



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, September 14, 2015, 9:00-10:30

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: Jeanne Agri, Jackie Cowell and Julie Sackett (Committee Co-Chairs), Effie Malley, Erika Argersinger, MacKenzie Flessas, Rebecca Harris, Cara Morrison, Marjorie Droppa, Janine Lesser, Christina Lachance, Patti Baum, Julie McConnell, Claudette Mallory, Kim Firth, Karen Welford, and Laura Milliken. Peggy Kieschnick, facilitator.

Meeting summary recorder(s): Jackie Cowell

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **August Meeting Summary Review**
3. **Framework for Action for New Hampshire's Young Children**
 - a. **Recap of Progress on White Paper Since Last Meeting**
 - b. **Review of Draft Recommendations**
 - c. **Next Steps in the Process**
4. **Update on Task Force on Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan**
5. **Update on Regional Partnerships**
6. **Family Leadership and Engagement**
7. **Meeting Evaluation**

Summary: Introductions were given. The August meeting summary was reviewed and accepted.

The Spark NH Policy Committee received the latest draft from Peggy Kieschnick of the white paper to accompany the "Framework for Action for New Hampshire's Young Children." The committee reviewed the draft recommendations for each of the 10 policies outlined in the Framework. The committee then came to consensus and approved the white paper. The final draft will be submitted to the Office of the Governor.

The committee discussed the roll out of the white paper once the review and the comments from the Office of the Governor are complete. It was decided to not have an October Policy Committee meeting as the members were

urged to attend the Oct 5 event, “Transforming Tomorrow’s Workforce Today.” The committee will be notified when word has been received from the Office of the Governor. The November meeting will be held as scheduled.

Claudette Mallory gave the update on the work of the taskforce on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan. Other committee members present who serve on the CCDF taskforce also reported out. The taskforce is currently deliberating over changing the system to include more approved, paid absences.

Updates were given on Spark NH’s regional partnerships with the Coös Coalition for Young Children and Families, Project Launch in Manchester, the Lakes Region Financial Stability Partnership, the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program, and Impact Monadnock.

The meeting evaluations were positive.

Next meeting date: Monday, November 2, 2015 9-10:30