



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 Meeting Summary

Monday May 7, 2018, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Two Delta Drive, 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, Liz Belsito, Katie Brissette, Maureen Burke, Christina D'Allesandro, Claudia Ferber, Lindsay Hanson, Marti Ilg, Christina Lachance (by phone), Laura Milliken, Lia Moran, Lara Quiroga, Kristin Smith, and Rebecca Woitkowski.

Meeting summary recorder: Christina D'Allesandro

Introductions and Whip share:

Lara Quiroga – Pyramid Model training upcoming in May and June – Preschool training is full with short wait list – there is room in the infant toddler training.

Lia Moran – Home Visiting Taskforce meeting is upcoming, Guiding Document is almost done and will be shared with the Committee ahead of the next meeting.

Katie Brissette – Equity Task Force next meeting May 14 at 9AM. Invest in QRIS Strategy Table meeting May 10 from 3 – 4. Always the 2nd Thursday following either the Early Learning NH Network Meeting or the NH Child Care Advisory Council meeting. Governor's Office indicated that QRIS will be a priority next year.

Marti Ilg added that there was discussion about linking revenue from a sugar sweetened beverage tax to the QRIS.

Laura Milliken – Early Childhood Governance work is continuing with Harriet Dichter's guidance. We are in the process of drafting different governance design models and hope to have recommendations by the end of summer. Spark NH is also looking at its Executive Order to see if we can increase our impact.

Kristin Smith – Carsey has a brief coming out on who is caring for children in the opioid epidemic as well as a brief on child support.

Lindsay Hanson – SCAN released some poll data that showed a high level of support for ECE among voters. She will share the results with the group.

Maureen Burke – DHHS is working on the CCDF plan. They hope to post it publicly this month with two weeks of subsequent feedback. Diane Chase is the new assistant bureau chief for the Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration.

Christina D'Allesandro – MomsRising is moving forward with their work.

Claudia Ferber – Had over 1000 “faces” of childhood and a very successful pinwheel campaign.

Marti Ilg – Spark NH's Community of Practice just published a Promising Practices Guide highlighting what the regional initiatives are doing that's aligned with the Framework of Action. Thrive Laconia is having a re-focusing and re-visioning event on June 20th with a theme of “Don't STOP Believing,” trying to meet the community where they are.

Christina Lachance – There are significant changes being made to the community grants program at the NHCF. Two upcoming webinars will explain it in more detail. Information is on their website and will be sent around after the meeting.

2018 Gubernatorial Forum:

Our hope is that every candidate will weigh in on early childhood issues. Questions will be asked based on the Framework for Action. Hoping to schedule for the last week in August or first week in September. A task force will be convened to help plan the event and anyone who is interested in joining should connect with Katie Brissette. The group will meet before the next Policy Committee meeting.

Policy Committee Work Plan:

Walked through the cross walk of member engagement. Committee members were asked to select where they most closely align. The committee membership list will be updated.

Advocacy:

Rebecca gave a legislative update on MedEx bill, SB590, SB592, and SB570. The Family Resource Centers of Quality Specialist position was eliminated from the bill, \$1.5 million for voluntary services passed, \$250,000 for TANF based home visiting passed, Medicaid rule change was removed, new child care initiative prioritizing those that are involved with the system passed, \$500K community based incentive programs passed. Effective date for SB570 was pushed to June 2019 and will include those in substance abuse or mental health treatment.

There is a need for more education around Home Visiting and Family Resource Centers.

Kids Count National will be coming out with their data book in June and NH's report in the fall.

Next meeting is Monday, June 4, 2018 from 9 – 10:15 am.