

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting

November 13, 2024

8:00am – 10:00am

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Iyannah Burns, Emmanuel Donaby, Darlene Fry, Tonya Long, Erica Prosser, Jackie Turner, Nicolee Mensing, Camila Mercado Michelli, Hoang Murphy, Rebecca Noecker, Erica Valliant, Daisy Vang, Mai Chong Xiong
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Rena Moran
STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Dana DeMaster, Ramsey County non-voting staff rep (in place of Hannah Corbett) Andrew Lowe, Ramsey County fiscal agent (Absent) Dana Abrams, Saint Paul Public Schools (non-voting rep)
Meeting called to order by Mensing at 8:04 am.	
Children’s Fire Dr. Fry lit the Children’s Fire, sharing that over the last week, she’s been finding strength from her ancestors. She shared a prayer to give hope and understanding on behalf of children in Saint Paul and around the world, asking for adults to nurture them, a community that pours support into young people, and protects them.	
Consent Agenda	

Motion by Noecker to approve the minutes from the October 9 board meeting and accept the information contained in the October update from Advance Consulting, as well as the finance report for October. Second by Murphy. Motion approved.

SPCC Administration

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates, including officers for 2025 and the open Community Representative – Alternate position. Action will be taken at the December Annual Meeting. Zang Vang-Lee is the nominee for community representative-alternate. All current officers are willing and eligible to serve another one-year term.

Andrew Lowe, fiscal agent to the SPCC walked through the draft 2025 budget with the board. Action will be taken at the December Annual Meeting to approve the 2025 SPCC budget. The City's budget will be adopted on December 4, so we will know if our requested partner contribution increase is approved by the City then; SPPS and CAP/RW anticipate approval of their proposed increases. There was discussion about the contributions for administrative support and how those may change pending the evaluation results. There were no changes or edits requested on the draft 2025 budget. There was discussion about whether the SPCC should invoice partners for the amounts the Administrative Support Subcommittee requested from each partner for 2025, or if the Ramsey County amount should be the current amount, rather than the proposed increase, since they have stated they will not pay the higher amount this year. The vote on invoicing partners for administrative support for 2025 was tabled until December, so that we have more information about partners' official approval on the requested amounts.

Between the October board meeting and this meeting, the Executive Committee recommended and the board approved a motion (via email, recorded votes included in the summary below) to extend the current contract with Advance Consulting LLC to provide administrative support for the SPCC for one additional year, in order to allow them to participate in the Collaborative Evaluation and to allow the board to release an RFP in 2025 that more accurately represents the direction proposed by that Evaluation, and with enough time to select a new consultant before the current consultant's contract expires to allow for smooth transition.

Each year at this time, the board is required to vote on whether or not to appoint a subcommittee to revise the SPCC bylaws. The board did not take action to establish a bylaw review committee.

The board discussed shifting to a virtual-only meeting format for January through March, to minimize winter weather challenges to meeting participation. There was discussion of keeping the in-person option going forward, knowing that if there is winter weather challenge, folks will switch to virtual.

Ramsey County Collaborative Evaluation Proposal

In response to the discussion with the SPCC board in October, County Manager Ling Becker and her team at Ramsey County shared an updated proposal for the Collaborative evaluation and co-learning project, which was emailed to board members when it was received and included in the November board packet. The County is asking for the SPCC to officially participate in the project. There was a question by Turner whether partners would be expected to participate. DeMaster said that the evaluation contractor will determine how to engage Collaborative partners and board members and staff, based on their proposed approach. The County would like to gather information from as many partners as possible. Murphy voiced support for the SPCC's participation in the evaluation but had to leave before the official vote.

Motion by Xiong to have SPCC participate in the evaluation. Second by Turner. Motion approved.

