

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting

October 11, 2023

8am – 8:30 am

Via Zoom and in person at CAP/RW (450 North Syndicate Street, Wellstone Room)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Emmanuel Donaby, Darlene Fry, Angelica Klebsch, Tonya Long, Nicolee Mensing, Rena Moran, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Erica Prosser, Jackie Turner, Daisy Vang, Mai Chong Xiong
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Dana Abrams, Chauntyll Allen, Gaolia Xiong
STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Dana DeMaster (temporary non-voting Ramsey County staff rep) Pang Vang, Ramsey County fiscal agent Stevenson Morgan, Assistant to Commissioner Moran Rachael Molenaar, Ramsey County
Meeting called to order by Donaby at 8:06 am.	
Children’s Fire	Prosser will light the Children’s Fire next month, as she had a conflict that delayed her getting to the meeting.
Consent Agenda	Motion by Murphy to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2023, meeting and accept the information contained in the September update from Advance Consulting and the September finance report. Second by Xiong. The motion passed.

Staff gave an update on The Man Up Club proposal, which has had some changes since the review team recommended funding. The board asked that we send the revised proposal to the board for action in November.

SPCC Administration

October is the meeting at which the board needs to appoint a nominating committee for 2024. The open positions are only the four officers, as current officers have each served the maximum of two one-year terms.

Motion by Prosser to appoint Donaby, Mensing, Noecker, and Murphy to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2024. Second by Moran. Motion approved.

Mensing is willing to be chair. Moran is willing to be vice chair. Prosser is willing to be secretary. Vang is willing to be treasurer.

October is also when the board is asked to decide whether they would like to revise the by-laws, and if so, to appoint a committee to lead that effort. They did not see a need to do so this year.

Youth Employment

Rachael Molenaar from Ramsey County shared info on work the county is doing around youth employment. Prosser shared information about the City's about Right Track youth employment program, as well. Commissioner Moran commended the County employment staff for their intentionality in outreach to young people with barriers to employment. She shared a number of resources available to young people via the county, including support for obtaining a driver's license. Noecker pointed out that SPPS does not offer drivers education through school. Murphy pointed out that lack of access to drivers' licenses is often linked to later criminal justice involvement. MartinRogers suggested that the City's Office of Financial Empowerment could also help with fines/fees as barriers. Molenaar specifically talked about Power Within Us Resource Sessions. The slides were sent to the board for further review and can be made available upon request.

2024 Legislative Issues

Ignite Afterschool is exploring some changes to the Targeted Services Statute, which was implemented to provide out of school support to at-risk students in K-8, to help them be successful during the school day. The current statute and the direction from Minnesota Department of Education is unclear about how/whether those services can be provided by community partner organizations, or only by

licensed teachers. SPCC grantee Breakthrough Twin Cities worked with SPPS to leverage Targeted Services funding for the district to help support Breakthrough's work at Washington last summer. Tony Walker from SPPS joined the meeting to share the district's perspective on possible changes (outlined in the attachment to the board packet for October). Ignite would like to know if SPCC would support a proposal to make changes to the statute to clarify that community partners can provide the services in a more flexible way. Tony shared that the statewide network is also talking about this issue. It is hard to get teachers to work after school, so there would be benefits to having other staff who could cover out of school time services. SPPS would support having more flexibility in the statute – licensed staff could still take the positions, but other non-licensed staff would also be allowed to serve in those roles, which would increase services to young people. Tony also said that district administrators are very hesitant to ask teachers to commit to out of school and summer work, which creates a desperate need to fund service to youth during those times. Murphy asked if the school board association, Saint Paul Federation of Educators, and Education Minnesota have positions on this. Long asked if the Commissioner of Education for the MDE has a position. She would support the proposal, but would want to hear from the Commissioner first, and would like to see the impact this would have on progress in underserved racial/ethnic groups. Moran said that a strong case has been made for considering changes, and she could support it. She suggested also that part of the case-making is showing how this would benefit cultural and rural communities, reducing disparities. Murphy asked if this will become a debate about access vs. quality, and wondered if we should consult with labor and principals first. Donaby talked about teacher shortage, need to consult with community. Xiong asked if the funding goes through school districts (yes). She thinks more work needs to be done. Moran thinks it would not be dead on arrival at legislature. She said we have to start somewhere and center the students first. Rep. Hassan may be a champion. It does not seem the case that SPPS or other districts are reverting these funds, it's a question of maximizing the funding for eligible students. Prosser talked about the need to have training for the staff providing these services. Murphy also suggested engaging the rural schoolboard association. Also AFSCME would be a good org to consult. Another idea would be including paraprofessionals in any expansion of who could provide the service. Another idea would be to create a pipeline for unlicensed staff who provide Targeted Services to move toward their teaching licensure. The board would like to be invited to the Ignite discussion (Advance Consulting will send that). Murphy asked if the board is willing to hear from SPFE about their thoughts.

Motion by Long to support development of a proposal for expansion of Targeted Services. Second by Prosser. Motion approved.

Murphy gave an update on the Foster Survivor Benefits legislation, which SPCC supports. Currently, 86 of 87 Minnesota counties keep social security survivor benefits to reimburse for foster care benefits. Last session, legislation passed to gather data on how much money is currently being kept by counties. Management Analysis and Development unit at the state will gather that information and report to the legislature. That is supposed to be done by the end of the year. SPCC should ask MAD for an update. New Mexico just passed legislation to end this practice. We should revisit this discussion once the data is available. The Saint Paul Youth Commission is doing strategic planning and is interested in more advocacy work at the legislature. Prosser asked if we could present to Youth Commission on legislative

issues we support, so they could decide what to support. Commissioner Xiong pointed out that her committees at Minnesota Association of Counties has never discussed this. Murphy said it is the Minnesota Association of County Administrators. She also asked if we could solicit support from other collaboratives for Survivor Benefits.

Partner Updates

Tabled due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned 10 am.

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

	Motion 1 - Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – Targeted Services	Motion 3 – Nominating Committee
Allen (absent)			
Donaby	YES	YES	YES
Fry (Alt – voting)	YES	YES	YES
Klebsch	YES	YES	YES
Long	YES	YES	YES
Mensing	YES	YES	YES
Moran	YES	YES	YES
Murphy	YES	YES	YES
Noecker	YES	YES	YES
Prosser	YES	YES	YES
Turner	YES	YES	YES
Vang	YES	YES	YES
Xiong, G (absent)			
Xiong, M	YES	YES	YES