

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting

October 9, 2024

8:00am – 10:00am

Hybrid via Zoom and in person at 450 Syndicate Street North, St. Paul

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| BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT | Iyannah Burns, Emmanuel Donaby, Nicolee Mensing, Camila Mercado Michelli, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Erica Valliant, Daisy Vang, Mai Chong Xiong |
| BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT | Dana Abrams, Hannah Corbett, Darlene Fry, Tonya Long, Rena Moran, Erica Prosser, Jackie Turner |
| STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT | Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Ling Becker (Ramsey County Manager) Kathy Kimani (St. Paul Public Schools) Laura Brinkmeier (Head Start) Hanna Getachew-Kreusser (Face to Face) Wendy Goodman (Ramsey County Children’s Mental Health Collaborative) Dana DeMaster (Ramsey County Strategy) Sonia Gass (CAP/RW) Stephany Lopez (Youth on Boards) |
| Meeting called to order by Mensing at 8:06 am. | |
| Children’s Fire | Nicolee Mensing lit the Children’s Fire sharing photos taken at a recent Head Start event focused on celebrating and appreciating the diversity of Head Start children. It’s a great example of what SPCC is trying to support and promote for Saint Paul families. |

Consent Agenda

**Motion by Noecker to approve the minutes from the September 11 board meeting and accept the information contained in the September update from Advance Consulting, as well as the finance reports for September. Second by Murphy.
Motion approved.**

Collaborative Evaluation Proposal by Ramsey County

Based on the questions raised at the September meeting, the board invited Ramsey County Manager Ling Becker to this meeting to share more information about the background, intended outcomes, and process for the proposed evaluation of the three Ramsey County collaboratives. She started by giving some background on Ramsey County's work. A lot of the recent work was focused on family stabilization, especially during/after the pandemic. Becker is also a board member on the Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative. She sees the evaluation as a co-learning opportunity, because the county has a lot of work to do to improve services to young people, as well. The three collaboratives run very differently, in terms of scope, size, and administrative structure. The goal is to compare the current work to the statute and see how we're doing, and how we could do better to support families. Dana DeMaster talked about next steps. Ramsey County is going to pay for the evaluation and manage the evaluation, which will be coordinated by the County's evaluation team. They hope to use an expedited process to contract with an external evaluator using the [CERT](#) program vendors. They are open with regard to the evaluation design – they don't want to prescribe methods. They intend to propose high level evaluation questions and budget, and let the vendor use their expertise on how to approach it. They want the collaboratives involved in selecting the vendor and shaping the evaluation. Two key questions: 1) are collaboratives meeting community needs? and 2) how can Ramsey County better support collaboratives? How much time and work will this take from collaborative staff? They see it as being focused more on the boards than the staff. They'd like recommendations/report by April. There could be a work group of people from all three collaboratives to help set direction. Xiong talked about being on SPCC and RCCMHC boards, along with CAP/RW, and all those boards are seeking information from Ramsey County to guide our work. Murphy talked about the history of trying to change the way collaboratives do their work, which has been very different for each collaborative in the past. When asked about the Ramsey County partner contribution to SPCC for 2025, Becker said it's hard for Ramsey County to give additional funds if there is no co-learning first. There is a specific evaluation question about family resource centers, which is not in statute, and it seems like a pre-determined outcome. Murphy said that any exploration of Family Resource Centers or other specific and new strategies needs to be kept separate from the overall evaluation proposed here. DeMaster said that this is not an outcomes evaluation. It's more looking at our relationship and how we function together. Again, she highlighted the two higher level questions. Becker will go back to commissioners to redraft the evaluation questions to make a firmer commitment about scope. Ramsey County will meet with the other collaboratives, come back with revised evaluation plan. Action from the board can happen after additional info comes from Ramsey County, either through electronic action or at the November meeting.

Youth Outcome Plan: Focus on Mental Health

SPCC grantee Face to Face focuses on providing evidence-based mental health services to young people in Saint Paul. Their Executive Director, Hanna Getachew-Kreusser shared some slides about the services they provide.

Wendy Goodman, Director of the Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative shared some information about the services they provide. They provide care coordination and peer coaching to 452 families (198 from St. Paul). They also do work with providers, offering technical assistance and professional development/training. The information below is from 2023 to today. The needs have increased significantly since then, and there are significant workforce shortages. She focused on the three questions SPCC asked:

- What mental health services are available? Not nearly enough. There are 7-12 month wait lists for various mental health services. Behavior health is the primary reason for out of home placement in Ramsey County.
- What does evidence say is effective? There is a huge range of services available, and the evidence varies by target population (age, race, language, etc.).
- What are the gaps? System coordination is very challenging, especially for families with complex needs and multisystem involvement. Services don't serve the whole family. Chronic absenteeism is a pervasive issue. There are long waiting lists for safety net programs, which has a trickle down impact on mental health of parents and children. There is a lack of services for children with co-occurring disorders. There is a need for more MH providers.

Ramsey County Children's Mental Health is hosting an open meeting on November 22 to share information and will invite SPCC board and others. There is a long wait list for safety net supports. There is a huge gap in emergency assistance, which leads to mental health issues.

Goodman recommends that collaboratives could help by increasing access and reducing barriers. Incent agencies to work with highest need families. Fund non-billable services (care coordination). Fund voucher services for mental health services. Paying for transportation. Culturally-affirming care. Multi-system care planning. Whole family supports, especially for families on wait lists. Psychoeducation for parents. Trainings for mental health professionals and other community staff. Focus on policy to highlight family is the client.

SPCC Administration

The board will act at the December annual meeting to appoint officers for 2025, as well as to fill the community representative alternate position that will be open once Hoang Murphy completes his final year of service this December.

Motion by Donaby to appoint a Nominating Committee including Hoang Murphy and the Executive Committee. Second by Valliant. Motion approved.

SPCC Youth Outcome Plan: Grant Request from Portico

Per the board's action last year, the grant to Portico to increase access for young people to insurance coverage was only for one year, with the board's option to provide another year of funding based on outcomes in 2024. There was a proposal from Portico in the board packet for another \$120K grant. The amount remaining in the 2024 budget for grants is \$86,409, unless the 2024 SPCC budget is amended. Portico exceeded their grant goals for 2024 already.

Motion by Donaby to amend the 2024 SPCC budget and to fully fund the Portico request of \$120,000 for year 2. Second by Valliant. Motion approved.

Partner Updates

Iyannah talked about her North Saint Paul district's new policy for no cell phones in class, which has had really good impact on behavior and social interaction among students.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Roll call votes for October 9, 2024, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting

| | Motion 1 – Consent Agenda | Motion 2 – Nominating committee | Motion 3 – Portico Year 2 Grant |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Burns | YES | YES | YES |
| Donaby | YES | YES | YES |
| Fry (absent) | | | |
| Long (absent) | | | |
| Mensing | YES | YES | YES |
| Mercado Michelli (alt – voting) | YES | YES | YES |
| Moran (absent) | | | |
| Murphy | YES | | |
| Noecker | YES | | |
| Prosser (absent) | | | |
| Turner (absent) | | | |
| Valliant | YES | | |
| Vang | YES | | |
| Xiong | YES | | |