

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Meeting

January 12, 2022

8am – 10 am

Via Zoom due to COVID-19 Restrictions

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Toni Carter, Emmanuel Donaby, Alfreda Flowers, Heather Kilgore, Tonya Long (joined 9:40), Mary Jo McGuire, Nicolee Mensing, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker,
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Cedrick Baker, Jeanelle Foster, Angelica Klebsch, Ginny Nierad, Erica Prosser
STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Christopher Hurla (Child Protection Intake Manager, Ramsey County) Sheri Reimers (Ain Dah Yung Center) Stephanie Reinitz, David Starks, Hanna Getachew-Kreusser (Face to Face)
Meeting called to order by Donaby at 8:04 am.	
Children’s Fire The Children’s Fire was lit by Flowers, sharing that the candle is a symbol of the sun – true, selfless, and being here for the benefit of others. Each candle represents children – the wax represents barriers children face. If they are unattended to, they can lose their flame or burn down altogether. All candles need to be handled with care, and each have their own needs. We come together each month, knowing that many of the children in our care are not flourishing. We need to keep sight of the wick that powers their potential.	
Consent Agenda Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 8, 2021, meeting and accept the information contained in the December update from Advance Consulting and the December 2021 finance report. Motion to approve by Flowers. Second by Murphy. The roll was called, and the motion was approved. There were a couple of changes in board membership – Tonya Long is community rep alternate, Daniel Yang from the Mayor’s Office will be replaced by Erica Prosser, Deputy Director of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation; Heather Kilgore, staff non-voting representative from SPPS will be replaced	

by a new staff rep; Dir. Foster will be replaced by Dir. Henderson, but Dir. Foster will stay on as alternate.

Youth Master Plan Goal: Safe and Free from Abuse and Neglect

Chris Hurla from Ramsey County shared an update on Child Protection data from the county. His presentation will be shared with the board after the meeting and put on our website in the “Youth Master Plan” page. Hurla shared some of the strategies that the County is using to support families.

Sheri Reimers from Ain Dah Yung Center provided an update on how Indigenous children in CPS are faring. The families they work with at ADY are really struggling. They have adjusted how they interact with families during the pandemic. Over the past three years, almost every child they serve is now placed in tribally approved homes/relative homes. Kim Clemenson was instrumental in changing that trajectory, better engaging community to find out what they need. They have an ICWA compliance officer that monitors all compliance and social services. This has shed a lot more light on how the Native children are faring.

Hoang Murphy gave an overview of policy proposals expected related to CPS in the 2022 session. Given the \$7.7B surplus, the session will be busy. A few big proposals – action around court-appointed attorney for parents at the initial hearings – this may require some technical fixes. Related, there is a proposal to create an office to handle that role of family representation in CPS matters. Also, there is an effort to change statute that currently gives preference to moving toward parental termination as soon as the case goes to trial; the proposal is to instead first give preference or consideration for a transfer of legal custody first, and only after this option is not viable would termination be pursued. Some other proposals from Foster Advocates – Office of Ombudsperson for children/youth (currently only serves families). Also looking to amend children’s rights sections of statute – right now, MN does not grant children the right to be interviewed separately if they are alleging abuse/neglect, and the proposal is to change that. Finally, there is a proposal, for children who enter foster care through the death of a parent, the proposal is to allow children to keep the social security death benefit in trust, rather than having it go to the child welfare system. There may also be some effort to amend the “educational neglect” definition in statute.

The team from Face to Face provided an update on the SPCC-funded Power in Peace effort with Ramsey County Attorney’s Office. The grant was to refer youth charged with gun-related or other similar charges to Face to Face, who works with the youth and their family to provide wrap-around services, restorative justice, and other supports to get at the root of the problem of youth gun violence. They have received about 30 referrals from RCAO and have done intakes on 20 of those cases. They have seen some common themes. One is fear – youth have arguments and want to protect themselves, lack of control/agency, instability (especially related to COVID), social media arguments spilling over into real life, toxic masculinity, and immaturity/impulsivity, and lack of other tools to address conflict. One improvement would be more access for David to work with youth while in juvenile detention center. Challenges – law enforcement does not want gun-related offenders sent to Power in Peace. JDC also puts up barriers to Power in Peace staff to work with youth. Schools also put up barriers. Start was slower than planned, they didn’t get referrals right away but now they are coming in. The grant period is scheduled to end in December 2022. There was a question about

how supervision through this project impacts recidivism? It's hard to answer that question so soon in the project. The issue of wanting to punish "bad" people more than helping children is foundational. What are the structural things that government could do to address the root causes of violence. Need to get a handle on the barriers families face and then make sure they are being addressed through intentional action. There is system responsibility for addressing those issues. Ramsey County is trying to do that from a health/wellness approach.

SPCC Administration

All board members are asked to review/sign/return the Conflict of Interest form for 2022. Educational neglect is the biggest category.

The board needs to appoint an Admin Support Subcommittee to manage the process of reviewing the performance of Advance Consulting in providing administrative support to the SPCC and to decide whether to re-bid the admin support contract during 2022.

Motion by Carter to appoint the Executive Committee (Donaby, Mensing, Murphy, and Noecker) to the Administrative Support Subcommittee. Second by Flowers. The roll was called, and the motion was approved.

Saint Paul Public Schools/SPCC Request for Proposals

Kilgore provided an update on the RFP that SPPS is planning to issue for community organizations, with support from the SPCC. She also announced that she is leaving her role with SPPS at the end of January. Focus of this funding opportunity is on the four priorities identified through community needs assessment: social/emotional, out of school time, family support, and in-school academic support. The board extended thanks to Heather for all her work with the board, the district, and to the students of Saint Paul!

SPCC Partner Updates and Ideas for Future Meetings

Tabled due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 AM.

Roll call votes for January 12, 2022 Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Annual Meeting

	Motion 1 - Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – Admin Spt Sub- Committee	Motion 3 –	Motion 4 –
Baker - absent				
Carter	Y	Y		
Donaby	Y	Y		
Flowers	Y	Y		
Foster - absent				
Klebsch - absent				
Long	(not yet present)	Y		
McGuire	Y	Y		
Mensing	Y	Y		
Murphy	Y	Y		
Noecker	Y	Y		
Prosser - absent				