



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 November 6th, 2017, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

PSU, 2 Pillsbury St, 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: Karen Welford, Jake Berry, Lia Moran, Patti Baum, Liz Belsito, Cammie Switzer, Jill Morgan, Julie McConnell, Marj Droppa, Lara Quiroga, Christina Lachance, Lindsay Hanson, Katie Brissette, Marti Ilg, Abby Rogers, Nathalie Ahyi, Kelley White, Laura Milliken.

Meeting summary recorder: Patti Baum

1. Welcome: Marj Droppa, co-chair

2. Review of October minutes: The committee approved the minutes by consensus.

3. Introductions and Whip Share: Jake Berry was recently hired as VP Policy at New Futures. Karen Welford reported on parent workshops to be held in Franklin at the end of November, some specific to opioid addicted pregnant women. Lara Quiroga said a leadership team continues to work to define the NH Pyramid Model system. To date, 56 people have participated in Pyramid Model trainings. As of January 2018, Marj Droppa will no longer co-chair Spark's Policy Committee due to new policy-related commitments with the NH YMCA Alliance's Public Policy Committee. Anyone interested in co-chairing is asked to contact Laura Milliken. Also, the Keene Family YMCA will host a second advocacy training in partnership with New Futures Kids Count and the NH Children's Trust on March 1st, 2018, which is open to the public. Marti Ilg of Thrive Laconia recently presented Spark's Bedrock Message to school staff and local leaders in Laconia.

4. Regional Crosswalk and Framework:

The committee discussed policy committee workplan goal 2, Obj. 2.1.a: Seek partnerships to support momentum of policy priorities and identify who else should be at the table for four previously identified priorities: Developmental screening, ACES (related to the Opioid Crisis), QRIS, and Home Visiting.

Developmental Screening: Identify additional partners who can inform Spark Policy Committee on developmental screening. Suggestions for additional partners included A Watch Me Grow (WMG) representative, preferably from

WGM state management team; a second pediatrician, e.g. Skip Berrien (he has Help Me Grow experience); Katrina Watson, NH Medical Society; and a health insurance industry representative. A question asked was: Would it make sense to convene a separate but linked sub-committee/taskforce specific to move developmental screening policy action forward? There are regions in NH with WGM momentum but they are facing road blocks at the state level. Some expressed interest in looking at the MA model and the Coos model.

ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences): Laura Milliken shared she has recently modified her presentation to address ACES and opioid use, i.e. “look upstream to early childhood if you want to address opioid use.” Message has been well received. Laura also talked about a May 2017 ACES summit being planned for pediatricians and primary care providers. It was suggested to include obstetricians as well. Karen Welford expressed the importance of focusing on parents/caregivers in addition to children. It was also suggested using a Lunch and Learn model as a follow up to the summit and include continuing education opportunities. Potential partnerships to add to the policy committee: people from the substance misuse and mental health fields. Others: Families in Transition family support rep, Dartmouth Perinatal Addiction Center, NH Foster Care Program, Child Advocacy Center, nurses, Public Health Networks and NH Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services.

5. Update on Governor’s Collective Vision for Early Childhood Education:

The goal is to educate people about the existing education system in NH. UNH will convene people around this issue in December.

6. Framework for Action Symposium Planning Group:

Endowment for Health has awarded funding to Spark NH for a Framework symposium. Intended audience is for those who work in the field of early childhood. Sessions will include an orientation to the Framework and panel presentations on different sections, e.g. maternal depression screening. Purpose is to increase public awareness of the Framework and highlight on the ground policies that support objectives in the Framework or that could be scaled up to meet the objectives.

7. Advocacy - Smart Start “Early Childhood Advocacy” Table:

Jake reviewed current legislation action:

- MIECHV/Home Visiting: To remove restrictions for Medicaid eligible Home Visiting, e.g. first-time pregnancy, under 21
 - CCDBG Funds: to expand work requirement for available services to include parent time receiving recovery services
- Other advocacy highlights included: public hearing on lead prevention, November 7; CHIP (federal): still not reauthorized; monitoring; MIECHV (federal): still not reauthorized; monitoring.

7. Agenda setting and Meeting Evaluation: December’s agenda will include partnership opportunities for QRIS and Home Visiting and Advocacy Hub updates. Meeting evaluations were positive.

Next meeting date: December 4, 2017, from 9 – 10:15 a.m.