



**Spark NH Vision:** All New Hampshire children and their families are healthy, learning, and thriving now and in the future.

**Spark NH Mission:** Provide leadership that promotes a comprehensive, coordinated, sustainable early childhood system that achieves positive outcomes for young children and families, investing in a solid future for the Granite State.

## **Director's Report December 14, 2017**

### Annual Report to the Governor

As some of you will remember, the Executive Order that created Spark NH requires that we make an annual report to the governor. I neglected to send it to you for our October meeting so I am including it in materials for December. I find it gratifying to review our accomplishments of the past year and hope you will too.

### Spark NH Communications and Public Awareness – Your Help

As you know, much of the work of Spark NH is focused on helping people to understand the science of child development so that they will support investment in early childhood. We do this primarily through our “Children: The Bedrock of the Granite State” (Bedrock) presentation which we have been working on bringing to leadership groups throughout the state. You’ll see in our report to the governor that from October 1 2016 to September 30 2017 we presented 24 times to 498 New Hampshire leaders. While this was valuable, we are always looking to bring the presentation to more diverse audiences.

Part of your role as a Council member is to help to connect us to the constituency you represent on the Council. This includes bringing information about and on behalf of your constituency to the Council and bringing information about Spark NH to them. It also could include bringing the Bedrock presentation to your co-workers, your organization’s meetings, gatherings of professionals that you are a part of, Rotary Clubs or other clubs or organizations of which you are a member. Everyone in the state should care about early childhood and you can help to make that happen! If you have a connection to a group to whom we should present, please let me or Katie know.

### Law Enforcement Symposium

On November 8, Spark NH collaborated with NH Department of Safety, the NH Department of Corrections and Police Standards and Training on an event for law enforcement about the importance of the early years. Approximately 60 members of the law enforcement community attended. Spark NH did the Bedrock presentation, then the Department of Corrections asked a parolee to speak about his own experiences that highlighted the need for support early in children’s lives, then a panel from Manchester spoke about the ACERT (Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team) and about trauma informed training for law enforcement. The event was well received. Many audience members left wanting to bring trauma-informed training and ACERT to their own departments and the hosts are talking about making this an annual event.