



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, April 6, 2015, 9:00-noon

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), Alysse Coffey, Effie Malley, Erika Argersinger, Cherie Bammarito, MacKenzie Flessas, Keryn Bernard-Kriegl, Marjorie Droppa, Janine Lesser, Marti Ilg, Patti Baum, Kim Firth, Cindy Wallace, Jackie Sparks, Caitlin Jones, Kelley White, and Laura Milliken. Peggy Kieschnick, facilitator. Peter Antal, guest presenter.

Meeting summary recorder(s): Jackie Cowell

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Policy Committee's Recommendations re: Data Needs and Future Data Products
Peter Antal, evaluation consultant for Spark NH
3. Update on "A Framework for Action for New Hampshire's Young Children"
Peggy Kieschnick and Erika Argersinger
4. Discussion on the Release of the Framework
 - a. How other states have released and implemented their policy priorities
5. How Will We Keep the Framework Updated Moving Forward?
6. Project Funds Opportunity
7. Update on Task Force on Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan
8. Update on Regional Partnerships
9. Update on Alliance for Early Success' Technical Assistance
10. Family Leadership and Engagement
11. Meeting Evaluation

Summary: Introductions were given. The March meeting summary was not available for review.

"A Framework for Action for New Hampshire's Young Children" has been formatted into a one-pager with a cover sheet by Spark NH's graphic designer, Lavender Designs. The Policy Committee gave high marks to this new design and presentation. The Spark NH Policy Committee heard an update from Peggy Kieschnick and answered questions about the white paper she is authoring about the "Framework." Erika Argersinger gave an update on the research

NH Kids Count has been doing for the policy priorities and sharing with Peggy Kieschnick. The committee continued its discussions about the release of the "Framework." Alysse Coffey shared how she used the "Framework" in March for her meetings with our U.S. delegation in Washington. The NH Children's Trust had included the policy priorities for its advocacy group discussions a few months ago. Julie Sackett shared a template of how Washington State had used its policy priorities framework. There was also a brief discussion about the new release of the Zero to Three policy priorities document and how they used social media.

The committee had a robust discussion of ideas for Spark NH project funds. It settled on a recommendation to keep the collective impact discussions going between the regional partners of Spark NH by funding facilitation and meeting costs. It was recommended that these meetings be scheduled every two months and be held alternately at all the regions throughout the year. Kim Firth suggested that the Endowment for Health may be able to assist if there were any larger costs needed for a national presenter or expert at these meetings.

Peter Antal, Spark NH's evaluation consultant, led a discussion with and handed out some questions to committee members regarding their recommendations for Spark NH's data needs and future data products.

There were no new updates on the Alliance for Success / Strategies for Children work on advising a small working group, convened by the Endowment for Health, on advancing early childhood advocacy.

Laura Milliken gave an update on Spark NH's regional partnerships with: the Coös Coalition for Young Children and Families and Project Launch in Manchester. Marti Ilg gave the update on the Lakes Region Financial Stability Partnership. Marjorie Droppa gave an update on the work of Impact Monadnock.

An update was given on the Child Care and Development Fund taskforce by several members of the Policy Committee who also serve on the taskforce.

The meeting evaluations were positive.

Next meeting date: Monday, May 4, 2015 9-10:30