



APPROVED MINUTES

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting

June 10, 2020

8am – 9:30 am

Via Zoom due to COVID-19 Restrictions

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Cedrick Baker, Toni Carter, Emmanuel Donaby, Alfreda Flowers, Jeanelle Foster, Heather Kilgore, Angelica Klebsch, Nicole MartinRogers, Mary Jo McGuire (joined 8:40), Nicolee Mensing, Hoang Murphy, Daniel Yang
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BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Rebecca Noecker, 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 MartinRogers at 8:00 am

Children’s Fire

The Children’s Fire was lit by Commissioner Carter with words about our heavy hearts, around pandemics of COVID and social justice. She reminded us that we all have a hand in the work. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Everybody can be great because anyone can serve.” She shared a statement by Marion Wright Edelman about service, and how every day, we should light one small candle.

The board also shared remembrances of Marny Xiong and her legacy, her fearless fight for kids, and her work to change systems. Her north star will continue to be our north star and we all need to be invigorated to change systems for the benefit of all our children. She was a fierce fighter, and we have a responsibility to keep that charging going to honor her.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the May 13, 2020 board meeting and accept the information contained in the May update from Advance Consulting and the May finance report. Motion to approve by Murphy, second by Baker. Motion approved

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SPCC ADMINISTRATION (ACTION)

The SPCC board typically takes either July or August off for “summer break.” There was discussion about August 12 – MartinRogers, Carter and McGuire would not be available then. August 5 was selected as the meeting date, and July 8 will be summer break.

LEARN, GROW, THRIVE GRANTS

Violence Prevention RFP (ACTION)

Based on Board direction at the May meeting, Face to Face and Ramsey County Attorney’s Office collaborated to prepare the new joint proposal included in the board packet. Flowers talked about being pleased with the collaboration between the two organizations. There was a question about when they could start (as soon as we got a contract done – probably 2 weeks). Face to Face is not currently serving youth in person. They are offering health/counseling online. In actuality, it’s more intervention than prevention. The proposal still lacks some detail. The biggest critical success factor is who gets hired. Needs to be someone connected with St. Paul and East Side specifically. Only talk about outputs, not outcomes in the table. Want to know what is going to happen – what is the logic model? Advice as evaluator – need to tighten up your logic model/theory of change about what is actually going to stop youth from getting/staying involved in gun violence. Carter talked about being encouraged by work happening at Face to Face and RCAO, reimagining youth justice. She asked to what extent is the RCAO committing to maintain the work beyond grant period? Would depend on the evaluation results. Would like to see evaluation from RCAO – analysis of both why youth are entering RCAO system; and also, judges’ response.

Motion to approve the grant proposal from Face to Face and Ramsey County Attorney’s Office for \$182,500. Motion by Carter, second by Flowers. Motion approved unanimously.

Summer Plans for Current Grantees

Staff called or emailed all current grantees to check in after the murder of George Floyd and related community unrest. The families/youth served by our grantees are all impacted by systemic racism and its consequences, and many are involved in standing up for justice. No grantees reported damage to their facilities during the protests. All grantees reached who had plans to offer summer programming prior to COVID do have plans for operating this summer, although many in reduced capacity and all in different ways that previously planned. When asked if there were supports the board could provide, grantees listed these issues:

- Any plans for supports for parents/guardians as they try to navigate distance learning?
 - The district does has a structure in place to help with that, but they need parents to reach out to them for help. Grantees need to encourage parents to call the district for help. SPPS had virtual parent nights during the spring, and they will continue to do that.

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- Will there be access to iPads during summer from district – for students, for parents, and if parents can use, what access is allowed/blocked?
 - Yes, they are available. The same same limitations apply, in terms of what apps can be put on there. For example, the browser can be used, but Instagram cannot be loaded on there. Parents apps for district’s learning system are available.
- Comcast hot spots for summer – apparently Comcast turned off some of the hot spots after complaints from “paying customers” and some grantees trying to figure out how to make sure families have internet over summer so they can connect. While SPCC funds could be used to provide that access, Comcast requires one year+ contracts. Is anyone working on this issue/have any ideas about how to negotiate with Comcast (or other options)?
 - Heather will follow up directly with Family Values for Life. There is a simple way for an org to be a “sponsor” for Comcast and pay for a 6 or 12 month Internet Essentials package.
- Saint Paul Public Libraries – any word yet on re-opening and if on limited basis, could they consider offering computers for internet access – with early /special access for elders?
 - Staff will ask our City partners.
- Parents would really appreciate a tutoring hotline for parents – how to navigate distance learning, technology, supporting students. (Although many of our grantees are helping out in this regard.)
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- Any possibility for a summer work program for older youth to help parents/elders access technology?
 - Workforce Solutions grant funding thru CARES – this is one of the objectives!
- Elders – want more way that they can share their stories and experiences with pandemics (for example, polio), and they don’t know how to do that.
 - Perhaps that could be part of what comes out of the Workforce Solutions efforts!

One more thing – please continue to reach out to district, county, city – everyone is still working and ready to help. As folks think about next year – SPPS is still awaiting guidance from MDH about fall. This includes group gatherings in summer, and SPPS is proceeding with all caution. They are thinking about hybrid approach – bringing people back, but in a way that respects fears/concerns about COVID and knowing there certainly could be another surge in COVID in the fall. They are still working on figuring out all options.

PARTNER UPDATES (DISCUSSION)

Head Start sites have been closed since March, and school year would have ended this week. They will have four classrooms of 10 children this summer. They are also working on Return from COVID plan. Site at University is tentatively scheduled to reopen during July (need to repair damage from the riots). Waiting for guidance from Office of Head Start on re-opening, group sizes, etc.

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Murphy asked that we don't forget about foster youth during these difficult times, especially the 161 youth who are going to age out of foster care; DHS is saying that it is a "county issue" to decide whether youth are allowed to "age out" during the pandemic. Murphy will send overview to Carter and McGuire and they will forward to Ann Berry in the county to make sure Ramsey has a plan.

Ramsey County has been investing a lot of time/resource working on race equity and response in terms of systems reform. Carter asked that the invitation from Hallie Q. Brown be forwarded to board. Flowers talked about the County's Equity Action group – which has been focused right now on COVID-19 issues. The County is also working with Burns Institute on race equity and systems change.

Baker asked about Carter and Flower's ability to stay "in the fight" for justice and equity over time, not getting tired and cynical. Flowers recommended watching Just Mercy and Selma. Talked about where change is actually going to take place. The fight stays in you, because you have children/grandchildren/family. She believes we're in a period of reset – we need to do it MORE now. She talked about the need to listen, remain positive. She also talked about the role of faith and the need to empower our young people. Carter talked about the hope for change, and the changes we have seen – there are times in our lives when there is an opportunity to move through to change. We must do something, but we need to find the next best step toward change. Energy comes from the young people who are joining the fight, using other methods.

McGuire expressed thanks for having Commissioner Carter as Ramsey County Board chair during this critical time.

Meeting adjourned 9:36