



**St. Paul Children's Collaborative
FINAL Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
8:15 – 10am @ CAP/RW**

Board Members Present: Chris Tolbert, Carol Dawson, Jane Eastwood, Tyrize Cox, Denise Stahura (CAP/RW designee), Elona Street-Stewart, Toni Carter

Others Present: Christa Anders (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Co-Coordinator); Mike Hagen (St. Paul – Ramsey County Public Health – Fiscal Agent); Melissa Burwell (Minnesota Alliance with Youth)

Meeting called to order by Eastwood at 8:15 am.

I. Call to Order and Children's Fire

Stahura lit the Children's fire with a lovely poem about daughters (and sons).

II. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 12, 2012 annual meeting and accept the information contained in the December update from Advance Consulting. Motion approved.

III. Promise Neighborhood Update

Angelique Kedem has resigned from the Promise Neighborhood and returned to Ramsey County. Saint Paul learned that they did not get an implementation grant from the federal government. Since then, the Promise Neighborhood working team has met and re-assigned activities. Kristine Martin will oversee the work while Wilder determines what to do with the vacant position. People are disappointed, obviously, and wish that there had been an opportunity for site visits. Minnesota's senators as well as Commissioner Casselius have been communicating with the federal office.

SPCC members are committed to continuing to do “systems change” work regardless of federal funding. Ramsey County has hired a new policy analyst, Ryan O’Connor, who will be helping to coordinate the work of the Promise Neighborhood.

The Board approved a request from Kristine Martin for Advance Consulting to support Promise Neighborhood efforts as they have in the past. Consultants’ involvement should focus on continuing alignment between the Promise Neighborhood and the Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative.

IV. Youth Master Planning: Consideration of Grad Nation Designation

Melissa Burwell, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Minnesota Alliance with Youth, provided information on the Alliance and the Grad Nation Community. The Minnesota Alliance with Youth is a state-wide organization that is based in Saint Paul. They are part of America’s Promise Alliance (Colin Powell’s organization). They host Americorps Promise Fellows, including 11 who work with the Saint Paul Public Schools; support the state-wide Youth Council and work on cross-sector collaboration. The Minnesota Alliance with Youth is requesting that the Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative become a Grad Nation Community. Grad Nation communities agree to work to increase the high school graduation rate to 90% by 2020 as well as regain America’s standing as first in the world in college completion. Participation in Grad Nation would include technical assistance, professional development opportunities, access to research, and potential funding opportunities. Successful cities have engaged at both the city-wide and neighborhood level. Duluth is currently using a collective impact model and working with the United Way to increase graduation. Melissa views this as an opportunity to push ahead with some of the goals that the SPCC has already adopted.

SPCC Board members, while acknowledging some level of collaboration fatigue, agreed to delegate to the matter for consideration by the Tech Team and asked them to identify related work that is being done across the respective organizations and consider priority areas as well as best practices. The Tech Team will need new representatives from the County and potentially the city. The CAP-RW rep will be leaving, but Stahura does not think they are doing direct graduation-related work at the present.

For more information see: www.mnyouth.net and www.americaspromise.org/gradnationscommunities.

V. Freedom School Planning

The group working on Freedom School planning anticipates having a model and budget consideration for review by the SPCC at the February Board meeting. The Saint Paul Area Council of Churches remains willing to provide infrastructure and committed to the Promise Neighborhood, notwithstanding the federal funding decision. Eastwood and Turner are part of the conversations as well.

VI. Generation Next

Eastwood reported that she has been attending many of the Generation Next Board meetings. Advance Consulting has continued to be part of the Network meetings. The Goals and Measures Group will be reconvened by Paul Mattesich from Wilder to consider inclusion of non-academic goals.

The SPCC invited Michael Goar to attend a SPCC Board meeting. Staff will coordinate.

VII. Miscellaneous

Board members expressed gratitude and appreciation for Commissioner Reinhardt's many years of service to the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative. She will be serving on the Suburban Ramsey Children's Collaborative. Staff will follow-up on gift idea. Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire will replace her on the SPCC. Staff have been in contact with her and will meet with her before the February Board meeting. Commissioner Carter will also provide background material to Commissioner McGuire.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- Review of Conflict of Interest policy and procedures
- Request from Freedom School
- Conversation with Michael Goar
- Community Representation to the Board

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

**Next Board Meeting is: February 13, 2013, 8:15 – 10:00 am
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties**