



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 September 11, 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: Shaunna Babcock, Patti Baum, Liz Belsito, Christina D'Allesandro, Marj Droppa, Kim Firth, Christina Lachance, Shannon McCullough, Laura Milliken, Aurelia Moran, Tracie Sullivan, Karen Welford, Rebecca Woitkowski, Susan Wolf-Downes, Joelle Martin

Meeting summary recorder: Shannon McCullough

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

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

3. Introductions and Whip Share: Tracie Sullivan shared that New Futures Kids Count currently has nine upcoming advocacy trainings scheduled around the state. These training events are designed to be an interactive and hands on experience with local representatives participating as well. A flyer for the upcoming training at the Keene Family YMCA was distributed to committee members. This event is on Monday, September 18th from 6-8pm. If you would like to schedule a training in your area contact Tracie or Rebecca with New Futures at tsullivan@new-futures.org or rwoitkowski@new-futures.org New Futures is also working on a Medicaid expansion campaign for the fall. This is set to be reauthorized in 2018 so they are currently collecting stories for this. If you know anyone who would like to share these kinds of stories please contact New Futures. Liz Belsito shared with the committee that she is now at United Way of the Greater Seacoast as the Somersworth Ready Together Coordinator. Marj Droppa recently joined the NH YMCA Alliance Public Policy committee looking to find a way for the Y to integrate their work with the work that this committee is doing. Partnership opportunities should be considered and Marj has volunteered to be the liaison for this work.

4. Granite State Poll and Strategic Plan Update

Granite State Poll:

Laura shared the results that Spark NH received for the Granite State Poll. Spark NH is currently planning a press event with the Governor and his office. Results will be used to drive public awareness work.

Strategic Plan:

Members of the Evaluation Committee met and are reviewing committee work plans. As the Policy Committee moves forward with their plans the Evaluation Committee will be making recommendations for how to best measure our work.

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

- Review what the regional initiatives are doing related to the Framework
- Identify the areas of work where there is regional momentum
- Identify the areas where there is not momentum

Discussion: What are the activities that regional initiatives are doing that resonate with the Policy Committee? What could be done to help advance this work?

Areas of work and momentum vary widely throughout the initiatives due to varying levels of capacity.

Some highlighted areas of little to no momentum:

- Access to quality education is still lacking momentum in some communities along with home visiting.
 - Messaging around home visiting is a bit of a challenge. It was identified that when asking for funding, the use of a universal definition would be an ideal way to move forward.
- Learning outside the school day
- Housing and energy assistance
- Raising minimum wage

Areas of momentum:

- Developmental Screening (including for emotional/social wellbeing)
- Affordable Health Care (other organizations have momentum here; how can we partner?)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
 - How to highlight ACES and the need for prevention measures in light of the opioid crisis?

It remains important to keep in mind that there may be other issues where there is momentum within the broader community. We should look into ways to link to these efforts. We may want to invite some new organizations to come and update us or become regular members of the Policy Committee.

6. Advocacy: Updates were given by Rebecca Woitkowski. New Futures would like to thank everyone for a great legislative session. A lot was accomplished through our coordination of efforts. If you have any questions please reach out to Rebecca. Kids Count will be releasing a data brief in the coming months and media and communication efforts around the brief will be set in place.

7. Agenda setting and Meeting Evaluation: October's agenda will include the Regional Initiatives' crosswalk and Advocacy Hub updates. Meeting evaluations were positive.

Next meeting date: **Monday, October 2, 9-10:15 a.m.**