



Monthly Meeting Summary

February 22, 2018 from 9:00 – 11:00 am

Two Delta Drive, Concord, NH

Council Introductions/Whip Share

Attendees: Marianne Barter, Erin Boylan, Katie Brissette, Jackie Cowell, Maryann Evers, Kim Firth, Betty Gilcris, Ruth Littlefield, Laura Milliken, Debra Nelson, Colleen Popores, Maureen Quinn, Lara Quiroga, Erica Ungarelli, Mark Vallone, Kerry Wiley, and Rebecca Woitkowski

Council members as well as members of the public introduced themselves.

- Debra Nelson shared that OHS informed grantees that they're removing the requirement for increasing the duration of services by Aug. 2018 because there was no additional funding to support programs to implement these changes. Several NH programs that have already extended hours for certain sites or classrooms within sites will continue to offer the additional hours.
- Erin Boylan shared that the 3rd Family Resource Center of Quality has been designated.
- Lara Quiroga shared an update on the Pyramid Model infrastructure, Project LAUNCH is offering trainings on supporting social-emotional health in infants/toddlers as well as preschool age.
- Betty Gilcris clarified the revised standards for Head Start around duration. Jeanne Agri has been promoted to the CEO of Belknap-Merrimack County CAP. Tri-County CAP will receive a federal monitor this year.
- Maryann Evers shared that the IMH association annual meeting was a week ago. They honored Eileen Mullen this year and presentation on the Circle of Security model.
- Kerry Wiley shared that the Part C grant application is posted online.
- Ruth Littlefield shared that SPDEG is getting going, the state leadership team is active. Community applications are being created and up to five communities will receive funds in mid to late April to begin building their cohort of trainers.
- Erica Ungarelli shared that they received a TA grant for ages 0 – 3. This year long work will include many partners and community involvement and will be looking at eligibility.
- Jackie Cowell shared that the SELA program has a new pricing model, working closely with programs to test out all of the benefits that are available to them.
- Colleen Popores shared her excitement for being on the Council and that she is the parent of two little girls.

What's New from Department of Education

Jane Waterhouse was unable to be here but Ruth shared that the State ESSA plan was accepted.

What's New from Department of Health and Human Services

Debra Nelson shared that Associate Commissioner Chris Tappan continues to implement a department-wide organizational "refresh." In the next few months we should have a new org. chart to share. The external review of DCYF administrative closings showed that nearly all cases were closed appropriately. DCYF is down to only six CPSW positions that need to be filled. Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration has begun the process of reviewing applications for the Assistant Bureau Chief. As

mentioned before, NH was one of 10 states selected nationally to participate in a technical assistance opportunity through the ZERO TO THREE Policy Center to develop strategies to advance state policy related to infant and early childhood mental health assessment, diagnosis, and treatment.

Minutes Presentation - Consensus was reached to accept the minutes as presented.

Director's Report

Laura shared about the meeting with the Governor's office. He is interested in early childhood work and the Council. Several issues were discussed including the way Spark NH is configured. Governor Sununu asked if changes to the executive order would help improve Spark NH, and how could we do it better. This will be discussed at the April Council meeting. Appointments of members will be on hold until this process is complete. Other issues that were discussed include the Early Childhood Governance work, QRIS, and a one-stop shop for families with young children.

Member Presentation: NH Child Care Advisory Council

Marianne Barter presented on the NH Child Care Advisory Council and shared their annual progress report. She gave an overview of the leadership, history, what they do, meeting schedule, etc. The group advocates for change, focuses very specifically on child care. In 2014 they created a 5 year plan which guides their work.

2018 Budget Review

Jackie Cowell and Laura Milliken shared the 2018 Spark NH budget. Funding for this year will be secure but there is a lot of work to be done for 2019. The Sustainability Task Force will reconvene soon. Consensus was reached to accept the budget as presented.

Approval of Slate of Officers

Jackie Cowell representing the nomination committee presented the slate of officers which included Debra Nelson as chair and Erin Boylan as vice chair, both for a one year term. Consensus was reached to approve officers as presented.

Project LAUNCH Evaluation Report

Maureen Quinn reviewed Project LAUNCH and described its structure and governance. She presented an analysis of the data for each of the strategies over the last four years. Maureen was unable to finish the presentation and will come back for a future Council meeting. Her PowerPoint presentation will be available on Spark NH's website. The data shows that Project LAUNCH was incredibly successful. They are working with Lynn Davey to show the success in some data displays.

Committee Reports - Due to time constraints, committee reports were not done. All summaries can be found in the meeting packet on the website.

Public Comment Period - There was no public comment at this time.

Consensus was reached to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 26, 2018 from 9:00 – 11:00 am