



## APPROVED MINUTES

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### Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting

September 11, 2019

8am – 10am

CAP/RW: 450 Syndicate Street North, Saint Paul

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT** Toni Carter, Alfreda Flowers, Nicole MartinRogers, Robert McClain, Nicolee Mensing, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Daniel Yang

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**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT** Cedrick Baker, Heather Kilgore, Mary Jo McGuire, Mary Vanderwert, Rolando Vera

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**STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT** Christa Anders, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators)

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**Meeting called to order by Carter at 8:05 am**

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#### Children's Fire

Mensing lit the Children's Fire by sharing a video celebrating teachers, noting that every child is just one caring adult away from being a success!

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#### Consent Agenda

**Motion to approve the Minutes from the August 14, 2019 meeting and accept the information contained in the August update from Advance Consulting, and the August finance report. Second. Motion approved.**

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#### SPCC Administration

The 2019 budget line item for stipends needs to be adjusted after an additional reviewer was added to the Learn, Grow, Thrive review panel. To ensure there are enough funds for community representative and reviewer stipends through the end of 2019, the fiscal agent recommends moving \$2,000 from the Misc Admin Expenses line item to the Per Diems line to cover the additional stipend expense for the remainder of the year.

**Motion to adjust the 2019 SPCC budget by moving \$2,000 from the Misc Admin Expenses line item to the Per Diems line to cover the additional stipend expense for the remainder of the year. Second. Motion approved unanimously.**

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The board has not yet approved a final amount for the 2020-21 Learn, Grow, Thrive grant pool. The fiscal agent provided LCTS revenue updates (included in board packet). The April – June 2019 revenue is still an estimate, so this amount may need to be adjusted in October, based on actuals for April – June and based on the allocation of the funds escrowed that used to go to the ACE program. For now, the fiscal agent estimates \$1,627,179 in LCTS earnings from July 2017 to June 2019 and the board had previously indicated that up to \$200,000 be set aside to address barriers to transportation for out-of-school time programs.

**Motion to allocate up to \$1,427,179 in funding for the 2020-21 Learn, Grow, Thrive grant pool, subject to adjustment again when the ACE funding is allocated and the LCTS revenue for April – June 2019 is finalized. Second. Motion approved unanimously.**

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### Collaboratives Structure

There was discussion about the structure of the 3 collaboratives serving children and youth across Ramsey County. Framing questions include: How can the SPCC do the best work on behalf of Saint Paul's Children? What is the SPCC's role in the broader system of the Ramsey County Collaboratives? What do we want it to be?

Advance Consulting shared some overview of the 3 collaboratives, including their organizing structures, geography, historic share of LCTS funds, how LCTS funds are used, whether they provide direct services, and the share of children of color and children eligible for Free & Reduced Price Lunch.

Carter gave some background on the county's perspective on why the discussion about allocation of funds and the potential to merge the collaboratives. The real issue on the table is whether the current structure is serving the children of Saint Paul and Ramsey County as best we can. McClain pointed out that the SPCC has a history of continuous improvement/making adjustments as needed. A merged structure would increase the responsibility of whatever board remains, given the diversity of scope, geography and needs. Noecker said she doesn't see advantage of merger, and is clear on the drawbacks, pointing out our challenges are largely due to lack of focus, which would be exacerbated in any combined structure. She also asked why mental health is separated out into a separate collaborative. She also wondered why collaborative organizations are doing direct services. Murphy asked whether there is a legal requirement that the collaboratives all stay separate or all merge (rather than two merging). The board is not clear that is any requirement to have a county-wide collaborative. If that county-wide collaborative is the Children's Mental Health Collaborative, how does that impact SPCC? Carter asked if the LCTS Partnership Board could fulfill the countywide role. The Mayor's office wants the SPCC to remain independent, partly because the City is actually

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receiving less LCTS funding than poverty and other indicators of need would indicate. Murphy pointed out there are a number of unanswered legal questions: is there a requirement to have one countywide collaborative? This board is concerned that we have a lot to lose in any change in structure. MartinRogers pointed out that grant making vs. direct service is a key difference, and it would be helpful to understand the reach of each collaborative (how many children/youth reached, and impact, although that is harder to measure). She also asked about the impact of All Children Excel funding loss on the youth served by that program.

It would be appropriate for the LCTS Partnership Board to share the two annual LCTS reports from all three collaboratives each year. Advance Consulting will make that request.

It could be important that a county-wide structure such as the LCTS Partnership Board could help all us see the impact of our collective work and to have a continuous improvement approach and coordinate work across the collaboratives. This board has questions on the composition of the LCTS Partnership Board. To answer that, we need to clarify the legal requirements from the state. We also need clarification and formalization of the structure, purpose, and bylaws of the LCTS Partnership Board.

In summary, this board is satisfied with our current structure and focus and is not interested in structural changes. The structure and function we have now is what this board believes we need. The board suggested that unless a requirement can be verified that there must be a new county-wide collaborative or that there are other legal requirements that directly require changes to SPCC, we continue operating as we have been.

Carter gave an update on whether the County Attorney can provide SPCC with legal support. SPCC has asked for little legal support from Ramsey County Attorney, and up to this point, they have provided needed support. Should the County continue to represent SPCC (and other collaboratives), there will likely be a requirement that SPCC sign off on not holding the county liable for any legal advice provided. McClain offered to help connect SPCC with pro bono legal representation if needed at some point in the future. The board said we should know that we would engage legal counsel if needed, but not at until that time. In the meantime, Carter will continue to seek information from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office on their formal position, but until then, Ramsey County Attorney's Office will continue to serve as legal counsel to the SPCC.

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### **Resolution on Gun Violence**

Staff have been exploring options for action by SPCC to address gun violence in Saint Paul, particularly in light of our Youth Master Plan goal that children are free from abuse and neglect. One idea would be a resolution that could be adopted by the SPCC, and then taken to respective bodies for action. Noecker is unaware of whether the City is working on any related resolutions. She'd be willing to take something to City, and Carter said same applies at the County. Noecker asked that

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any resolution be followed up with action such as advocacy. MartinRogers pointed out the framing is important (difference between gun violence and gun control). She also suggested there could be a tie to grant making. McClain talked about the fact that the solutions that are discussed are not addressing the real issues, including the sophistication of the weapons that are being used. We need to figure out how to cut off the supply, to figure out how to support people who are just trying to help turn in the guns. We need to figure out how to assist entities who are trying to figure out where the guns are coming from. Could we use grant funds, including those formerly provided to ACE, to address the root causes? (Yes). There are multiple major problems: gun violence, accessibility of guns and gun culture, and mental health/suicide. DNR could do more gun safety education in the City. Members were most interested in advocacy, grant making, and fostering a culture of gun safety in this City. A resolution would be most helpful after more concrete action.

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### **SPCC Partner Updates**

Yang talked about the challenges in constructing the budget this year. Cost went up to do increased demand, need for staff certification, extending hours due to changing school start times. It is still just a proposal, and City Council advocacy would be a strategy for expressing concerns. Communication with families would be key so that families understand when the new Rec Check fee does not apply to them. Yang will report back on how the determination of FRPL would be made. There could also be a process to allow kids to “work”/“volunteer” to cover the fee.

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### **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

**Meeting adjourned 10:05.**