



APPROVED MINUTES

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting

January 8, 2020

8am – 10am

CAP/RW: 450 Syndicate Street North, Saint Paul

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Cedrick Baker, Emmanuel Donaby, Alfreda Flowers, Heather Kilgore, Angelica Klebsch, Nicole MartinRogers, Nicolee Mensing, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Daniel Yang, Rolando Vera

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Toni Carter, Mary Jo McGuire

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT Danny Givens (Director of Violence Prevention for Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health)
Christa Anders, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators)

Meeting called to order by MartinRogers at 8:05 am

Children’s Fire

Murphy lit the Children’s Fire with some inspiring words, about his worst professional moment, with a student from his teaching days, who fell victim to gun violence on his 17th birthday, and with whom he recently reconnected. He talked about how we cannot give in to despair, because the people who need us most cannot afford for us to do that.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 11, 2019 annual meeting and accept the information contained in the December update from Advance Consulting. Second. Motion approved.

[Note there was no finance report provided by the fiscal agent prior to today’s meeting due to staffing changes: staff will send it out when we receive it.]

Gun Violence

Yang started with a short overview about how the Mayor’s office is thinking about reducing gun violence in the city, with a different approach to public safety and gun violence, which is more holistic.

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The supplemental budget passed focused on early interventions, including the elimination of the Rec Check fees, targeted youth employment, mental health co-responders, increase in community ambassadors, Returning Home Saint Paul, Healing Streets, downtown diffusion center and a community justice unit attorney in City Attorney's office.

Danny Givens gave an overview of the Healing Streets Project, and his own background in the Rondo community. In the first six months of his work at Ramsey, he researched evidence-based approaches to reducing gun violence. In that research, he didn't find very much about healing. That was the start of the Healing Streets project, focused on healing of perpetrators. Average age of shooter is not a youth (28 years old). He described the work underway, and particularly highlighted that the City and County are close partners in the work, which is unusual.

Question about how we should measure the success of this work? Givens talked about that the key outcome is that community members are safe, free and alive. They will also be looking at whether those who have perpetrated gun violence have stayed clear of being involved in additional violence within one year.

There is a need for resources following an incident of violence: survivor resources are only available to people who meet the specific criteria. There are needs that go beyond the loss of life on the victim side; but also the perpetrator, to help the community to recover from the impact of gun violence. Givens will share names of organizations that are doing that work here in Saint Paul. Yang also talked about targeted youth employment being an unmet need; because saying "stop doing this" is not enough – we need to give them an alternative.

SPCC Administration

At the December meeting, the board asked staff/partners to clarify how the unrestricted funds may be used. Staff reached out to all partners who provide unrestricted funds to SPCC (SPPS, Ramsey County, City, and CAP/RW) and did not hear that any of them restrict the funds: they intend the funds to be used for administration of the SPCC. A different question is whether there are restrictions on SPCC as an organization, based on our own legal organization as a joint powers organization.

Since our last meeting, staff have been engaged in many discussions related to the relationship between the three Collaboratives serving Ramsey County/Saint Paul. At the December meeting called by DHS, we committed to three significant follow-up actions:

1. Take action to release "escrowed" LCTS funds. (should happen today at the LCTS partnership board meeting)
 2. Participate in an effort involving the three collaborative directors + fiscal agents, Ramsey county fiscal staff, and DHS auditors to reconcile the amount/timing of LCTS funds received
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by each collaborative and the admin spending withheld by the county. (Not sure when this will happen – we understood DHS/Ramsey county would organize).

3. Revise/clean up the LCTS Partnership agreement to make it reflect current reality and DHS policy. (This is somewhat underway, but will likely be hard, time consuming and complicated, given that the RCCMHC has different ideas than SPCC about how to allocate LCTS funds, for example.)

In addition, the three collaboratives and several board members from each (Baker and Yang for SPCC) attended one meeting facilitated by Ramsey County planning staff to learn about each other's priorities. There was a follow-up meeting scheduled for January 23 to continue learning and explore shared priorities. SPCC staff are concerned about our capacity to do this, in addition to the required actions resulting from the DHS meeting, which are a higher priority. The board asked that SPCC put participation in the Ramsey County-facilitated tri-collaborative meetings on hold, at least until the other three projects are complete.

There was discussion about the Children's Mental Health Collaborative's request to re-allocate the funds formerly allocated to ACE to the Children's Mental Health Collaborative. The SPCC board stated that our position is that the LCTS funds received by SPCC should not be reduced, given that all go to community organizations serving the needs of children/youth with high needs. There was also discussion of having SPCC staff spend less time in these conversations. We clearly need more funding for services to Saint Paul children. It is not advancing our mission for SPCC staff to continue to spend our time in these discussions. The board supports staff spending the time necessary for resolution of the issues raised by DHS. Related, SPPS reported they have a history of strong partnership and programs with the Children's Mental Health Collaborative, but doesn't feel like the time is right to invest more in that collaborative right now, given their administrative challenges. Also discussion that from an equity perspective, the highest concentration of children of color, and those in deepest poverty, and the deepest overall need is in the City of Saint Paul.

Board members each completed 2020 Conflict of Interest forms.

Out of School Time Transportation Pilot Grant (ACTION)

One proposal was received in response to our RFP for out of school time transportation. The review committee met on January 7 and recommended approval of a grant to 4mativ.

Motion to approve a grant not to exceed \$200,000 to 4mativ to work with SPCC and partners to conduct an OST transportation pilot project in 2020-21. Second. Motion approved.

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There was discussion that this is an exciting step toward our goal of making sure that children/youth in Saint Paul have more and better access to OST programming.

SPCC Partner Updates

Congratulations to all those who won re-election. SPPS has two new board members. The SPPS Board met yesterday and Jeannie Foster is the new designee to SPCC from SPPS. School choice season is opening – January 25 at Union Depot is school choice fair. February 28 is priority deadline.

CM Noecker talked about the City moving ahead with the 1 cent sales tax in the upcoming session. There will be a resolution introduced at City Council on January 22. This may be a great place for partner support/advocacy.

There was a conversation about the SPCC advocacy agenda, and how we can be more active for the 2020 legislative session, including more active engagement of board members around issues that are critical to our children/youth. Suggestion that we reach back out to the Saint Paul delegation to see what their priorities are this session.

There was brief discussion about how to frame decision about use of the escrow funds. The board supports the transparency of a public RFP process, focused on urgent need, a specific window of time or focus, or both.

Meeting adjourned 9:56.