

**Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Annual Board Meeting**

**December 13, 2023**

**8:00am – 10:00am**

**Hybrid (Zoom and in person at CAP/RW Wellstone Room)**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Emmanuel Donaby (virtual), Darlene Fry (virtual), Angelica Klebsch (virtual), Tonya Long (virtual), Nicolee Mensing, Rena Moran (virtual), Hoang Murphy (virtual), Rebecca Noecker (virtual), Jackie Turner (virtual), Daisy Vang, Gaolia Xiong, Mai Chong Xiong (virtual)
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Dana Abrams, Chauntyll Allen, Erica Prosser
<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS PRESENT</b>	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Pang Vang, Ramsey County fiscal agent Stevenson Morgan (Commissioner Moran)
<b>Meeting called to order by Donaby at 8:02 am.</b>	
<b>Children’s Fire</b> Turner lit the Children’s Fire by reading The Season’s Many Lights poem. She talked about the many celebrations important to the many groups in our community. Take some time to watch the lights and learn about what they mean to people in your community.	
<b>Consent Agenda</b>  <b>Motion by Klebsch to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023, meeting and accept the information contained in the November update from Advance Consulting and the November finance report. Second by Commissioner Xiong. Motion passed.</b>	
<b>SPCC Administration</b>	

Fiscal agent Pang Vang walked the board through the draft 2024 budget at the November meeting, and the board needs to take action at the Annual meeting.

**Motion by Turner to approve the 2024 SPCC budget as prepared by the fiscal agent. Second by Fry. Motion approved.**

The Nominating Committee empaneled in October presented a slate of officers for 2024.

**Motion by Commissioner Xiong to appoint the following board members as officers for a one-year term, beginning on January 1, 2024: Mensing as chair, Moran as vice chair, Vang as secretary, and Prosser as treasurer. Second by Vang. Motion approved.**

The Youth Outcomes Plan is scheduled for updating with 2025 release, so the data need to be updated in 2024. Advance Consulting received a bid from Wilder Research (who has done the update since we first adopted the Plan). Note MartinRogers has a conflict, as she works part time at Wilder. The bid is for \$10,500. The amount is in the 2024 draft budget. Xiong suggested that data be disaggregated to subgroups when possible (for example, Asian is so broad and masks differences by subgroup). Another suggestion was to include a measure of mental health. We should explore sources for that data, including possibly surveying mental health providers for qualitative data. Related are data on suicide, and services provided by school. Other ideas are housing, and food insecurity. (Commissioner Xiong said Ramsey County staff member Carissa Dillon did that presentation.) Criteria that we need to consider are keeping the focus directly on young people, and indicators that we can realistically impact, given our scope/budget. There was a discussion about trade-offs and difficult choices that will be faced by SPPS given the budget challenges. We could look at Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative for data on the need/supply of mental health services. We will revisit the goals in the plan in February, and then act on the contact. There was discussion to appoint a subcommittee including Fry, Long, M Xiong, and Vang to work on revising the indicators. Turner will help us get data from SPPS on counseling, ratios, etc.

**Motion by Noecker to appoint a subcommittee of Fry, Long and Mai Chong Xiong to review/revise the Youth Outcomes Plan, second by Murphy. Motion approved.**

Advance Consulting and the incoming/outgoing chair would like to have the January board meeting to conduct necessary business from 8:00-8:30am, then invite all 2024-25 grantees to attend (in person) from 8:45 – 10:00am, to meet the board, each other, and share info about their programs. We'd like as many board members as possible to attend in person. Then we are considering having the February and March meetings be virtual.

### **Request for SPCC Support**

CM Noecker shared a proposal for using SPCC's reserve funds to continue the work we started when we created the blueprint for a citywide early learning fund. The City would like to work with a consultant to develop a detailed budget and business plan for how the funding will roll out over the next 10 years, if it's approved by voters next fall. There is \$34K available in SPCC's unrestricted reserve fund that could be allocated for this purpose. An informal legal opinion shared that the legality of using public funds has to do with gathering/providing information vs. advocating for a proposal. Noecker pointed out that we will have a shortfall in the unrestricted reserve

and asked that we consider increasing provider contributions for the support of the collaborative. She offered to lead a group to ask partners for an increase in support for operation of the collaborative. M Xiong asked about how the program would be implemented, and how can we ensure the program is accessible and accessed by providers. Long asked about how accessible this would be for children with special needs needing child care. Noecker spoke about the conversations that have happened with hundreds of parents and providers over the past couple years about exactly that issue and other issues around families' needs and provider availability. Long asked that children with special needs be moved up on the priority list of young people to serve. MartinRogers talked about the status of the unrestricted fund. Noecker pointed out that the information gathered by MetrixIQ would also have value for the SPCC. Murphy expressed support and asked if other funders have been approached to fund this. Noecker said that Saint Paul Foundation and Sauer Family Foundation have been supportive of this in the past, and she intends to approach them and others for additional costs related to developing this plan. M Xiong said that we need to talk to partners about increasing support. Klebsch expressed support for the PreK program. She also raised the issue of how the SPCC operates and how we use our funding. She pointed out that the PreK program has become highly political issue, so we should consider the use of public money for this purpose, given the narrow scope of the Reserve Policy. There is also a philosophical question about who can bring their own issues to this board for consideration for funding or other support. She also expressed concern about the pending deficit and how we that will be addressed. There is a need for the board to get more "into the work" and we need to have process for making that feel comfortable with that jump. Vang asked about how it works and the politics of requesting more funding from the partners. Fry pointed out that given the number of issues raised are concerning, especially the lack of financial buffer. Noecker asked that the board do things that align with our mission and would not bring anything to this board that didn't align with that. She also expressed a sense of urgency. There is a question about whether we need to amend the Reserve Policy to allow this spending. There was discussion about making the increase in partner contributions relative to their respective budgets. The City and the District expressed possibility for increasing their contributions.

**Motion by Turner to convene a subcommittee to work on increasing partner contributions. Second Noecker. Motion approved.**

**Motion by Turner to allocate \$34,000 of the unrestricted fund to support the contract with MetrixIQ. Second by Noecker. Motion approved.**

Klebesh and Vang said they'd be more comfortable voting on the motion to fund the MetrixIQ proposal if there was clarity about increasing partner contributions.

**Partner Updates**

Vang asked that she be included in events related to advocacy or direct services, so she can learn more about the nonprofit field and careers.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.**

**Roll call votes for December 13, 2023, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Annual Meeting**

	Motion 1 - Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – Budget	Motion 3 – Officers	Motion 4 – Youth Outcomes Plan Subcom.	Motion 5 – Unrestricted funds for Saint Paul PreK
Allen (absent)					
Donaby (departed after motion 3)	YES	YES	YES		
Fry (Alt – voting)	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Klebsch	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Long	YES	YES	YES	YES	ABSTAIN
Mensing	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Moran (departed after motion 4)	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Murphy (departed after motion 4)	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Noecker	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Prosser (absent)					
Turner	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Vang	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Xiong, G	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Xiong, M	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES