



**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.

### **Spark NH Policy Committee Meeting Summary**

Monday July 10, 2017, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

2 Delta Drive, Concord NH

**Committee Charge:** Coordinate the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan for early childhood in NH and collaborate with state agency and policy leaders to identify/support changes in policy regarding expectant families and children from birth through third grade and their families.

**Present:** Keryn Bernard-Kriegl, Marj Droppa, Kim Firth, Tanya Gonzalez, Joelle Martin, Julie McConnell, Laura Milliken, Aurelia Moran, Lara Quiroga, Tracie Sullivan, Tricia Lucas, Rebecca Woitkowski, Amanda Sears.

**Meeting summary recorder:** Shannon McCullough

**1. Welcome:** General guidelines for the meeting were reviewed.

**2. Review of June minutes:** The committee reviewed the June 2017 minutes. No changes were made. The committee approved the minutes by consensus.

**3. Introductions and Whip Share:** Laura Milliken encouraged all members to attend the unveiling of Spark NH's Data exploration tool. This event will take place Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 Delta Drive. Kim Firth informed the committee that a second wave of the RAND study is underway. Dr. Lynn Karoly will be meeting with The Endowment for Health in August to get a clear picture of how that study will look. Rebecca Woitkowski invited all members to attend the advocacy celebration hosted by New Futures on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. She also encouraged all those interested to attend the Full Day Kindergarten signing on July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Keryn Bernard-Kriegl shared that NH Children's Trust has a training scheduled for September 28 and 29. The topic is "Bringing the Protective Factors Framework into Life in Your Work" the event will be held at the Lakes Region Community Center and to register please visit [www.nhchildrenstrust.org/SFTrainingLaconia2017](http://www.nhchildrenstrust.org/SFTrainingLaconia2017). Lara Quiroga shared that Project LAUNCH has contracted with the Pyramid Model Consortium to do a series of train-the-trainer events for teachers who work with preschool age

and infant/toddler aged students to create facilitators within NH. This will be a large step towards New Hampshire becoming a pyramid model state as we won't need to contract the consortium to facilitate all events.

**4. Approve final Spark Policy Committee workplan for the Strategic Plan:** Lara and Laura led a discussion around the workplan that the committee has developed through the strategic planning process. The workplan is available for committee members to review. The committee came to consensus to share the workplan with the executive committee.

Spark NH has an opportunity to apply for a grant through Endowment for Health to support a symposium with the goal of educating our partners about relevant policy work. The group was asked to provide feedback as to what this symposium should cover, what should be the takeaway message, who should attend, etc. The hope is for everyone to know and understand what is happening. We want to clearly represent prevention and showing community members and policy workers what regions are doing and what is working to help the children of New Hampshire. The next step is currently unclear and we'd like to show what to do once someone understands the importance of the early years.

**5. Open discussion on the regional initiatives crosswalk and the Framework for Action and next steps on how both of these inform future actions of the Policy Committee:** Members have been asked to bring this resource with them to future meetings in order to refer to the work being done in each region as needed. Please keep in mind that the initiatives have varying capacity levels when it comes to the amount of work they are able to take on.

**6. Advocacy:** Updates are led by Rebecca Woitkowski. New Hampshire was rated #1 in the Nation for overall child wellbeing. New Hampshire has made great progress and we need to continue to make the message clear that changes and supports will need to continue if we want to hold our position as number one in the nation. There are still some pockets of deep need and with that, there is still a lot of work to do to maintain the level of wellness in the state.

Advocacy trainings – if you are interested in Rebecca and Tracie coming to speak to your organization please contact them and training will be developed. [Rwoitkowski@new-futures.org](mailto:Rwoitkowski@new-futures.org) or [tsullivan@new-futures.org](mailto:tsullivan@new-futures.org)

New Futures is focusing on the Health Care bill as well as Medicaid expansion and how this will affect children in New Hampshire. A look into what policy priorities we will have in the upcoming year is necessary as it is not a budget year. Please provide feedback.

Amanda Sears encouraged all to attend the celebration as well as the child care scholarship and kindergarten SB 191 signing at 4pm Wednesday at Penacook elementary. This will be a press event.

**7. Agenda setting and Meeting Evaluation:**

September's agenda will include the Regional Initiatives' crosswalk and Advocacy Hub updates. Meeting evaluations were positive. There is a change in the date for September meeting due to the holiday.

*Next meeting date: Monday, September 11, 9-10:15 a.m.*