



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, June 1, 2015, 9:00

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, Erika Argersinger, Julie Sackett (Committee Co-Chairs), Alysse Coffey, Claudette Mallory, Marjorie Droppa, Patti Baum (by phone), Kim Firth, Christina Lachance, Jackie Sparks, and Laura Milliken. Peggy Kieschnick, facilitator

Meeting summary recorder(s): Laura Milliken

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions
2. Update on the White Paper for “A Framework for Action for New Hampshire’s Young Children”
Peggy Kieschnick and Erika Argersinger
3. Endowment for Health and New Hampshire Charitable Foundation EC Policy Support
 - a. Plan for and set new date for a July(?) larger meeting
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

1. Peggy reported that the white paper is progressing
2. Kim and Peggy reported that the Endowment for Health and Charitable Foundation would like to prioritize 1-3 early childhood policy priorities for the next 5 years and create an advocacy action plan. They presented a PowerPoint which will be sent to the committee with the minutes. They recommended a longer meeting for July to narrow the policy areas to include both policy experts and content experts. Spark NH will send out a Meeting Wizard to set the date for the meeting.
3. Jeanne Agri gave an update from the CCDF task force. There are lots of new regulations from the federal government, some of which still need interpretation. There is a shift in focus now from just supporting work to really supporting families and making child care consistent for children.

4. Regional Partnerships –

a. Safe Schools, Healthy Students – Julie reported that all three sites will be using the ASQ-SE.

Concord and Laconia are using it with all children. Rochester is phasing in its use. Laconia is adding a Title I Preschool classroom. Currently they have a developmental preschool. The new class would be a 5 day preschool for 4-5 hours a day.

b. FSP in the lakes region is using population level indicators including percentage of children receiving subsidized care in quality child care, percentage of children off schedule for the ASQ and ASQ-SE, and third grad assessment scores.

c. Marj reported for Impact Monadnock that she is finalizing the initial “relationship building” phase of her work. She has been doing many Bedrock presentations. She is often asked what makes the initiative different and she answers, “collective impact.” They have released an RFP for a strategic planning consultant. Marj did a number of interviews with early childhood educators in the region about barriers for their children and families. Among the issues that came up were the fact that there is no early head start, that not enough children are receiving early supports and services or child care scholarships, that a lot of children are in unlicensed care. Addiction and transportation issues were also identified. Marj will now be doing similar interviews with parents. They are planning a business forum in the region for the fall.

Next meeting date: TBA