



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 Notes
Monday, March 5, 2018
Two Delta Drive, Concord, NH**

Attendees: Shaunna Babcock, Katie Brissette, Marjorie Droppa, Lara Quiroga, Laura Milliken, Liz Belsito, Kim Firth, Nathalie Ahyi, Marti Ilg, Christina Lachance, Rebecca Woitkowski, Marti Ilg, Jill Morgan, Aurelia Moran, Tricia Lucas, Jackie Cowell, and Christina D'Allesandro- via conference line.

Whip Share:

Nathalie- Train the trainer for Cultural Competency, if interested contact Nathalie- \$1000 without the DVD \$1500 with the DVD- Another scheduled for 4/12, another 6/18 (5 days)

Katie Brissette- NH Equity Taskforce update

Aurelia Moran- MIECHV has been reauthorized and update on HVTF- guiding document work group, data workgroup have started will report out at next meeting, 3/15 1-3pm

Jill Morgan-United Way is funding the home visiting alliance- Community of Practice for home visitors in the Monadnock Region- 35 signed up for the launch, another one happening on Wednesday in Peterborough, excited about engaging home visitors.

Marti Ilg- Thrive/SAU organized event, limited participation- will be rescheduled.

Marjorie Droppa- Selected to represent NH at the YMCA Alliance, it will be in St. Louis and address Social Equity.

Christina D'Allesandro- mom's rising, Portsmouth preschool work, also working with UNH, Sponsoring an Event at Families First- Screening "Resilience" to illicit conversation on trauma informed care. Will send an invitation for event on 3/31

Liz Belsito-Ready together, Portsmouth project to expand pre k- needs assessment

Rebecca Woitkowski- Had a son 11/21, back from leave.

Lara Quiroga- Project Launch- Training (Tiers 1 and 2- Pyramid Model), another rescheduled for May- Launch working on securing funding prior to June 30th

Kim Firth- Endowments annual meeting, Monday, March 26th, Focus on Mental Health, health, social emotional development

Jackie Cowell, Early Learning NH- QRIS

Early Childhood Governance- A group has been working with Harriet Dichter, to examine early childhood systems. Working with Harriet in an exploration to examine how other states have approached Early Childhood Systems work to see what has worked well elsewhere. The Endowment for Health has funded 4 meetings to illicit recommendations, identification of strengths and problems, what are the strategies that could be useful in supporting New Hampshire's Early Childhood System.

Policy Committee- Quality Rating and Improvement System- A system put in place to help Early Childhood Education in NH. Programs that are licensed through childcare licensing, whether center based or family based care are eligible if they are licensed. The design is still being worked on. In 2013, NH applied for a race to the top early childhood grant- they did not get that funding. A taskforce, that is unfunded, has worked on this since that time. This group looks at the environment, assessment, strengthening families, staff development to support a quality rating scale. This effort creates a localized and embedded system of support for the early childhood system to support policies that support early childhood. In NH it will likely be a voluntary system. Improved access for families, information- public information childcares rating, teaching staff well supported, Illustrating the opportunity gap- between how childcares are funded, how funds are spent, and what the cost is for families, and exploration of if this creates a barrier for opportunity to have children enrolled in highest ranked if it is expensive. Also how to support growth within the childcare system and access to improve ratings, coaching is one of the things being looked at- coaching specifically around understanding the QRIS rating scale and how to improve ratings. Starting at a preliminary preparatory stage to have a soft rating first then to learn how to improve the QRIS rating.

Cost could be between 5-20 million depending on the design,

Level the playing field for cost and access to high quality childcare.

This Thursday at 1:30 at Spark (2 Delta Dr) informal listening session about the design of the QRIS.

The taskforce has not heard from the community but will have an opportunity to do this. This is the first opportunity for childcares to weigh in on this.

The Invest in QRIS strategy table- to prepare for the budget ask.

Generalized ideas- rating systems- cost modeling based on rating system (bonus's for higher ratings for example) occurring simultaneously to the design. Taking a look at costs, messaging, Lynn Davey, will be supporting messaging strategies.

Friday first meeting of QRIS task force, the state's QRIS task force would like to diversify the voices at the table.

Lara brought up encouraging QRIS to link with Spark Policy to see how collaboration can occur.

Liz encouraged looking into community of practice opportunities.

Policy Committee Work Plan- collaborative partnership, looking at the current list to see whose roles have shifted- are the organizations that people would like represented still here.-

Some suggestions for New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children, Child and Family Services, After School Alliance, Department of Education.

As we move through our work, keep in mind when we are in contact with people who could benefit and would benefit the work of this committee, and invite them, these meetings are open to the public.

Rebecca- Advocacy Table directly after this meeting. Smart Start 590- A large bill that deals with voluntary services for the middle tier, also looking at reimbursement for home visiting, looking at strengthening family resource centers, linking voluntary services with family strengthening. Jen Doris will be coming to speak at the advocacy table. New Futures designs advocacy trainings that are responsive to community needs, Marjorie spoke about how it attracted a greater audience than those who already utilize the YMCA programs. Standing meetings working on Medicaid expansion- if interested contact Rebecca Woitkowski.