



APPROVED MINUTES

Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting

February 12, 2020

8am – 10am

CAP/RW: 450 Syndicate Street North, Saint Paul

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT Ikram Koliso and Kasey Wiedrich (City of Saint Paul)
Christa Anders, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators)
Jessica Kopp (alternate for Saint Paul School Board representative Jeanelle Foster)

Meeting called to order by MartinRogers at 8:05 am

Children's Fire

Vera lit the Children's Fire sharing memories of Carie Lynch, one of the Child and Teen Checkups nurse who died last week, reflecting on her career during her 51 years. Through her career, she focused on working with children selflessly. She had an endless fighting spirit, focused relentlessly on working with children. She would want us to know she passed on this fire to all of us, those that came before us, those who Carrie Lynch, that we continue to focus on this light, and serving children.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the January 8, 2020 board meeting and accept the information contained in the January update from Advance Consulting and the December and January finance reports. Second. Motion approved.

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CollegeBound Saint Paul

Ikram Koliso and Kasey Wiedrich from the City of Saint Paul provided the board with information on the new CollegeBound Saint Paul program, as well as their new Whole Family Systems grant. Families can learn more about enrollment [here](#).

2020 Legislative Session (ACTION)

The board received information on the legislative agendas of our partner organizations, including the Saint Paul Public Schools, CAP/RW, City of Saint Paul. Information on the Ignite Afterschool 2020 legislative agenda was also shared. Foster Advocates has a Keep Fosters in School Act bill, asking the state to help support foster children in school.

There was discussion about what SPCC's legislative priorities should be for the 2020 session, and how we each can be more active advocates for advancing our shared priorities.

There was a question about whether SPCC would be interested in taking a position on the proposed constitutional education amendment. On behalf of Saint Paul Schools, Baker said that they are not yet ready to take a position – they are wanting to learn more. CLUES is in that same position. Once again, there is a question about what the role of SPCC is, with regard to legislative action. Noecker pointed out that our partner organization lobbyists are primarily focused inward (their legislative agendas, their legislators). Maybe a good role for SPCC would be to be more externally focused. She gave the example of an op ed, explaining what SPCC is, highlighting one (or maybe more) issue of highest priority, why support for urban core children/youth is critical and encouraging members of the public to take action. There was discussion that if we want to be serious about advocacy, we probably need to devote resources to lobbying. Another consideration is focusing on an issue that is consistent with the areas we fund. We need to be preparing for the 2021 session. There was a suggestion to create an ad hoc legislative subcommittee to prepare for 2021. Volunteers include McGuire, Klebsch, Noecker. There was agreement to draft an op ed for this session. The subcommittee would talk about both issues of focus and the process. There was a request to think more intentionally about children in out of home placement as a cross-cutting issue.

Release of Escrowed LCTS Funds (ACTION)

Staff presented the following options for using the escrow funds (\$182,002):

1. Keep funds and include them with the next biennial round of Learn, Grow, Thrive grantmaking. Funds would be available to community organizations in January of 2022.
 2. Issue an RFP for programs that specifically do direct gun violence prevention work.
 3. Issue an RFP for programs that work with adolescent males that are indirectly preventing gun violence (e.g. New Lens Urban Mentoring)
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4. Fund [Face to Face](#) – Saint Paul’s only drop-in center for homeless youth per the recommendation from RCAO
5. Continue to do more research around community needs

There was a discussion about the urgency of the need, but that we perhaps don’t have enough information to make a decision right now. There was a suggestion for an emergency RFP for the “off grant” year. Encourage some specific programs to apply, plus send to our entire list. This is an opportunity to be innovative, thus amending the funding guidelines from our last RFP. Let the community identify “urgent community need” or have the SPCC be more specific. We have heard from the community about needs, and it may help to be more specific on some examples, focused on children being safe and free from abuse and neglect. Be clear about which organizations we’d want to specifically invite. We also need a review committee. Staff will come to the March meeting with a draft RFP and plan.

SPCC Administration (ACTION)

Despite repeated requests for information, there has been no response from Ramsey County on whether or not Ramsey County Attorney’s Office can provide SPCC with any legal support. We currently have a contract with 4mativ pending, based on January board approval of the project and 4mativ as the vendor. Staff are not able to provide legal advice on the draft contract, and it needs legal review before SPCC can enter into the contract. Carter recommended that we proceed in two direction: a memo from SPCC staff to Commissioners Carter and McGuire to explain the situation, so she can approach the County Manager regarding legal representation, including a timeline (which is basically in the next week). At the same time, we need to have a backup plan. Murphy will check with a colleague to get a recommendation for an external lawyer. If we proceed in that way, then the \$10,000 budget line item for administrative expenses could be used to hire external counsel.

There was brief discussion about whether we want to amend the SPCC bylaws to include a legislator, either as a new organizational position or as an additional community representative. The board members should think about pros and cons of each option prior to the March meeting. Staff will provide that list to the board next month.

SPCC Partner Updates

Ramsey County has a need for census workers. We will send information on that opportunity to our Community of Care.

Meeting adjourned 10:10.