

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

September 15, 2021

8am – 10 am

Via Zoom due to COVID-19 Restrictions

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Cedrick Baker, Emmanuel Donaby, Alfreda Flowers, Jeanelle Foster, Heather Kilgore, Angelica Klebsch, Nicole MartinRogers, Mary Jo McGuire, Nicolee Mensing, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Daniel Yang
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BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Toni Carter, Ginny Nierad
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STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Christa Anders, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators; Tatiana Lemire (community reviewer)
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Meeting called to order by Noecker at 8:05 am.

Children’s Fire
The Children’s Fire was lit by Yang, sharing that his youngest brother started Kindergarten last week. He said his favorite part of the week was “Meeting my first teacher Miss. Ann. She is my best friend. She is smart and nice and is going to teach us to be smart and nice, too. She is my hero!” This is his first time with a teacher outside the family. It’s a good reminder that our grants, our work, are here to support heroes like Miss. Ann.

Consent Agenda
Motion to approve the Minutes from the July 14 2021 meeting and accept the information contained in the August update from Advance Consulting and the August 2021 finance report. Motion to approve by Flowers. Second by McGuire. The roll was called and the motion was approved.

Youth Master Plan: Learn, Grow, Thrive Grants for 2022-23
The board received the recommendations from the grant review team as part of the board packet. The board reviewed the list of applicants and declared the following conflicts of interest: Murphy for YMCA and Project for Pride in Living, Flowers for Family Values for Life, In addition, review team member Darian Lofton had a conflict for World Youth Connect. Nicole has a conflict for Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood and Interfaith. Kilgore is on the board of Family Values for Life. Nicolee has a conflict with Montessori American Indian Child Care Center. These board members recused themselves from voting on any organization for which they have a conflict.

There was explanation and discussion of the process and recommendations from the review team. There was discussion about how we account for organizations that have larger capacity to raise other funding, the extreme pressure on non-profits in the face of pandemic and trying to come back from pandemic, the particular role for culturally specific non-profits and other factors considered by the review team, which struggled with how many organizations need funding but we cannot provide it. The board was very supportive of the process and accepted the review team recommendations.

Motion by Noecker to approve Learn, Grow, Thrive grants for 2022-23 as recommended by the review team. Second by Donaby. Motion approved.

There was deep appreciation expressed to the whole review committee, but especially the community reviewers who brought such depth and diversity of perspective.

SPCC Administration

As part of SPCC's search for Directors and Officers Insurance, it was recommended that SPCC adopt a formal Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment policy. The board reviewed the draft policy prepared by Advance Consulting.

Motion by Noecker to adopt the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment policy included with the board packet. Second by Flowers. Motion approved.

The spending on stipends for 2021 will be higher than originally budgeted, due to the stipends paid to the six reviewers. Funds can be moved from the Misc. Admin/Contract Expenses line item, which will be under-spent this year.

Motion by MartinRogers to move \$1000 from the Misc. Admin/Contract Expenses line item on the 2021 budget to the Stipend line item. Second McGuire. Motion approved.

In a recent meeting with CAP/RW, the executive director asked how the amounts of admin support from each of the partner organizations were determined when the SPCC was established. The board was asked if anyone has historical knowledge of those relative amounts. No one had any information. Advance Consulting reached out to Commissioner Carter, who was on the board at the time SPCC was established and is awaiting response from her. We will also touch base with Elona Street-Stewart, who was the first director of SPCC and McGuire will ask Kathleen Vellenga, who was also involved with SPCC early on. She also asked about the relative pros/cons of having the Head Start Director as the CAP/RW designee vs. having the CAP/RW executive director. Each have been the CAP/RW representative during previous years. Mensing shared that she isn't aware that CAP/RW has any fundamental issue with supporting the SPCC. There was a discussion that it would make sense to change the language to be clear that this is not a donation, but actually funding for supporting the operation of the collaborative, and that work that is done is directly aligned with reducing poverty as a shared mission. There was discussion that if we open up the discussion about

relative contributions, it may be challenging for all partners. Mensing made clear that CAP/RW is very much in support of the SPCC and our shared mission.

MartinRogers left the meeting and Noecker took over in the role of Chair, Advance Consulting shared an updated proposal to provide administrative support for the SPCC for the current contract, due to Christa's retirement at the end of 2021. After posting the opportunity in multiple venues and having discussions with several interested candidates, Nicole MartinRogers was the most interested and qualified candidate. While Advance Consulting technically makes the decision about the firm's partners, they wanted to bring this decision to the SPCC board for feedback. There was discussion that one of the biggest challenges in this transition is having the background/history of the SPCC, which Nicole definitely has. She also has a deep skill set and community connections that are very important. There was a question about whether the loss of Christa's expertise in the law leaves a gap, and she clarified that she is not able to provide legal advice so that is not a gap. The board was very supportive of this change, noting that we will all miss Christa's expertise and presence very much!

Motion from McGuire to embrace the transition of Nicole MartinRogers as a new partner in supporting the SPS and second from Flowers. Motion approved unanimously.

The board will need to make a decision regarding timing of Nicole stepping off the board in her current board member role.

SPCC Partner Updates and Ideas for Future Meetings

Foster Advocates: There are 15 more days for foster youth to receive \$200 from DHS as part of the emergency COVID relief – statewide and for youth from 18-25. Here is the [link](#).

SPPS: Busing is terrible right now, across the state. The district moved high school transportation to Metro Transit. They are hoping to get better over the next few months, but they don't anticipate getting to "normal" given the labor shortage. Online education update – there was extraordinary demand, exponential over the past few weeks. They are working hard to address the waiting list and get students into online school. There is also a teacher shortage which makes it more challenging. They are working hard to encourage families to keep students engaged in learning during the waiting time. The board also mandated vaccination or weekly testing (for health/religious instruction) starting October 15. This applies to partners embedded in the school.

Head Start: Similar policy implemented a few weeks ago – everyone understands this is a huge undertaking for an organization as large as SPPS.

Ramsey County: Also requiring masks/vaccination.

Meeting adjourned 9:50 AM.

Roll call votes for July 14, 2021 Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting

	Motion 1 - Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – 2022- 23 Grants	Motion 3 – EEO/Anti- Discrimination Policy	Motion 4 – Budget Amendment	Motion 5 – SPCC Admin Support
Baker	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Carter - Absent					
Donaby	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Flowers	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Foster	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Klebsch	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
MartinRogers	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
McGuire	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mensing	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Murphy	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Noecker	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Yang	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES