

Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting
May 29, 2025

1:30 pm - 2pm
Virtual Only Via Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Emmanuel Donaby, Darlene Fry, Tonya Long, Nicolee Mensing, Camila Mercado Michelli, Rena Moran, Rebecca Noecker, Jackie Turner, Daisy Vang, Zang Vang-Lee
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	Iyannah Burns, Erica Prosser, Erica Valliant, Mai Chong Xiong
STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT	Nicole MartinRogers, Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Hannah Corbett, Ramsey County non-voting staff rep Winona Yang, aide to Commissioner Xiong Andrew Lowe, Ramsey County (fiscal agent) (absent) Dana Abrams, Saint Paul Public Schools (non-voting rep)
Meeting called to order by Mensing at 1:31 pm.	
Learn, Grow, Thrive Grants The meeting was called after email discussion about how to handle the federal funding cuts impacting summer programming at SPCC grantee Breakthrough Twin Cities. Background material was sent in advance. An email was sent to all grantees prior to this meeting and none reported similar loss of federal funding at this point. Long pointed out that the recently released RFP added a focus on two generation programming. Breakthrough is not addressing that in their programming, but Long does support their programming. There was also discussion about whether Breakthrough had an emergency plan for this type of shortfall. Donaby talked about the risk of dipping into SPCC's reserve funds or jeopardizing future funding but also	

expressed support for the program. Moran said the SPCC has been very supportive and strategic in investing in community organizations. At this moment, many other nonprofits may lose money. We need to have a plan for how to handle those issues. She reminded the board that we decided in March to invest in two-generation approaches. She suggested we need a process for dealing with these kinds of shortfalls in a more comprehensive way. Commissioner Moran said she spoke to Commissioner Xiong, who is aligned with her on the two-generation approach. Turner will support whatever the board decides to do, however, she pointed out that for Breakthrough, the timing is particularly challenging – it will impact programming for summer of 2025. Breakthrough has already set up programming, hired staff, accepted students, and the program is supposed to start in mid-June. Noecker talked about supporting current grantees and avoiding harm to students. We've done our due diligence already with this organization, and she asked why we would hold back money we have available. We are in very uncertain times, and we don't know which organization will be next in this position. Dr. Fry talked about needing equity in how we allocate resources. We could support Breakthrough and also establish a process for helping other grantees who end up with similar problems. Turner talked about meeting with Breakthrough to explore ways to help with efficiency in their operational expenses, including transportation. Moran asked if Breakthrough knows about Metro Transit passes.

Motion by Long to create a process for dealing with current grantee shortfalls and look at what funding is available for those shortfalls, to bring back to the board in June. Second by Donaby. Motion approved.

Discussion by Noecker that we could use some funds right now to leverage with other funders, perhaps as a challenge/matching grant. Moran talked about seconding the need for equitable funding. Mercado Michelli said she hopes we find a way to support Breakthrough without disrupting their program, which would impact children and their families. Donaby agreed with Noecker's sense of urgency. Dr. Fry talked about working with Breakthrough to figure out how to scale back the program. The District might be able to help with the transportation vendor, to help Breakthrough with timing of payments or efficiency in routes. As always, any SPCC funding must be limited to Saint Paul sites and must be spent in compliance with our LCTS Spending Policy.

Motion by Noecker to authorize SPCC staff to provide up to \$50,000 and other in-kind assistance to Breakthrough to support them in how is most useful to them for summer programming, including to leverage other support from SPCC partners. Second by Donaby. Motion approved.

What is the current restricted reserve? Lowe says currently the reserve is \$2.4M, with three more quarters of earnings coming before the end of the year, and our reserve policy says we need to keep two quarters of earnings (\$500,000) in reserve.

Turner said she's willing to meet with Breakthrough to help them reduce expenses. The following people volunteered to be part of a subcommittee to propose a process for addressing grantee shortfalls going forward: Long, Donaby, Lowe and Vang.

Advance Consulting notified the board that several news articles shared with the board indicate that the New Vision Foundation, a current SPCC grantee, is being investigated for fraud related to serving meals to children as part of the Feeding Our Future case. We shared that information with Ramsey County, and they have set up a meeting with the CEO of New Vision. Ramsey County has other grants/contracts with New Vision. Advance Consulting shared information about the SPCC grant to New Vision with Ramsey County.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.

Roll call votes for May 29, 2025, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Special Meeting

	Motion 1 – Shortfall Process	Motion 2 – Breakthrough amendment
Burns (absent)		
Donaby	YES	YES
Fry	ABSTAIN	YES
Long	YES	NO
Mensing	YES	YES
Mercado Michelli (gone for voting)		
Moran	YES	ABSENT
Noecker	YES	YES
Prosser (absent)		
Turner	YES	YES
Valliant (absent)		
Vang	YES	YES
Vang-Lee	YES	ABSENT
Xiong (absent)		