



APPROVED MINUTES

Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting

August 14, 2019

8am – 10am

CAP/RW: 450 Syndicate Street North, Saint Paul

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Cedrick Baker, Toni Carter, Alfreda Flowers, Heather Kilgore, Nicole MartinRogers, Robert McClain, Mary Jo McGuire, Nicolee Mensing, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Mary Vanderwert, Rolando Vera

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Daniel Yang

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT Christa Anders, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators)
Claudia Brewington, Jennifer O'Rourke (Ramsey County)
Sen. Marty, Rep. Rena Moran, Rep. Pinto (Saint Paul Legislators)
Bruce Thao (Minnesota Department of Health)
Erik Skold (Sprockets)
Mary Gilbert Dougherty (SPPS)
Jennifer O'Rourke (Ramsey County)

Meeting called to order by Carter at 8:05 am

Children's Fire

MartinRogers lit the Children's Fire with words about her children and being a mother. She told a story of her Grandma Lund, who had 11 children amid a lot of other challenges. She talked about the resilience of children, and how we should remember that when we are being too hard on ourselves as parents. Another lesson is the importance of showing children love. Finally, she talked about being grateful and not feeling sorry for ourselves, given all the many blessings we each have.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the June 12, 2019 meeting and accept the information contained in the July update from Advance Consulting, and the June and July finance reports. Second. Motion approved.

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Legislative Session Debrief and Look Ahead to 2020

Sen. John Marty, Rep. Rena Moran and Rep. Dave Pinto from Saint Paul provided an overview of the 2019 Legislative Session outcomes. Bruce Thao from Minnesota Department of Health shared information on the Community Solutions Fund program created last session.

Sen. Marty started by talking about health insurance coverage, pointing out that perhaps we should approach health coverage the same way we approach education (you get it, you don't have to apply for it!). He is supporting universal proposal – Minnesota Health Plan, which would mean when you're born, you have health care (and access to the services you need). For next session, it will be challenging. The senator views last session as a sign of the direction we're headed. House has done a good job of setting a vision of what we believe in and want to achieve for children. He talked about gun regulation as a health issue.

Rep. Pinto then spoke about his work chairing the early childhood finance and policy committee, which is trying to bridge across systems for the benefit of young children. HF1 was the Great Start for all Minnesota Children Act, which included multiple proposals to support our youngest children. Early childhood issues didn't have the momentum that he would have hoped and he is trying to build coalition support for increased investment in early care and education. CM Noecker asked how the Collaborative could help build awareness and political will for change. Rep. Pinto pointed out that the diversity of focus in the advocacy community may result in less attention being paid to issues related to young children. Need to be careful about pride in specific programs, and the cost of having so many programs (each underfunded), but it creates a perception that more isn't necessary.

Rep. Moran chairs the Health and Human Services Policy Committee. She spoke about the need for a holistic, comprehensive approach to help families be self-sufficient. She talked about the African American Family Preservation Act. The Act focused on cases of neglect and maltreatment, trying to provide parents with the support they need, and if that fails, focusing on kinship care. The final step is foster care. What can SPCC do? Be partners in supporting children and families. She's also working on trauma-informed practices and policies. Thao asked about what the state is doing to prepare for the federal Families First Prevention Services Act. Rep. Moran said there is a group of stakeholders that are coming together to plan for that.

Bruce Thao from the Minnesota Department of Health spoke about the Community Solutions Fund, which did pass last session. The proposal came from Voices and Choices and CDF-MN. The program is housed within the Center for Health Equity at MDH. They are currently seeking members for the Advisory Council. The total funding is about \$765,00 for children prenatal to grade 9. Communities are to create the solutions. The RFP will be released this fall (developed by the Council). The Council will review/select grantees. The desire is to do larger grants (5-8 grantees total, statewide). There is funding for an evaluation consultant. The grantees will be community-based organizations, led by people of color and Native Americans.

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Commissioner Carter asked specific about funding for out of school time programming. None of the legislators had heard about the proposal for OST funding last session. Suggested having the Education Finance chair carry the bill. The SPCC needs to do a better job advocating. There was confusion about how it worked – was it a match for federal money or new money? The organizational lobbyists need to highlight this a priority, as does the board and advocates.

The group also raised issues about the changes to SNAP rules and other benefits in terms of the impact on received a green card. These changes to federal policy will be devastating for children and their families.

Rep. Moran pointed out there is a lot of power in the SPCC board, and they should use it for the benefit of children and families.

Collaboratives in Saint Paul/Ramsey County

Following up on the discussion from last month, the board packet included a letter from county Manager Ryan O'Connor regarding the county's role in merging the three collaboratives serving Ramsey County. Carter and McGuire had conversations at county level, resulting in direction that it is not the role of the county to determine such a merger, but rather the collaborative boards themselves. Carter also clarified that a discussion of changing the LCTS allocation percentages should not be occurring with the support of all three boards. McGuire also sits on Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative board.

Baker asked where SPCC board stands with regard to having that conversation. First, SPCC would need to say that would be the direction we'd want to go, and then the other collaboratives would need to do same. Our interest and desires in exploring structures for best serving families and children – does our current structure serve those families and children best? Baker pointed out that if we have that conversation, we need to include other staff from some of the respective organizations. Murphy pointed out that the only reason this conversation came up was because the county brought it up, not because our board thought it was necessary. We will have the conversation when and if the board is ready and supportive.

Carter spoke to the issue of the Ramsey County Attorney's ability/capacity to provide legal support to the SPCC. Carter has not heard anything from RCAO about that, so for now, if we need help, we call RCAO for help.

Regarding the allocation of the former ACE funding to the collaboratives, County Commissioners asking that the formula stay the same, and that the ACE funds be allocated to the collaboratives based on the current formula.

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SPCC Partner Updates

Tabled due to lack of time.

OST Transportation Update

The subcommittee continues its work and will provide an update next meeting, due to lack of time.

SPCC Administration (ACTION)

Martin Rogers and McClain updated the board on the process of securing administrative support for 2020. (Anders and Davis were not present for this discussion). The subcommittee recommended

**Motion to contract with Advance Consulting LLC to provide administrative support to the SPCC for the next five years, subject to annual renewal based on performance.
Motion approved unanimously.**

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Board to discuss whether there is a desire to change the collaborative structure, with regard to coordination with the other 2 Ramsey County collaboratives.

Meeting adjourned 10:00.