SPCC Youth Outcomes Plan: Focus on Mental Health

For the past two months, the board has learned from experts in the community about mental health outcomes, services, and needs for children and families in Saint Paul. Advance Consulting drafted some notes about potential outcome measures, based on those conversations. At this meeting, the focus is on what to do in response to what SPCC learned about mental health. Turner suggested that the SPCC again provide targeted amount of funding in the next RFP specific to mental health services. She suggested an amount or percentage, so that we don't overstep into the scope of the Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative, and also don't end up depleting other community service funding. There was discussion about having a comprehensive definition of mental health, including youth development, out of school time, culturally specific programs and culturally-based healing and wellness activities, and other opportunities that fit the wide range of needs and preferences of young people in the community. MartinRogers shared the summary document on mental health outcomes, and how our community tracks the need and outcomes. Turner said that SPPS will participate in the Minnesota Student Survey next time. MartinRogers said that we'd need to wait until the next Minnesota Student Survey results to have reporting on mental health outcomes, once SPPS participates. Fry asked about a focus group of our grantees' young people to get a sense of mental health. Long talked about the indicators/measurement being more challenging, and while youth voice is critical, we'd also need to hear from caregivers. She said that public health incorporates mental health and many other outcomes. Michelli talked about using cultural healing hubs as being a source of mental health support. She also talked about sense of belonging as a key indicator. Prosser talked about including Sprockets in a potential Subcommittee, given their perspective on how community organizations are evaluating youth well-being. Generation Next is trying to do more about indicators, and should also be included in the discussion.

Motion by Long to create a Youth Mental Health Indicator Subcommittee to include Long as leader, plus Mercado Michelli, Burns, Fry, and Prosser to bring a recommendation back to the board for a mental health indicator for the board. Second by Burns. Motion approved.

Hallie Q. Brown grant

The board has been hearing for several months about the challenges at Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, including at their early childhood program which had received a 2024-25 grant from SPCC. Their report on 2024 activities/outcomes and their proposal for potential ongoing funding for 2025 was included in the November board packet. Advance Consulting is recommending the board take action to either allow the program to access the 2025 funding OR to stop the grant now, as the 2024 funding has been used. Fry talked about the services that Hallie Q. Brown has provided to the African American community for many years. If the board wanted to continue this support, we'd need to ask them for a revised proposal/work plan for the December meeting. Turner expressed support for asking Hallie Q. Brown for a new proposal and offered support from SPPS to their Executive Director to prepare a revised proposal. Mensing also offered support form Head Start.

Motion by Long to ask Hallie Q. Brown for a revised proposal for 2025 and provide technical assistance to them in preparing that proposal. Second by Fry. Motion approved.

Partner updates

Fry said there is an art sale featuring African American artists, established and emerging, this Saturday 11-5 at the 643 Virginia Street (Black Youth Healing Art Center).

Turner gave an update on the Superintendent search for SPPS. Applications closed on November 5. A total of 14-20 people applied. The search firm is narrowing that down to about seven candidates to interview by committee (board, parents, union, principals, and students) on December 3 and 4. On December 6, the committee will recommend 3 finalists to be interviewed publicly the week before Christmas. Contract negotiations will happen over winter break and name a finalist for the January meeting. Turner would like to recommend an SPCC representative sit on that committee.

The Saint Paul Early Childhood measure did not pass on election day.

Kelly Miller from Interfaith Action/American Indian Youth Enrichment Program won the election to become the first Native American Ramsey County Commissioner, although the race will go to recount.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Roll call votes for online vote and November 13, 2024, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting

	Electronic Vote: Admin Support*	Motion 1 – Consent Agenda	Motion 2 - Evaluation	Motion 3 – Hallie Q. Brown
Burns	YES	YES	YES	YES
Donaby	YES	YES	YES	
Fry	YES	YES	YES	YES
Long	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mensing	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mercado Michelli (alt – voting)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Moran (absent)	YES			
Murphy	YES	YES	YES	
Noecker	YES	YES	YES	
Prosser	YES	YES	YES	YES
Turner	YES	YES	YES	YES
Valliant			YES	
Vang	YES	YES	YES	
Xiong	YES	YES	YES	

***Electronic motion on 10/22:** Pull the RFP and do a contract extension with Advance Consulting for one year of additional admin support.