



Spark NH Policy Committee Meeting Summary

Monday April 9, 2018, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

New Futures Office, 10 Ferry St, 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: Pedro Altagracia, Shaunna Babcock, Liz Belsito, Katie Brissette, Jackie Cowell, Claudia Ferber (by phone), Kim Firth, Marti Ilg, Tricia Lucas, Julie McConnell, Laura Milliken, Lia Moran, Lara Quiroga, Abby Rogers, Karen Welford, Kelly White, and Rebecca Woitkowski.

Meeting summary recorder: Laura Milliken and Katie Brissette

Whip Share:

Claudia – April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Katie – Spark NH's Equity Task Force is working on self-assessments, definition of equity. Next meeting April 30 from 9 – 10:30am.

Marti – Thrive Laconia is working on a “refresh.” The school Board will be hosting a Bedrock presentation in the summer.

Lara – Hosting two Pyramid Model trainings, one for school age 5/29-31, one for infant/toddler 6/11-13, there are some spaces left.

Karen – One day training for Family Advisory Councils is being offered. Family Support NH is looking for a partner to bring the training to the state.

Abby – Working as a consultant on perinatal substance use.

Shaunna – Offering a training for Boys and Girls Club staff. NHTI is doing a pinwheel garden, you can buy and “plant” a pinwheel through Shaunna.

Lia – at the last home visiting task force meeting there was a presentation on a perinatal depression screening study, working on a vision/ guiding principle document for the group, common data points for home visiting programs to collect. Working on a marketing campaign for home visiting. Discussing home visitor safety, Books for Babies at next meeting. Will be working on engaging families to join the group.

Jackie – tomorrow is the Celebration of Early Childhood Professionals and the Early Learning NH Excellence in Child Care and Child Care Champions awards.

Tricia – Medicaid Expansion is up for re-authorization.

Framework for Action Summit Debrief – Thought the event was successful, great to get a more in depth presentation about the work that’s being done in the field, staff were very interested in the event — people in the field want the information, Promising Practices Guide is available, Jackie suggested that we create a video of the event next time.

Policy Committee Work Plan – Liz asked if there was feedback on the work plan. The group reached consensus that it is ready to be looked at by the Evaluation Committee to give us feedback on measurement in the plan. We discussed some of the substantive steps in the plan and how we are planning to do the work. 2.1.a is about engagement — look at committee list shows that there are people who don’t come very often — how can we be sure we’re engaging them — can we reach out to them to include them again. Jackie shared that Sarah Sadowski from NH NAEYC is planning to come in the future.

Laura said she thought that our goal should be including folks from health, early learning, family support from across the state, also across our age span — those who work with prenatal parents, children from 0-grade 3, under-represented communities and others

Pedro asked if we are trying to engage professionals or families, or both. People responded that we want both but acknowledge that it is easier to engage professionals. Pedro suggested identifying professionals who are able to engage underrepresented folks and bring them along

Discussed how we define “engagement” in our work. Using brochures so that people can go out into community, pointing people to the information on the website, accessibility is an issue if our materials are not in multiple languages. Sectors that we want to involve first, parent engagement is important but much more difficult. Having mentors for new committee members would help, suggested members think about the groups they are already connected with — are you updating those groups about Spark NH and bringing info from those groups here? Abby thought it would be good for Spark NH to connect with the perinatal substance misuse group. Tricia - involving people in committee is different from engagement in direct policy advocacy. Lara suggested we distribute a list and have people think about who else should be at the table, sort of map what organizations we are or should be connecting with

Smart Start “Early Childhood Advocacy” Table and other HUB Activities:

- SB 590 - fiscal note for home visiting was just \$60,000
- SB 570 expands child care scholarship to include parents in treatment

Other Updates:

Gubernatorial Forum - Katie reminded the group that Spark NH is planning another Gubernatorial Forum. Jackie met with the new director of Stay, Work, Play and they are willing to include an early childhood question at their forum and possibly ask a question at our forum.

QRIS - Jackie shared that the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) is in a design phase and the draft has gone out to the public. There is a task force working on designing a QRIS for NH. Also there is an invest in QRIS strategy table meeting the 2nd Thursday of the month from 3-4pm at Early Learning NH (2 Delta Drive in Concord) who is looking at how to fund it.

Next meeting: Monday, May 7, 9:00 – 10:15 am