

Summary of the Summaries – April, May, and June

Workforce and Professional Development – April 24, 2015

The WPD Committee made final edits to the draft Shared Professional Early Childhood Core Competencies (SPECCC) and finalized the version that will be shared with the constituencies that we have identified. This version of the SPECCC is also posted on the WPD Committee page at the Spark NH website. We agreed on a letter that will be used to introduce the SPECCC to various constituencies and identified which committee members will contact which constituencies. We determined the process for sharing the SPECCC, soliciting feedback, and sharing feedback with the WPD Committee. Committee members agreed to get feedback from constituencies before the September meeting.

Policy Committee – May 4, 2015

The committee heard updates about the “Framework for Action for New Hampshire’s Young Children” white paper and research on these policy priorities. Feedback from Spark NH’s quarterly meeting with the Office of the Governor and the Commissioners of Education and HHS was shared. The committee continued discussions about the release of the “Framework.” An update was given that the Spark NH Council allocated project funds for the committee’s recommendation to continue collective impact discussions between regional partners of Spark NH. Updates were given on Spark NH’s regional partnerships and the CCDF taskforce. Members were urged to attend the NH Listens sessions in May.

Communications Committee – May 7, 2015

The group shared some current events including a newspaper article on public preschool from the Conway area; Child Development Bureau’s open position; changes at the Farmington Child Care Center; October 5th Early Learning Nation event; and Spark NH’s Community of Practice meetings. The 2-1-1 Task Force gave an update on their work. The final “We are the Granite State” video was shared and the group discussed strategies for utilization. “Our Pledge to New Hampshire’s Children” was discussed and strategies to get others to take the Pledge were brainstormed. Past and upcoming Bedrock presentations were reviewed. The Council’s Race Matters work was also discussed.

Family Partnership and Engagement Task Force – May 11, 2015

The task force spent most of the meeting talking about the draft of the family engagement brochure and its purpose. The task force has decided to move ahead with the brochure to help parents share their stories in order to make systemic change in the early childhood system with the understanding that the change is not going to be immediate, but part of a process. The task force believes that the brochure is a family friendly method of engaging parents.

Quality of Early Childhood Program and Services – June 16, 2015

The Quality Committee did not meet in May due to multiple conflicts. At our June meeting, we decided that our next task will be to create a couple of toolkits (one for programs and one for families) to promote collaboration and coordination among early learning, health and family support programs. The

committee also reviewed the “Using a Race Equity Lens” presentation and considered our work on looking at equity and diversity and then structural and individual causes. The committee decided to go to a bi-monthly meeting schedule, so our next meeting will be August 18 from 1-3.\

Workforce and Professional Development – May 22 meeting:

The WPD Committee began with a half hour Orientation for new committee members, followed by the regular meeting. We heard about progress on the draft Glossary that will accompany the Shared Professional Early Childhood Core Competencies (SPECCC) when they are sent to constituencies for review. Sue Foley gave an update on the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Advisory Group, EC ASSIST, and shared a draft of the group’s strategic plan. She asked the WPD Committee to review the strategic plan and offer feedback and endorsement at a later meeting. Tessa McDonnell has been selected as the facilitator to work with the WPD Committee beginning in June to develop a strategic plan for addressing the recommendations in the Final Report on the Blueprint for the Cross Sector Early Childhood Professional Development System. That report is posted on the WPD Committee page of the Spark NH website. Pat Cantor will step down as Chair of the WPD Committee in September and Tessa McDonnell will become the new Chair; the Committee is still looking for a volunteer to serve with Tessa as co-chair.

Executive Committee - May 13, 2015

The Executive Committee debriefed the last Council meeting and drafted the agenda for next month’s meeting. The budget was briefly discussed. Details about the DOE Summer Summit and the Early Childhood Strand were shared. An evaluation of Spark NH, required by Project LAUNCH, was discussed and will take place at the next Council meeting. A proposal to add new members to the Council was discussed. A Bedrock training will take place at the October Council meeting. An update on Regional Initiatives Community of Practice was given. Needs Assessment work was reviewed. The meeting with the Governor’s Office and Commissioners went very well.

Policy Committee – June 1, 2015

The Policy Committee will be rescheduling for a longer July meeting to further narrow the action steps recommended in the white paper to accompany the Framework for action. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Endowment for Health will be choosing using 1-3 of these action steps to create an early childhood advocacy plan for the next 5 years. The CCDF task force reported that there are many changes in CCDF policy which are still being defined. Some of the regional early childhood initiatives updated the group on their work.

Evaluation Committee – June 5, 2015

The committee discussed the current status and timeline for the Spark NH Committee Survey. They worked on amendments of and a process for implementation of the levels of Collaboration Scale. A proposed methodology and process for updating questions to be used in the focus groups and interviews were discussed

Executive Committee – June 9, 2015

The committee finalized the June Council agenda, and reviewed the budget and the sustainability plan. They reviewed the current Council membership and revisited the originally proposed Council membership list. A proposed new membership will be brought to the Council for consensus during the June meeting. There was a discussion around what committees will be doing with the Race Matters work. An update on this year's Summer Summit was shared. An update on the Regional Initiatives "Community of Practice" was given. The committee also discussed a letter of support, the Pledge for NH's Children and Early Learning NH's October 5th event.