



Spark NH Council Meeting Summary

June 25, 2015

2 Delta Drive, Concord, NH

Refreshments and Networking took place from 8:30 – 9:00am.

Council Members Present: Erin Boylan, Jackie Cowell, Mark Vallone, Kimberly Reeve, Rhonda Siegel, Marti Ilg, Effie Malley, Debra Nelson, Jean Briggs Badger, Charna Aversa, Erika Argersinger, Farah Deselle, Nancy Stiles, Kristin Booth, Kim Firth, Deidre Dunn Tierney,

Staff Members Present: Laura Milliken, Katie Brissette

Others in Attendance: Peter Antal, Lara Quiroga, Christina Manter, Caitlin Jones, MaryEllen Schule, Carol Garhart, Maureen Quinn, Christina LaChance, Stefany Shaheen

Welcome and introductions: Jackie provided information on October 5th event. Effie shared that the Child Behavioral Health Collaborative Summit will be held on October 6th. Debra informed the Council that The Federal Office of Head Start has a new director and that The Office of Head Start has published new performance standards for Head Start for the first time since 1975. Erika shared that the Casey Kids Count book will be released in the coming weeks.

What's New from Dept. of Education and Dept. of Health & Human Services: Debra shared on behalf of DHHS. She updated the Council on the budget; Governor Hassan indicated her intention to veto the budget due to concerns that it is unbalanced, does not adequately fund out shared priorities as a state, and includes expensive business tax cuts that are not paid for in this budget and that will force even deeper cuts in future budgets. We'll know more over the next week. On a brighter note, DHHS has welcomed Kristin Booth as the new CDB Administrator. Debra then shared about the NH DOE 2015 Summer Summit. Thanks to the Endowment for Health, which supplemented the NH DOE budget we are able to bring nationally known speaker Donna Beegle to NH. She will do a keynote as well as a three hour workshop on the afternoon of August 6th in Concord for up to 70 Early Childhood participants. Information will be available soon. The topic is "Improving Communication and Relationships with Families Facing Poverty". Thanks to the Endowment's and Head Start's co-sponsorship, there is no registration fee. The Family Resource Connection Librarian, Nancy Cristiano, is on extended leave and the NH State Library is considering the future of the FRC (i.e whether or not to maintain it) For the time being, a reference librarian will answer requests for information. If we believe the FRC should continue to exist, we'll need to follow this situation closely. The FRC position supervisor noted that there is no other funding for this effort. Debra also shared Head Start updated with the Council. The Office of Head Start has a new national director, Dr. Blanca Enriquez. OHS released new performance standards and new Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework (birth-5). The new performance standards were released on June 16th under "HHS Proposes Vision for the Future of Head Start". This is the first holistic revision and complete reorganization of Head Start Performance Standards since originally published in 1975. The new standards describe how local grantees provide comprehensive Head Start services to children and their families, including requirements to provide education, health, mental health, nutrition, and family and community engagement services, as well as rules for local program governance. The performance standards have been updated to reflect current research, science, and best practice; describe high quality service delivery so Head Start is better able to focus on outcomes for children and families; reduce administrative and regulatory burden, and improve clarity and transparency. One of the biggest changes to the standards is the higher dosage: a full school day has been proposed (from current minimum of 3.5 hours to 5 hours), as well as a full school year, increased from 128 days to 180 days. Early Head Start must now serve at least 6 hours a day and 230 days a year. Overall, the new performance standards significantly reduce the number of requirements while raising the bar on quality.

Jean Briggs Badger shared on behalf of the Department of Education. Commissioner Barry has released a document regarding kindergarten transition and readiness. Barry will address her vision for early childhood at the quarterly meeting. The Commitment to Early Learning paper has been released. It is a check list that includes quality programs, family engagement, and funding. (check handouts for more information).

Minutes Acceptance: April's minutes were accepted without changes.

Director's Report: Laura introduced Stefany Shaheen as Spark NH's new Communications Consultant. Council members are urged to take the pledge and share the pledge with constituencies and co-workers.

Financials: The Community of Practice and the Impact Monadnock grants were added to the budget. The \$15,000 yellow highlighted amount is the Endowment for Health grant to support the Community of Practice. The grant is awaiting Governor and Council approval. The Impact Monadnock grant is for 18,000. The Community of Practice was established to bring regional initiatives together; Project Launch, Impact Monadnock, Coos Coalition for Young Children, and the Financial Stability Partnership. Impact Monadnock brings together the Monadnock United Way and Spark NH as co-backbones. Monadnock United Way is providing more of the funding and Spark NH is providing TA and public awareness. The Community of Practice Consultant is a new line item in the budget. Budget approved by consensus. YTD Financials: Although it looks like the supplies line is low, it is well within the budget. The supplies budget is spread throughout many categories. The YTD budget is on track. YTD budget approved by consensus.

Council Membership Discussion: The Executive Committee reached consensus that adding the following five strategically-selected positions to the Council would greatly enhance our capacity to address our mandates, further our mission, and speak with one voice regarding NH's young children and families: 1) President of the NH Pediatric Society or designee; 2) Director of NH DHHS Office of Minority Health and Refugee Affairs, or designee; 3) Mental Health State Agency Representative – NH DHHS Bureau of Behavioral Health Administrator; 4) Director of NH DHHS Division of Family Assistance (DFA), or designee; and 5) Parent Representative of the NH Parent Teacher Association (appointed by them). The committee also thinks that the council membership should be revisited every three years. The council reached consensus on the recommended positions. The next step is that the Council needs to recommend these changes to the Governor and the Governor needs to make the change.

Council Evaluation Discussion: Peter led a discussion around Evaluation. Overall, Peter inquired about what a comprehensive coordinated system looks like. Council members discussed how they would know when we've reached the goal of having a comprehensive coordinated system. Members gave input on what their definition of collaboration looks like and the level of collaboration that currently exists at the local and state level. Increasing access and capacity were two of the biggest themes that stretched throughout this conversation.

Committee and Task Force Reports: There were no live committee reports at this meeting but the following committee summaries are included in your meeting packet:

- Executive
- Communications and Public Awareness
- Quality of EC Programs and Services
- Workforce & Professional Development
- Evaluation
- Policy

Public Comment Period: Lara Quiroga supports mental health and parent representatives addition to council. She wanted to add to the evaluation conversation by saying that she knows collaboration is happening when state agencies work together with common indicators, for example when RFPs come out that require collaboration.

Other Council news:

Kim Firth shared that there will be a "secret showing" of the Raising of America at the July Communication and Public Awareness committee meeting. The committee will help to develop a communication plan after the showing. The Endowment for Health is partnering with NHPTV to produce a half hour "Raising of New Hampshire" segment. The current timeline as the segment airing in the fall. Laura shared that the Bedrock powerpoint is in the process of being changed into a webinar, which will feature commentary from local leaders and it will live online. A video about the pledge is also in the works which will feature key leaders discussing why they took the pledge. A video entitled "Why I Care" is the process of being made, which includes key leaders addressing why they care about early childhood. This video will be shown at the October 5th event. Rhonda Siegel announced that Maternal Health has received the new PRAMS Data. The data is unable to be analyzed due to the hiring freeze.. When the office is staffed again, they will

present data from the survey.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00am

Next Meeting: August 28, 2015, 9-11am

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