



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 October 2, 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 Laura Milliken, Kerry Wiley, Jill Morgan, Lara Quiroga, Marj Droppa, Kim Firth, Shannon McCullough, Liz Belsito, Kristin Booth, Pam Lovejoy, Maureen Burke, Lia Moran, Patti Baum, Rebecca Woitkowski, Julie McConnell, Shaunna Babcock, Tracie Sullivan, Joelle Martin, Karen Welford, Betsy Humphreys

Meeting summary recorder: Shannon McCullough

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

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

3. Introductions and Whip Share: Members introduced themselves and gave updates.

Some whipshare highlights include:

Lara Quiroga attended a meeting sponsored by the national council of state legislature. A team of seven members will be discussing “a whole family approach to jobs” high quality early childhood education will most likely be the focus of this group. Marj Droppa shared with the committee that the Keene Family YMCA is launching a pilot program with seniors and children working together. Randy Pierce will be at the YMCA Wednesday October 25th – he lost his eyesight and has continued hiking and adventuring. He will be presenting on how to understand and overcome life’s challenges. Kristin Booth announced the formation of a new task force. Her office is currently looking for and recruiting members - some members will be assigned by position. Rebecca let the committee know that October 18th will be parent advocacy day at the LLB. Please contact her for more information. If you have any opportunities for students please contact Shaunna Babcock with any information always looking for new projects and experiences. Spark NH held a press conference with some of New Hampshire’s leaders covering the importance of early childhood and the prevention of the opioid crisis. See Spark’s website for more information. <http://sparknh.com/news-and-events/press/>

5. Continued discussion on Regional Crosswalk and Framework: Next steps for Policy Committee in 2018-2019

What emerged from September's meeting: a need to prioritize

- (i) Developmental Screening and*
- (ii) ACES (related to the Opioid Crisis) for policy action.*

Other focus areas:

It remains important to note that just because there isn't momentum does not mean that the initiative isn't interested in working on these areas. Home visiting for example is difficult to move forward on a regional level because it needs high level policy changes. Healthcare is the foundation of a lot of early childhood initiatives and is difficult to advance.

QRIS quality rating and improvement system for early childhood care. Leadership at the state level is needed to advance issues around this system. Smart Start could be a channel to align with to come together and identify focus areas.

The New Futures campaign will focus primarily on Medicaid expansion – there is room for added priority areas and they are looking for what is best for Smart Start to focus on (For example: QRIS, workforce crisis, etc.) and the policy committee was identified as a group that could help flesh out what that might look like.

It was suggested among committee members that a map of ACEs initiatives would be a helpful tool for New Hampshire to have. This could aid in discussion of prevention, trauma informed approaches, legislation and policy, funding and noting what regions are successfully moving forward.

Using the committee's revised workplan, potential action steps on these policy priorities for the committee could be:

- A. Seek partnerships to support momentum on policy priorities and identify who else should be at the table*
- B. Align with advocacy efforts by New Futures Kids Count on these priorities*
- C. Educate and inform the broader community about the priorities*

The committee discussed the idea of setting up a strategic planning process with Smart Start and other interested organizations. Rebecca Woitkowski will begin organizing this process and more details will follow.

Update on Early Childhood Commission: Kim and Laura met with DJ Bettencourt about starting a commission. There was some discrepancy within the governor's office on what was wanted for this commission. Sununu sees the work that Spark NH does as the early childhood commission for the state. This conversation creates an opportunity to have more communication with the Governor's office.

Update and discussion on Early Childhood Symposium

This symposium will be designed to aid in the advancement of the framework for action. A grant was just awarded from the endowment for health to fund this event. We need everyone to know what Early Childhood work is being done across the state. This group will frame what this event will look like. Anyone interested in planning please contact Laura at lmilliken@sparknh.org.

Advocacy: Smart Start "Early Childhood Advocacy" Table and other Hub Activities:

Rebecca Woitkowskisi led the conversation and informed the committee that New Futures is currently tracking about 50 LSRs that have to do with early childhood in some capacity. As these become clearer the committee will be notified. New Futures is working on their Medicaid Expansion campaign and spreading the word that access to healthcare for families is critical for early childhood.

Ongoing legislation includes family support services and a focus on changing the Medicaid eligibility rules for home visiting. Currently the requirements are so narrow many miss their window to receive support. The new requirements would support young mothers by making home visits easier to access. Childhood Lead Poisoning

Prevention working with Tom Irwin to assure alignment on this issue, and the continued monitoring of Children's savings accounts.

7. Agenda setting and Meeting Evaluation: Positive meeting evaluation. November's agenda will include the Regional Initiatives' crosswalk, further discussion around the Early Childhood Symposium, and Advocacy Hub updates.

Next meeting date: Monday, November 6, 9-10:15 a.m.