

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting

January 8, 2025

8:00am – 10:00am

Virtual Only Via Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Emmanuel Donaby, Darlene Fry, Tonya Long, Nicolee Mensing, Camila Mercado Michelli, Rena Moran, Rebecca Noecker, Erica Prosser, Jackie Turner, Daisy Vang, Zang Vang-Lee, Mai Chong Xiong
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Iyannah Burns, Erica Valliant
STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Andrew Lowe, Ramsey County fiscal agent Allison Liuzzi, Wilder Research (absent) Dana DeMaster, Ramsey County non-voting staff rep (in place of Hannah Corbett) (absent) Dana Abrams, Saint Paul Public Schools (non-voting rep)
Meeting called to order by Mensing at 8:00 am.	
Children’s Fire Emmanuel Donaby will light the Children’s Fire in February.	

Consent Agenda

Motion by Prosser to approve the minutes from the December 11 board meeting and accept the information contained in the December update from Advance Consulting, as well as the finance report for December. Second by Turner. Motion approved.

Youth Outcomes Plan

2025 Update

Allison Liuzzi from Wilder Research shared the new update on the Youth Outcomes Plan data. Key theme – we are not where we want to be on any of these indicators – much room for improvement. Progress is stagnating or regressing on our goals. (The presentation will be finalized and posted on the Youth Outcomes Plan section of the SPCC website.). On the 3rd grade reading goal, Commissioner Moran asked about why these outcomes are so terrible. Part of it is related to how reading is taught to young people, which is changing in Minnesota, and for SPPS as well. The board is interested in learning more about this topic. Turner also shared this [resource](#). Could we get the racial categories more disaggregated? Allison pointed out, on health coverage, movement to enroll children from 138-399% of poverty would have real impact, since those families may earn too much to be eligible for public insurance but may not have employer-provided benefits or be able to afford health insurance on the marketplace. Noecker asked if we could see 12-year trends on these indicators, knowing that the few years during the pandemic may cause a blip. Allison said yes, for some indicators, but some of the specific measures have changed over time (e.g., when the MCA-II was stopped and the MCA-III started).

Mental Health Indicator

MartinRogers shared the recommendation from the SPCC’s mental health indicator subcommittee for a new Youth Outcomes Plan indicator related to young people’s mental health. The group met three times and now has a recommendation for our next update of the Plan. The Plan is used to guide our grant making and other work. Long shared the recommendation from the subcommittee. The group talked about clinical vs. non-clinical indicators, culture, and the hope that we don’t conflict with the work of the Ramsey County Children’s Mental Health Collaborative. “Positive identity” and “social competence” are the two recommended scale scores from the MN Student Survey that the subcommittee recommends adding as indicators to the SPCC Youth Outcomes Plan. The SPCC board has been told by Turner in previous meetings that Saint Paul Public Schools will participate in the 2025 MN Student Survey.

Motion by Noecker to add the goals of social competence and positive identity to the Youth Outcomes Plan. Second by Vang. Motion approved.

There is additional information that the subcommittee received from Saint Paul Public Schools on IEP data, and the subcommittee is interested in discussing this information at a future meeting. Noecker suggested that there is much more discussion to be had about the Youth Outcomes Plan data update. The data tell us what's going on, but not why. That is a really critical question for the SPCC. We need to use this data to think about where we want to focus and how to move the needle. Noecker asked if we could make this same presentation to the City Council and the County Board. Fry pointed out SPCC may want to use this information to more narrowly focus our grant making. We also need to think about what we want our funded organizations to do differently to move the needle. Long thanked Turner for her candor on how SPPS was teaching reading was not working, and that they are changing that. Moran asked about our grantees and whether they are working on supporting parents and caregivers. Vang-Lee talked about her organization (Hmong Early Childhood Coalition) is doing that work with family friend and neighbor (FFN) caregivers. Xiong talked about the fact that despite all our efforts, we are not moving the needle at a population level. The board agreed to take a step back, process this information, and have it inform our next steps this year. Expect more discussion at future meetings.

SPCC Administration

The board was asked to submit updated Conflict of Interest forms to Davis via email.

At the December annual meeting, the board neglected to take action to nominate Donaby to a second three-year term as Community Representative.

Motion by Fry to nominate Emmanuel Donaby to a second three-year term as Community Representative. Second by Noecker. Motion approved.

The administrative support subcommittee empaneled in 2024 is still operating and will need to continue their work in 2025. That subcommittee includes Mensing, Long, D. Vang, Prosser, and Moran. Their work will include handling the Request for Proposal process for administrative support for the period 2026 – 2030. According to the Administrative Support process and timeline the board typically uses, there would be surveys sent to grantees and other partners, and Advance Consulting would also prepare a summary of the past year's accomplishments for the subcommittee to use in evaluating their performance. Given the Collaborative Evaluation currently underway through Ramsey County, Mensing and Advance Consulting proposed not doing those activities this year, since they may duplicate the Collaborative Evaluation activities. Also, since Advance Consulting's contract will expire at the end of 2025, and they will need to participate in the Request for Proposals and subsequent selection process if they'd like to continue.

Motion by Xiong to not conduct the usual biannual survey or administrative consultant review in 2025 given the Collaborative Evaluation project's overlapping scope and the end of the Advance Consulting contract in 2025. Second by Noecker. Motion approved.

Learn, Grow, Thrive Grant Update

Advance Consulting provided an update in this month's board packet on the Hallie Q. Brown and Reading Partners grants, including a recommendation to hold the Year 2 payment to Hallie Q. Brown until such time as they submit a proposal on how they'd use the funds, per discussions with their Executive Director.

Based on discussions with Reading Partners, there was mutual agreement to forfeit their Year 2 funds.

No board action is needed for either of these recommendations. The board did not voice any questions or concerns, and the board supports the proposed path forward.

Partner updates

Dr. Stacy Stanley was selected as the new Superintendent of Saint Paul Public Schools.

Vang asked about bags for professionals. Noecker suggested that is an awesome question for Youth on Boards, in addition to the many recommendations from the board. She has two new internships, at the Attorney General's Office and Citizen's League. Much discussion was held.

Long shared that there was a MN Public Utilities Commission meeting yesterday to stop the pipeline from being built near Pipestone, which would violate that sacred Dakota site.

MartinRogers shared our grantee Department of Indian Work American Indian Youth Enrichment Program just had to let their Director Kelly Miller go, but she was inaugurated yesterday as the first Native American Commissioner for Ramsey County's Board.

Mercado-Michelli asked about resources for immigrants looking for advice and support regarding potential ICE actions and helping folks know their rights in those situations.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.

Roll call votes for online vote and January 8, 2025, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting

	Motion 1 – Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – Community Rep Term 2 for Donaby	Motion 3 – Mental Health Outcome	Motion 4 – Admin Spt Process for 2025
Burns (absent)				
Donaby	YES	YES	(left early)	(left early)
Fry	YES	YES	YES	YES
Long	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mensing	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mercado Michelli	(arrived late)	(arrived late)	YES	YES
Moran	YES	YES	YES	YES
Noecker	YES	YES	YES	YES
Prosser	YES	YES	YES	YES
Turner	YES	YES	(left early)	(left early)
Valliant (absent)				
Vang	YES	YES	YES	YES
Vang-Lee (alt – voting)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Xiong	YES	YES	YES	YES

