

# Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Meeting

March 9, 2022

8am – 10 am

Via Zoom and in person at 450 Syndicate Street North, Wellstone Room

<b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Dana Abrams (virtual), Toni Carter, Emmanuel Donaby, Alfreda Flowers, Halla Henderson (virtual), Tonya Long (virtual), Nicolee Mensing (departed 9am), Hoang Murphy (virtual), Ginny Nierad (virtual), Rebecca Noecker, Erica Prosser (virtual)
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Cedrick Baker, Angelica Klebsch, Mary Jo McGuire
<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS PRESENT</b>	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Pang Vang (fiscal agent) Erica Schumacher (Ramsey County Attorney’s Office) (virtual) Danny Givens and Mark Campbell (Mark left 8:35) (Healing Streets) (virtual) Hanna Getachew-Kreusser, David Starks, Tom Kottkee, Stephanie Reinitz, Rachel Greenwald (Face to Face)
<b>Meeting called to order by Donaby at 8:10 am.</b>	
<b>Children’s Fire</b>	The Children’s Fire was lit by Murphy, with a reflection on states that are using policy to attack our queer and two-spirit community. He shared a poem by Donovan from Foster Advocates. Here is the poem: <a href="https://onbeing.org/poetry/seventh-circle-of-earth/">https://onbeing.org/poetry/seventh-circle-of-earth/</a> He asked that we hold queer and two-spirit youth in our hearts and help them know they are valued and their rights are protected. Also check out this resource from Foster Advocates: <a href="https://www.fosteradvocates.org/2022-photovoice">https://www.fosteradvocates.org/2022-photovoice</a>
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	<b>Motion to approve the Minutes from the February 9, 2022, meeting and accept the information contained in the February update from Advance Consulting and the February 2022 finance report. Motion to approve by Noecker. Second by Flowers. The roll was called, and the motion was approved.</b>

## Youth Violence Prevention

Erica Schumacher from the Ramsey County Attorney's Office (RCAO) provided the board with an update on the work happening around youth violence prevention in Ramsey County. The County formed a violence prevention leadership group in response to the spike in carjackings in 2020. RCAO also has a grant to use a group violence intervention model including Restorative Circles for auto theft deterrence program, with Mount Olivet Baptist Church and the African American Leadership Council. Ramsey County created a mechanism for law enforcement to refer children 10-18 years to social services. Healing Streets provides relational support to youth and families and refers young people to social services. Danny talked about the Social Services Action Table. They are a community-centered, healing-based approach to end cyclical and retaliatory violence. Three prongs: community ambassadors, law enforcement, and social services. Part of the approach is humanizing those offenders. They have a contract with Restoration Inc. (survivor circles, community grief circle, custom grief circles for families directly affected). Healing Streets is doubling staff. Also gearing up to do hospital-based interventions at Regions.

They are focusing on getting further upstream toward preventing youth involvement in gun violence vs. dealing with it after it happens AND they are focusing on family stabilization. There is recognition that all youth have similar developmental needs, importantly peer approval and thrill seeking/risk-reward activities. If they are not engaged in pro-social activities like sports to get these needs met then they may turn to car jacking and involvement with stolen vehicles and guns, etc. Danny would like to come back in 3-6 months to update the board on progress.

Hanna from Face to Face talked about how the systems are often creating the problems – for example, how does the school system engage youth meaningfully. Young people need to feel like they matter and have something to contribute to society. The Power in Peace team has changed the way they get/handle referrals from RCAO to increase participation/engagement, and RCAO starting referring cases pre-petition so they have the leverage point of possibly deciding to bring charges against the youth if they or their family decline to participate in the programs offered to them.

Areas where they see system gaps:

- 15 day drop -- Because school districts have a 15 day drop rule (they cannot continue to "claim" or receive funding for a student who has stopped coming to school), there is no one following those kids to make sure they re-enroll in another school. Question – Has Ramsey County connected with MDE on their reporting dashboard (new law that requires that foster youth must be re-enrolled within 7 school days). Youth need to be engaged and feel like their school can help them experience success, as well as feel they matter and they have something to contribute.
- How truancy cases are handled by the school district and county attorney. Need to increase collaboration and not use truancy as a reason for out-of-home placement. SPPD used to have a truancy officer who worked with kids who they found on the streets during the school day but they no longer do that kind of outreach, so there is a gap in identifying and re-engaging kids and families who are truant/not going to school.
- Increase capacity for virtual school (some students may need this option if they are unsafe in school)

- Need to find ways to engage youth. Peer to peer referrals have worked well in one case so far with Karenni youths – how can we get parents to do the same thing? Need partnerships with orgs that are more focused on supporting parents. Consider paying youth to participate.
- Need for parent education esp for parents of adolescent kids (“ECFE for teens”). Also, there is a need for more peer support for parents. Consider using ARP dollars for parent education.
- Help to facilitate conversations across grantees and other community partners to improve supports to parents. (We plan to host 2 community of care events: one about violence prevention strategies and options for youth in the community who are at risk, and another session about effective parent engagement approaches).
- Poverty is the root issue – interventions to address poverty. Consider summer employment options and job training for youth. (Are we trying to apply technical solutions to an adaptive problem?)
- Individualized service funds through JDAI are available for certain youth (MartinRogers will follow-up with Erica Schumacher about this to clarify) and may be able to be leveraged.
- Directors’ forum around systems efforts – hear from systems about how they can work together (maybe twice/year) – focused on system change related to specific issues that bubble up from grantees related to keeping youth safe and free from violence and the other Youth Master Plan goals.

### **Data Access Collaboration**

MartinRogers provided an overview of the work she’s doing with Sprockets and grantees/other community organizations to explore options for collaboration with Saint Paul Public Schools to give more useful and timely access to district data for community orgs serving youth. The board gave the green light to continue pursuing these ideas. There is an optional grantee meeting scheduled for March 29 to talk more about these ideas.

### **SPCC Partner Updates and Ideas for Future Meetings**

Deadline for the RFP for community partners has been extended to March 16. Anticipating at least 50 applicants.

**Meeting adjourned 10:05 AM.**

**Roll call votes for March 9, 2022 Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting**

	Motion 1 - Consent Agenda	Motion 2 –	Motion 3 –	Motion 4 –
Baker (absent)				
Carter	YES			
Donaby	YES			
Flowers	YES			
Henderson	YES			
Klebsch (absent)				
Long	YES			
McGuire (absent)				
Mensing	YES			
Murphy	YES			
Noecker	YES			
Prosser	YES			