

Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting

January 11, 2023

8am – 10 am

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Dana Abrams (virtual), Chauntyll Allen (virtual), December Brakefield, Emmanuel Donaby, Darlene Fry, Angelica Klebsch (virtual), Tonya Long (virtual), Nicolee Mensing, Rena Moran, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Erica Prosser, Jackie Turner, Daisy Vang, Mai Chong Xiong

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators)
Kathy Kimani (SPPS)

Meeting called to order by Donaby at 8:04 am.

Children's Fire

The Children's Fire was lit by Prosser, sharing words from her kids, the words they say as their bedtime prayer – I hope all children have a roof over their head, food in their belly, a safe adult, and a friend to play with.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Minutes from the December 14, 2022, annual meeting and accept the information contained in the December update from Advance Consulting and the December 2022 finance report. Motion to approve by Mensing. Second by Prosser. The roll was called, and the motion was approved.

Welcome to New Members

We have a number of board transitions. Dr. Darlene Fry is our newest Community Rep Alternate, replacing Ms. Alfreda. We have two new County Commissioners, Rena Moran and Mai Chong Xiong, replacing outgoing members Carter and McGuire. Kay Her, one of our youth reps, had to leave the board due to other obligations, so Youth on Boards will share a new nominee once they are trained later this year. If board members have suggestions for youth to participate on Youth on Boards, please share with Laurie or Nicole!

SPCC Focus for 2023

Kathy Kimani from SPPS gave an overview and update on the grant that SPCC made to the Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative for school-linked mental health services. They've had staffing issues with RCCMH capacity to process the referrals and find the right provider, and services are paused (intakes) right now. SPPS has had 48 referrals in this project. It's a more responsive model to family needs. The situation is being addressed and we still feel positive and supportive of the work and continuing the grant and the grant-funded work. There was a question about whether families who present without health insurance are helped with connection to health insurance. There is a meeting coming up this week between the school-linked mental health project and all the involved school district.

The board also discussed the question about if SPCC should consider merging with the other collaboratives due to RCCMHC's challenges to function as an independent entity. Murphy talked about the history of merging the collaboratives, and the same concerns remain – reduction in funding for grants serving youth in Saint Paul, and less focus on Saint Paul youth. The statute seems very clear that two collaborative may combine operations, but it is not a requirement. MartinRogers will follow-up with the state contact (Ann Boerth) to be sure we are interpreting this correctly. Kimani talked about being the lone voice who is focused on Saint Paul kids specifically on the other collaborative boards. There was a question about what percentage of CARES act funding went to mental health vs. to academic support. Turner provided this [breakdown](#). Long brought up the model in place through SPPS Indian Ed called Families of tradition where they use culturally specific talking circles to address issues including mental health and wellness. It was suggested that this group model might be useful for other cultural groups too.

Regarding what to do about the merger of the collaboratives. Long pointed out that nothing has changed since last year, so there is still no reason from SPCC's perspective to combine. Other discussion was that no one is interested in merging operations. Xiong asked for the reasons to merge and one is that the Children's Mental Health Collaborative needs more support than they are getting. There was a question about who is the responsible party for supporting a collaborative in trouble? Is it Ramsey County? Maybe SPCC could form a subcommittee to figure out what type of support we could provide? We need more information – pros and cons, what are the real gaps, and who is best to fill them. The focus MUST be on Saint Paul's young people and families.

Meeting schedule is not going to change – it was impossible to find a better time. We have adjusted the technology for hybrid meetings, and the sound is much better. The group would like to have coffee.

There was a brief discussion about meeting format, including a rotating schedule of types of meetings, so month 1, focus on learning, month 2 focus on planning, and month 3, focus on impact. There was a question about whether the topics in the schedule would relate (learning about topic X, then impact around topic X). We would try to do that.

Director Allen talked about this being a place where systems focused on children can come together to talk about issues impacting youth and families. There is a good foundation in many of the programs happening, but we need to really focus on the young people who are struggling. Focus on shared facilities, focus on sharing information and other resources. One possibility is work groups of staff from various partners to work on solutions. Advance Consulting shared an analysis of how the administrative support hours are spent. Other ideas for topics of focus – quality of out of school time programming. Maximizing use of the facilities in parks and other public building. We need to look and see who is already working on these issues, find places where we have a niche. For example, meeting one could be from the orgs on the ground, meeting two with systems partners, meeting 3

business. Another gap is culturally relevant support around programming, which may help address the lack of engagement. Dr. Fry talked about one of the pieces missing is safety – being safe in getting there, especially. How do we use our resources differently to support young people more robustly. Strong connections are needed, and more focus on emotional and physical safety. Be mindful when you say you don't want to duplicate services, sometimes you need the same services for different cultural groups. Look at the gap of who is NOT attending services that are available. Every quarter, have a topic of focus – meeting one, learn what's happening in community and research. Meeting 2, discussion about how SPCC can act to address the issue. Switch to more action from the board, rather than staff just presenting information.

Partner Updates/Future Meeting Topics

Sprockets is going to move back to Parks and Rec. Shaina Abraham has moved to be Rec Manager for Parks and Rec, and there is a new Right Track program manager (also an internal promotion). They are going to do an employer challenge to try to get more employers for Right Track Youth. There is three years of funding for [athletics](#). There may need to be more push to publicize those opportunities. There was a question about who (demographically, need-wise) is participating. Suggestion that marketing for athletics pop up on SPPS iPads. Idea for getting coaches for Rec sports to move into coaching in the schools.

Meeting adjourned 10:02 AM.

Roll call votes for January 11, 2023 Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting

	Motion 1 - Consent Agenda				
Donaby	Yes				
Fry (Alt)	Yes				
Klebsch	Yes				
Long	Yes				
Mensing	Yes				
Moran	Yes				
Murphy	Yes				
Noecker	Yes				
Prosser	Yes				
Turner	Yes				
Vang	Yes				

Xiong	Yes				
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