

Saint Paul Children’s Collaborative Board Meeting

February 12, 2025

8:00am – 10:00am

Virtual Only Via Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Iyannah Burns, 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	Erica Valliant
STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Hannah Corbett, Ramsey County non-voting staff rep (absent) Dana Abrams, Saint Paul Public Schools (non-voting rep) Erin Flicek, Guest Public Health Student
Meeting called to order by Mensing at 8:00 am.	
Children’s Fire	
Emmanuel Donaby lit the Children’s Fire with some inspiration about what we can learn from setbacks.	
<i>Quick Reminder: Setbacks teach us lessons we can’t learn from winning. There’s a deeper appreciation for the journey when you overcome setback after setback and still rise above it.</i>	
We are either in a storm, out of s storm, or just heading into a storm – we need to embrace challenges because they are inevitable.	

Consent Agenda

Motion by Noecker to approve the minutes from the January 8 board meeting and accept the information contained in the January update from Advance Consulting, as well as the finance reports for 2024 year end and January 2025. Second by Prosser. Motion approved.

Learn, Grow, Thrive Grants & Youth Outcomes Plan

Advance Consulting received and summarized the Year 1 reports from grantees and shared that summary with the board in this month's board packet. There was discussion about some of the themes. Many of our grantees are doing activities and reporting on indicators related to our new mental health goals. Common challenges across grantees include transportation, connections to and communication with schools in one way or another, engaging parents, social/emotion and mental health needs, staff retention. Commissioner Moran asked what we do when grantees don't achieve all their goals. We try to work closely with them and understand why they missed their targets. Dr. Fry asked about grantees stating outcomes but then not having data showing progress – should we change our reporting requirements to be narrower, and stop having those listed as outcomes to make things more streamlined for all?

This is the time of year SPCC starts preparing for the next Request for Proposals. There was discussion about how to focus that RFP, given the Youth Outcome Plan data update and the progress reported by current grantees. Commissioner Xiong talked about us needing to create the environment for young people to thrive and we need to support whole families. Parents are struggling right now to support their kids in the ways they'd like to. She used the example of the Economic Mobility Hub for American Indians and Family Values for Life, which are both doing family coaching and providing basic support to families. We can go deeper with young people in child protection and involved with juvenile corrections. Xiong asked if we could learn more about what it would take to support whole families – models that are out there – family coaching, hubs, other collaboratives. MartinRogers mentioned the Family Resource Center model which is being explored or implemented by several other Family Services Collaboratives in Minnesota right now with funding from Sauer Family Foundation. The board would like to learn more about those models and maybe have a subcommittee to explore that, including changes to RFP. It could be increased focus on family involvement without changing the whole RFP. There could also be a shift toward focusing on younger children. SPCC may also want to emphasize parent engagement, although sometimes families can't or won't participate.

Motion by Xiong to create an RFP subcommittee to review the RFP, look deeper at the Young Outcome Plan, look at whole family approaches and models, and the history of SPCC and others funding more collaborative/partnership approaches. Subcommittee to including Xiong, Long, Mensing, Moran. Second by Noecker. Motion approved.

Legislative Agenda 2025

Our partner Ignite Afterschool, along with representatives from multiple districts including Saint Paul Public Schools, has a legislative proposal to change the Extended Time Learning funding stream available to districts. The proposal was included in the board packet. Initial scoring of the proposal using the SPCC policy rubric indicated it's a great fit for SPCC and the board was asked to endorse the proposal. Turner pointed out that the funding for Extended Time has been flat for 20 years, which is part of the motivation for SPCC supporting this proposal.

Motion by Turner to support the Extended Time Learning proposal. Second by Long. Motion approved.

SPCC Administration

Thanks to all who submitted their conflict of interest forms.

Stephany from Youth on Boards shared their recruiting flyer for the upcoming summer (in board packet). While SPCC does not need a new youth board member this cycle, we still encourage board members to help spread the word about this great program, particularly if there are young people you'd eventually see as good fits for our board! Youth must be 15 years old by June 1st and must live in Saint Paul, and meet Right Track eligibility. There was a question about whether the young need a social security number.

In the board packet, Advance Consulting included the final scope of work for ACET Consulting, who will be conducting the tri-collaborative evaluation. At some point in the next month or so, we'll be seeking board members to participate in the evaluation interview with ACET.

Board member updates

Turner shared the update on the new Superintendent, who will come to Saint Paul in mid-May. There will be a community reception in May or June.

Mensing shared that Head Start is primarily federally funded (75%). The recent executive order made it very murky how all Head Start and CAP/RW programs would be impacted. There was some delay in federal funding (reimbursement), but it is now continuing as normal. There was direction to federal agencies to answer questions regarding alignment with specific policies of the administration. The continuing funding resolution expires on March 14. They have a process in place for staff response to ICE enforcement, knowing they need to comply. The Safe Haven provision has been removed by executive order. Staff are being trained on how to respond within the law. Long pointed out that children need to feel safe. Cami shared that Unidos MN is doing great work in helping folks know their rights.

Long is part of the POST advisory board. Some of those members have attorneys to help parents make plans for their children in the case of immigration action against the parents.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.

Roll call votes for online vote and February 12, 2025, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Meeting

	Motion 1 – Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – RFP Subcommittee	Motion 3 – Extended Time Learning Proposal Support
Burns	(arrived late)	YES	YES
Donaby	YES	YES	YES
Fry	YES	abstain	YES
Long	YES	YES	YES
Mensing	YES	YES	YES
Mercado Michelli	(arrived late)	YES	YES
Moran	YES	(gone for vote)	(gone for vote)
Noecker	YES	YES	(gone for vote)
Prosser	YES	YES	YES
Turner	YES	YES	YES
Valliant (absent)			
Vang	YES	NO	YES
Vang-Lee (alt – voting)	YES	YES	YES
Xiong	YES	YES	YES