



**Spark NH Policy Committee Notes
Monday, February 5, 2018
Two Delta Drive, Concord, NH**

Attendees: Shaunna Babcock, Katie Brissette, Lara Quiroga, Lindsay Hanson, Laura Milliken, Liz Belsito, Patti Baum, Abby Rogers, Betsy Humphrys, Claudia Ferber, Sheila Vargas, Kim Firth, Nathalie Ahyi, Kristin Smith, Julie McConnell, and Marti Ilg

Policy Committee Work Plan

The committee reviewed the work plan and discussed the issue of equity. Discussed the challenges of getting groups representing a broader groups that might have inequitable situations. A meeting during the day might be harder for people of color to attend. We would like to encourage participation by more stakeholders. The committee strives to serve all children and communities through an equity lens. It was suggested that the committee review some resources from the Georgetown Center on Cultural Competence. A link was sent around via email post meeting.

1.1b work plan – How is Spark NH interfacing with other groups? Communities of color? The committee decided to eliminate 1.1 b on the Work Plan as written. The Endowment for Health is interested in understanding the needs of a specific population then from this infer and better be able to move forward with policy development. The suggestion was made to create an Equity Task Force within the policy committee.

Goal #2 The Committee's role in leveraging personal work connections to potential partners. We should use the policy table to align efforts and combine efforts. The suggestion was made to make a list of Spark NH partner orgs for distribution. Spark NH might want to look into partnering with advocacy organizations to increase access to other groups.

Next steps - The committee should work to build out the pieces of the work plan. What is the plan to fulfill this work? What are the steps to get to where we want to be? The overall goal of the work plan is to have some direction and goals going forward. We strive to look at the bigger picture. Evidenced based tools are used to evaluate collaboration between committee members. It is somewhat cumbersome to fill out. It can however be useful to evaluate how individuals at the table are collaborating. The bigger picture to consider is how are children and families being affected?

3.1 work plan - DHHS is looking at a public health approach to early childhood issues –SUD prevention, maternal and child health, etc. It was suggested that we inquire about a closer collaboration and DHHS involvement with the policy committee. Early childhood governance was discussed as well. How can state early childhood services be better coordinated?

Advocacy

New Futures discussed the MedEx bills. Senator Bradley's comprehensive bill to come out in the next two weeks. Advocates feel this is the one that will move forward this session. There is a hearing on the

home visiting bill, SB 590, on Thursday at 1:30pm. Lead paint bill, SB 247, will be signed by Gov. Sununu in Claremont on Thursday. More to be discussed at the advocacy table meeting.

The next meeting is March 5th and will include more work on the work plan, update from the Home Visiting Task Force, etc.