

**Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting**

**October 8, 2025**

**8 am – 10 am**

**Virtual Only Via Zoom**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Emmanuel Donaby, Darlene Fry, Tonya Long, Nicolee Mensing, Jackie Turner, Daisy Vang, Zang Vang-Lee, Erica Valliant
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Iyannah Burns, Camila Mercado Michelli, Erica Prosser, Rena Moran, Rebecca Noecker, Mai Chong Xiong
<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS PRESENT</b>	Nicole MartinRogers & Laurie Davis (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinators) Hannah Corbett, Ramsey County non-voting staff rep Andrew Lowe, Ramsey County (fiscal agent) (absent) Dana Abrams, Saint Paul Public Schools (non-voting rep)
<b>Meeting called to order by Mensing at 8:03 am.</b>	
<b>Children's Fire</b> Turner lit the Children's Fire with a reading about the power of connection to build stronger communities. She shared that SPCC is a group that consistently makes a difference, is intentional in our work, and builds community.	
<b>Consent Agenda</b>  <b>Motion by Turner to approve the minutes from the September 10 meeting and accept the information in the September update from Advance Consulting and the September 2025 finance report. Second by Fry. Motion approved.</b>	

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## SPCC Administration

Ramsey County Manager Ling Becker shared a follow-up request with the SPCC board (included in board packet), seeking members for a tri-collaborative work group. Advance Consulting recommends that three people from SPCC participate – MartinRogers or Davis from Advance Consulting, someone from the new administrative support contractor, and one board member.

**Motion by Long to appoint a subcommittee to include Advance Consulting, the new admin consultant, and Long to represent SPCC on the tri-collaborative work group. Second by Valliant. Motion approved.**

SPCC needs to appoint a Nominating Subcommittee to recommend officers and nominees for 2026 (roster attached to board packet).

**Motion by Mensing to appoint Mensing and Fry as the nominating committee. Second by Long. Motion approved.**

At this time each year, the board needs to act on whether to appoint a By-laws Revision Subcommittee (current by-laws were attached to the board packet). Advance Consulting is not aware of any necessary updates. There was discussion that changes may be necessary after the tri-collaborative work group is complete, and the board could appoint a subcommittee at that time.

**Motion by Turner to not change the bylaws at this point. Second by Long. Motion approved.**

The Administrative Support Subcommittee has been working on the review process for a new administrative support vendor. The group includes Mensing, Long, and community member Robert McClain. Fiscal agent Andrew Lowe and Ramsey County procurement specialist Paul Carlson, along with Davis have been providing assistance and technical support/review. MartinRogers has a conflict and has not participated in any part of the review process. Eight proposals were received. The top scoring proposal had a conflict of interest, and Ramsey County has advised disqualifying that vendor, but that has not been communicated to the applicant yet. Long shared her perspective that the conflict is not disqualifying if the SPCC board can be given confidence that the vendor can appropriately mitigate the conflict within their own organization. Fry suggested that the SPCC board could provide additional oversight to mitigate the specific conflict, should the applicant with the conflict be selected as the new admin support contractor. Fry also talked about giving new organizations a chance at the contract. The review team has scheduled interviews this week with the next two highest scoring applicants. Ramsey County cannot offer legal advice to SPCC, and they would recommend SPCC gets legal advice before proceeding without disqualifying the vendor. Turner pointed out that many board members have conflicts across SPCC's portfolio and we manage those conflicts by disclosing them. Long pointed out the board makes decisions for the SPCC and it's the board's decision about seeking more legal advice. Long talked about how the top scoring bidder really "got" the work of SPCC as evidenced by what they wrote in their proposal. Long asked – is the board comfortable interviewing all three of the top scoring firms? And there was discussion about hiring a

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lawyer to review the potential conflict and the procedures for managing conflict. Valliant said she does agree it is a conflict and believes the board would need to take steps to mitigate.

**Motion by Turner to interview all three of the top scoring applicants. Motion amended by Fry to secure legal counsel now to advise on conflict of interest issue generally. Second by Fry. Motion approved.**

The community board representative on the administrative support subcommittee (Long) and the community representative (McClain) will spend approximately eight hours on the process (reading/scoring proposals, participating in interviews, and attending review team meetings). The current stipend rate for SPCC is \$50/hour.

**Motion by Mensing to provide stipends of \$400 to community members participating in the administrative support subcommittee. Second by Jackie. Motion approved. Long abstained.**

The 2026 SPCC budget planning process is also beginning this month. To prepare, Advance Consulting asked if the four partner organizations responsible for funding the operation of the Collaborative anticipate any changes to their contribution levels from this year (CAP/RW at \$11K, City of Saint Paul at \$20K, Ramsey County at \$50K, and Saint Paul Public Schools at \$70K). Note that the subcommittee convened in 2024 had recommended that the City of Saint Paul's contribution increase to \$35K and Ramsey County increase to \$70K, neither of which happened for 2025. Lowe advised that we should build the budget on what we know, which is the minimum required by the JPA.

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#### **2026-27 Learn, Grow, Thrive Grants: Special RFP**

The Subcommittee charged with developing a new RFP focused specifically on young people being safe/free from abuse/neglect drafted an RFP (included in the board packet).

**Motion by Turner to release the RFP as recommended by the subcommittee. Second by Long. Motion approved.**

There is an existing, trained subcommittee that reviewed the proposals from the last RFP, and there was discussion about continuing with that subcommittee if they are available, and provide them with stipends based on the amount of work involved. Long pointed out that a two-generation approach is required in this RFP. MartinRogers asked Corbett and other County colleagues to share the RFP. Corbett will also serve as informal reviewer.

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**Motion by Fry continue with the Learn, Grow, Thrive review committee to review proposals and make recommendations to the board on the special RFP, and to allocate \$50/hour for stipends for the review team. Second by Turner. Motion approved. Long and Vang abstained.**

#### **SPPS Referendum**

Turner shared a presentation on the upcoming operating levy referendum. There have been reductions at the federal level and state/federal funding is not keeping up with inflation.

#### **Board Updates**

Daisy Vang just got elected to her local community council and is excited about the opportunity!

Stephany from Youth on Boards is leaving her position. She's been great in that job, and we will all miss her!

Long shared that Monday is Indigenous Peoples Day. There is an event at AIMS, and all are welcome! She shared our Youth Outcome Plan data with lots of people, to try to bring attention to disparities in outcomes. She also promoted the Johnson-O'Malley writing program and contest.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.**

## **Roll call votes for October 8, 2025, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting**