

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Meeting

October 12, 2022

8am – 10 am

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Dana Abrams (virtual), December Brakefield, Toni Carter (virtual), Emmanuel Donaby, Alfreda Flowers, Halla Henderson (virtual), Angelica Klebsch (virtual), Tonya Long (virtual), Mary Jo McGuire (virtual), Jackie Turner (virtual)
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Nicolee Mensing, Hoang Murphy, Erica Prosser
STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Helen Howard and Shateka Flowers (Family Values for Life) Kathy Kimani (Saint Paul Public Schools) Albert Green (Saint Paul Public Schools)
Meeting called to order by Donaby at 8:04 am.	
Children’s Fire The Children’s Fire was lit by Murphy (who was unable to join us due to a family emergency), who shared a poem from Mary Oliver: "If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy don’t hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back that sometimes something happened better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway that’s often the case. Anyway whatever it is don’t be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb."	
Consent Agenda Motion to approve the Minutes from the September 14, 2022, meeting and accept the information contained in the September update from Advance Consulting and the September 2022 finance report. Motion to approve by Carter. Second by Flowers. The roll was called, and the motion was approved.	
Family Coaching December Brakefield from Ramsey County and Helen Howard and Shateka Flowers from Family Values for Life shared an overview of the family coaching work they are doing with support from Ramsey County. December Brakefield helped secure support for that work through the Preschool	

Development Grant to Ramsey County. The County selected the Kellogg Foundation's family-centered coaching model, and Prosperity Agenda is providing training to Ramsey County and Family Values for Life on this approach. The family coaching work at Family Values for Life is focused on African American families with children (prenatal thru age 8) in their care, but they can connect any family with services and resources, including the Ramsey County systems navigators. Coach Helen shared some examples of goals the families she serves are setting, and how they are working to get there. The project has challenged preconceived notions about how to serve families/what families need. Often they have to work first on mindset, which is the focus of the Kellogg approach. MartinRogers also pointed out it is important to make sure the systemic barriers families are experiencing should also be addressed by the County, to make the system work better for the people it is intended to serve.

There was a suggestion that this resource is shared with the early childhood hub staff at Saint Paul Public Schools, and December is happy to present to any school or group! December and the team from Family Values for Life are also happy to come back after the first year and share lessons learned, including opportunities for systems change.

School Linked Mental Health Grant

The board packet included the information that the board had requested about how SPPS plans to target the School Linked Mental Health services, which pertains to the request from Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative at the September board meeting to provide funding for this project. Kathy Kimani from Saint Paul Schools' Office of School Support shared more on the targeting strategy, and explained how this work fits in the larger array of mental health support provided by the district. One big advantage of this model is allowing various levels of engagement with the whole family, so the focus isn't immediately jumping to a mental health diagnosis. The board brought back the motion that was tabled at the September meeting:

Motion by Donaby to grant \$58,300 to Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative through an MOU to support two packages of school linked mental health services in Saint Paul Public Schools. Second by Noecker. Motion approved.

Youth Representation on SPCC

At the September meeting, the SPCC board voted to amend the bylaws to add two youth representatives to the board. There was also discussion of wanting the two youth representatives to be diverse in terms of gender identity and race/ethnicity. Per the board's direction, staff went back to Youth on Boards to talk about the potential pool of candidates. Via email, Prosser and representatives from Sprockets/YOB informed the board that the YOB initiative is new and they don't yet have a deep pool of candidates who have gone through their training/support process. YOB and staff recommend that the board take up the nominations of the two candidates YOB vetted for SPCC. SPCC board members will help to identify diverse possible YOB candidates for future years, and YOB committed this as a focus of their efforts going forward.

Motion by Noecker to nominate Daisy Kia Vang and Kaydalynn Avena Her to serve as youth representatives on the SPCC board. Second by Flowers. Motion approved.

Student Re-engagement Work at Saint Paul Public Schools

Albert Green leads the student re-engagement work at SPPS and with Ramsey County Attorney's Office (RCAO), which he's been doing since 2013-14 school year. The focus is on middle and high schools in SPPS (ages 12-17), on students who have 15 consecutive unexcused absences who must then be "dropped" from the school due to policies related to district funding. (The same is true for missing the first five days of a school year.) Of all of the students on the list of those who have reached the 15-day drop rule in previous years, 22-35% of referrals that Albert assists re-enrolled. About 30% of students have gone to other districts, charters, or programs. About 30-35% of families Albert is entirely unable to find/contact. In the 2021-22 school year, there were 100 referrals. During COVID, there was less focus on truancy, because it was so hard to know who was disengaged due to virtual school. They are ramping back up now. Barriers facing youth that Albert sees: homelessness, inflation, employment, food insecurity, "family responsibilities" that fall to middle or high school students, anxiety, mental health, chemical dependency, family members who keep students from going to school, and more.

Noecker asked if Albert has recommendations about systems barriers that could be addressed to prevent this issue in the first place, and also wanted to confirm that Albert knows about the coaching resources from Family Values for Life. Albert talked about the need for a program for umbrella services all in one place – so people can get everything they need all in one place. Co-location of services would be key. Another issue is funding – that is always an issue. There is a need for stronger attendance monitoring and outreach at each school building, so students don't get to this point. There are attendance matters monitors in schools, who are supposed to be reaching out to students and families after several absences and before they reach the 15-day drop rule. There was a question about how engaged the parents are in the process. Green stated that parents/guardians are the first point contact, since the students are minors. If the parents are not engaged or helpful then Green works directly with the student and involves other parts of the system, as appropriate.

SPCC Administration

The board needs to appoint a nominating committee for slots open for 2023 on the SPCC board, including officers and one community representative to replace Alfreda Flowers who will complete her sixth and final year of service in December.

Motion by Donaby to appoint Noecker, Klebsch, and Flowers to serve as nominating committee for 2023 officers and open positions. Second by Long. Motion approved.

Long is willing to be nominated as Community Rep, Klebsch is willing to be nominated for a second term as Community Rep, so the nominating committee needs fill Alternate Community Rep, plus officers for 2023. All of the current officers are eligible for a second term if they are willing.

SPCC Partner Updates and Ideas for Future Meetings

None

Meeting adjourned 9:54 AM.

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

	Motion 1 - Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – School Linked MH Grant -	Motion 3 – Youth Reps -	Motion 4 – Nominating Committee
Carter	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Donaby	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flowers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Henderson	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Klebsch		Yes	Yes	Yes
Long		Yes	No	Yes
McGuire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mensing (Absent)				
Murphy (Absent)				
Noecker		Yes	Yes	
Prosser (absent)				
Turner		Yes		