**

Eastwood and Carter provided an update. Carter said the there is transition at Ramsey County, including that perhaps Keith Allen will use his continuum of services platform to communicate back with the community. It is not yet clear how the MBK work will be reflected in the County's budget. On the City side, they have principles adopted that guide the work. Data is the first being tackled, in cooperation with Generation Next and other partners.

**VI. Chemical Use/Abuse by Students**

There was a discussion about how chemical use/abuse by students is a barrier to attendance and success in school, and the dearth of treatment services available. Cox talked about how SPPS does not have the resources within their system to serve kids with those needs in a way that insures consistency and connection back with the schools. In the spring, SPPS started reaching out to some of the organizations that may be potential partners. They need organizations that have money to provide the services, but need kids to serve. There is a state block grant that provides funding for prevention and treatment. The treatment part goes to the Rule 25 services (which wouldn't apply here), but the prevention funds may be available through RFP. The Minnesota Recovery Network provides volunteers trained in brief interventions. The County should be doing that through their Behavioral Health Services. The state should also be required to tell Ramsey County what Ramsey County is REQUIRED to do.

**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.)
- Invite Representative David Pinto and SP delegation to board meeting
- Presentation on Parent Aware.
- Child Protection Services Redesign report from Commissioner Carter (October)
- MCA data and Kindergarten Entry Assessment Plans from SPPS REA (December)

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

**Next meeting: October 14, 2015 from 8:15 – 10am at CAP/RW**