



### **Spark NH Executive Committee Meeting**

Two Delta Drive, Concord, NH  
July 27, 2017 from 9:00 – 11:00 am  
Meeting Summary

**Attendance:** Erin Boylan, Katie Brissette, Jackie Cowell, Ruth Littlefield, Laura Milliken, and Debra Nelson.  
**Minutes Recorder:** Katie Brissette

#### **1. Review June Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

There were a few edits made to the meeting summary. The committee reached consensus to approve the summary as amended.

#### **2. June Council Meeting**

The meeting went well. Ashley Jerome, a parent who attended with Erin Boylan, had a good experience. People were satisfied with the process of welcoming the public at the beginning and adding asterisks on the agenda items that call for consensus. Members of the public will be asked to introduce themselves at the beginning of Council meeting so members know who's in the room.

#### **3. Spark NH Budget**

Spark NH will be applying to the NH Charitable Foundation for a \$25,000 operating grant. The application is due next month and it will likely be decided on in September.

#### **4. Spark NH Membership and Officers**

Mike Vlacich, President and CEO at NH College and University Council, has agreed to join the Council. Dr. Ardis Olsen is joining as the representative of the NH Pediatric Society. Christina LaChance will be the new philanthropic representative. Kim Firth will remain on the committees and hopefully attend Council members as a member of the public. Senator Jeb Bradley will be asked to join the Council. If he is unable to we will ask Senator John Regan or Senator Chuck Morse.

#### **5. Strategic Planning and Staff Work Plan**

The new work plans will begin in September or October.

#### **6. August Council Meeting Agenda**

The August Council Meeting agenda was finalized.

#### **7. Family Engagement Meeting Recommendations**

The Executive Committee reviewed the notes and recommendations that came out of the Family Engagement Meeting in May. The whip-share in the second strategy will be removed. The third strategy will be removed as it doesn't fit within family engagement work. The Evaluation Committee will be asked to develop an evaluation plan to measure the extent to which we are

meeting the family engagement strategies. The results will be used to improve engagement where necessary. The proposed strategies will be shared with Julie Day and Michelle Lewis before they go to the Council. At the Council meeting Laura will frame the discussion and ask Michelle and Julie to contribute. Notes will be sent around ahead of the meeting and consensus will be called for. Once the strategies have been agreed upon we will operationalize them at a future Chairs meeting.

**8. Report to Governor**

Laura has started to draft the report which is due in October. It will be a similar format as last year with updates and accomplishments. She will get a draft to the Executive Committee by mid-September for review. The Committee also discussed the "Collective Vision on Early Childhood Education" meeting that the Governor and First Lady are hosting on August 17.

**9. Update on ESSA Task Force**

No update at this time.

**10. Update on Pyramid Model**

Up to five Community of Practice members will have an opportunity to do a community level project to work on readiness for implementing the Pyramid Model. They will need to engage early learning leaders from their region in this work. Two introductory webinars will be scheduled. Once we know who is applying, an application will be created. Then facilitators are identified. Ruth would like to work with Laura on this since ISocial communities may be a great group to start with. The State Leadership Team has begun drafting a 5 year action plan.

**11. Update on Vroom**

The Mind in the Making Institute has been completed in five different communities, with over 70 people trained to present the MITM modules. COP members submitted plans and were funded between \$5,000-\$15,000 to implement Vroom and Family Engagement in their region. A grant will soon be submitted to the Bezos Family Foundation to fund a position to coordinate this work.

**12. Other**

- The Early Childhood Governance Infrastructure and where it fits within the strategic plan was discussed. Laura reviewed the previous state strategic plan and pulled pieces about better coordinating the early childhood system at the government level. The group discussed making recommendations for different funding scenarios and reach consensus for what Spark NH's plan would be. Judy Reidt-Parker, from the Ounce of Prevention Fund, is gathering examples from other states. This will be kept as a standing agenda item for the Executive Committee. A sub group will strategize how best to bring this up at the August 17 meeting with Governor.
- Leadership from DHHS and DOE will invited to a future Council meeting to share their vision and learn more about Spark NH. Hopefully this could continue on an annual basis.
- There are almost 100 people signed up for Walter Gilliam's session at the DOE Summer Summit. The Early Childhood Leadership Team will be focusing on the implications of what they learned at summit and brainstorming ideas for how to address them.
- Manchester Police Chief Nick Willard and Laura co-wrote an op-ed that gained a lot of traction. They have been asked to do an interview with WMUR as follow up.

- Debra was asked to attend an institute on healthy marriage and relationships on behalf of DHHS. There was great resources around communication, addressing financial stressors, etc. and DHHS is looking into how they may integrate this work into the Department.
- Erin Boylan is joining the study commission (SB 148) to study grandfamilies in NH.

Consensus to adjourn was reached.

**Next Meeting September 12 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**