



Spark NH Executive Committee Meeting

Via Zoom Conference Call System

March 13, from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Attendance: Katie Brissette, Jackie Cowell (by phone), Laura Milliken, and Debra Nelson.

Minutes Recorder: Katie Brissette

1. Review January Executive Committee Meeting Summary

There were a few changes to the summary. The Committee approved it with the changes.

2. Debrief February Council Meeting

It was a good meeting. There was some confusion around member appointments and quorum. We will remind people of the situation at the beginning of the next meeting and Katie will have the official quorum count.

3. Director Evaluation

The evaluation is not complete yet. It will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

4. Strategic Plans and Work Plans

Committees are making progress on their work plans. The start date will be July of 2017 even though some are still being finalized. These are one year plans for activities but five year plans for the high level goals. Staff work plan is being reviewed by Evaluation Committee.

5. Spark NH Budget/Sustainability

Laura submitted a letter of intent to the BUILD Initiative to work on child wellness and equity. Both Spark NH and Project LAUNCH in Manchester applied for a state and local focus. They highlighted the free/reduced lunch data in Manchester, the pockets of poverty across the state and the data that show the fastest growing population of people of color in the state is children under age 5. The full application is due in April if selected. Laura is also applying to the HNH Foundation for an operating grant. Laura will show that an operating grant will allow the staff to engage in, oversee, and dedicate time to the work of Spark NH (data, public awareness, coordinating Council and Committees, etc.). The hard work of filling in gaps in the 2019 budget will begin at the March 21 sustainability task force meeting. About \$300,000 would be ideal to fund Laura, Katie and an admin. position. Both NH Charitable Foundation and the Endowment for Health provide operating grants and hopefully the DOE and DHHS/Public Health will contribute as well. It was suggested that pieces of Spark NH get into various state department's budgets.

6. Update on February 14 Meeting with Governor

Laura, Jackie and Katie had a great conversation with the Governor. There were several things discussed including the configuration of Spark NH, a one-stop shop for early childhood, early

childhood governance, and QRIS. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14. Hoping for ongoing meetings the 2nd Wednesday. If the Governor isn't present we will reach out to him directly and include Elliot and his scheduler.

Configuration of Spark NH

Laura shared a memo outlining the options for reconfiguration. There were a few corrections to the history section about who decided what the membership of Spark NH should be. The planning committee ultimately chose to promote a children's cabinet at a higher level and create the Council as an advisory group. Not everyone agreed on the "relatively low level" language and suggested changing it to "at the program director level" who are not the decision makers. Laura will make these changes. The committee brainstormed ideas for a new Executive Order including listing who Spark NH will advise, Spark NH will communicate with the Legislature on a regular basis, Governor convenes Commissioners twice a year where Spark NH presents, creating a "State of Early Childhood" report. This will be further fleshed out with the Council at the April meeting. We hope to have this discussion facilitated and we will look into funding for this.

One Stop Shop for Early Childhood

The idea is to have a website or app for families to easily access information about all public/private early childhood services available to them. The Governor offered to help find funding for this. Spark NH would oversee it. 2-1-1 is available but needs more resources to function better. This may be the focus of the April Early Childhood Visioning meeting. Jackie is going to reach out to the people at UNH who are working on the agenda.

Early Childhood Governance

Getting TA support from Harriet Dichter. Met on January 30 to plan, holding four larger meetings through June.

QRIS

Need to update the Governor on the status of QRIS, cost estimates (startup is \$1.4 million), what it buys, software/data, and possibility of getting this into a bill this year.

7. Equity Task Force

The Equity Task Force was convened. It was recommended that this be a task force of the Executive Committee. We're hoping at least one representative from each committee will join.

8. Preschool Development Grant

There has not been any work on this yet. Judy Reidt-Parkter does not think it will happen but we're still hoping for the opportunity. It is highly likely that there will be more CCDF dollars.

9. Update on Pyramid Model

Three Community of Practice communities are doing the work. They would like coaches and there may be funds through SPDG (State Personnel Development Grant), QRIS, or private foundations to cover these costs.

10. Update on Vroom and Mind in the Making

There is no update at this time.

11. Other:

a. Letter of Support Request

The Institute on Disability at UNH is applying for a grant that would use the All Payers Insurance Database for data about developmental screening. They have asked for a letter of support from Spark NH. There was consensus to submit the letter.

- b.** It was recommended that Spark NH create a protocol for situations where Council or Committee members, or members of the public have inaccurate information about Spark NH, make negative comments about Spark NH or its work. It was decided that any concerns should be reported to Laura or an Executive Committee member who will then decide if outreach is needed. This protocol will be part of the new member orientation. Jackie will follow up with the member she heard negative comments from and explain this process.

There was consensus to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm.