



Spark NH Council Meeting Summary

April 23, 2015

Two Delta Drive, Concord, NH

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

Council Members Present: Erin Boylan, Marti Ilg, Kerry Wiley, Ruth Littlefield, Richard Colardarci, Michelle Lewis, Shaunna Babcock, Jeanne Agri, Erika Argersinger, Mark Vallone, Debra Nelson, Charna Aversa, Jean Briggs Badger, Rhonda Siegel, JoAnn Cobb, Kim Firth, Melinda Sylvester. **Staff Members Present:** Laura Milliken and Katie Brissette.

Others in Attendance: Christina Lachance, Carol Garhart, Caitlin Jones, Lara Quiroga, MaryEllen Schule, Amy Parece-Grogan, Caroline Sheats, and Ellyn Schreiber.

Welcome and introductions: Erika shared that NH Kids Count released their latest data book and it is available online. Erin informed the Council that Family Support NH hosted a Legislative Lunch in March and 84 legislators attended. Rhonda shared that her office is beginning work on a 5 year block grant. Debra shared that Head Start celebrated its 50th birthday; a celebration/conference was held in Maine.

What's New from Dept. of Education and Dept. of Health & Human Services: Jean Briggs Badger reported out for the Department of Education. She shared results from a survey that went to all school districts in NH. Out of all of those who responded to the survey, 76% reported having full day kindergarten or will have full day kindergarten in the fall, whereas 24% of those who responded do not have any kindergarten or plans to implement. An additional 10 districts will introduce full day kindergarten in Fall 2015. In April, the DOE held another early childhood workgroup meeting. This meeting focused on strengthening kindergarten transition. The work group is working on creating materials to develop policies and practices to support kindergarten transition. The early childhood website is being redesigned. Commissioner Barry released a white paper on her commitment to early learning and it was released to all superintendents.

Debra reported out for the Department of Health and Human Services. The budget continues to be the main topic at DHHS. Commissioner Toumpas presented to the legislature, where he shared that DHHS has lost 500 positions since 2012. Most of those positions are frozen and a waiver is required to hire anyone to fill them. Waivers are not being granted. DHHS is continuing to work on the redesign by maximizing efficiencies and effectiveness. One major area is being rolled out at a time. The redesign process can be followed along on the DHHS website; updates are being posted as the department enters a new step in the redesign process. Debra shared about two health insurance options through the New Hampshire Health Protection Program. These plans will sunset in 2016 if no action is taken.

Minutes Acceptance: The Council reached consensus to accept the minutes without changes.

Member Presentation: JoAnn Cobb & Ellyn Schreiber presented on behalf of the NH Association for Infant and Mental Health. NHAIMH is a membership organization made up of volunteers who serve as board members overseen by an executive board. They have five working committees; executive, membership, community resources and information, training and education, and finance. Ellen and JoAnn shared the organization's strategic plan, which is evaluated every five years by committee members. NHAIMH is currently in year two of the latest plan, which is available on their website. Ellyn and JoAnn shared accomplishments that NHAIMH has made over the past few years. In 2009, they published Mental Health Services for NH Young Children and Their Families: Planning to Improve Access and Outcomes. NHAIMH became a membership organization in 2010 and they currently have 76 members. In 2011, the Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Competencies were completed. 2013 saw the release of the Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Core Competency Profiles and the Self-Identified Professional Development Goals among Staff Serving Young Children. In 2014, NHAIMH launched the Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Credential, which offers intermediate and advanced level credentials and 7 approved reflective consultants. In 2014-2015, 15 intermediate and 6 advanced credentials were earned by people representing a wide range of disciplines, sites, and geographic locations. In 2014, an online Introduction to Early

Childhood Mental Health Web Training designed by Children's Behavioral Health became available to the public. In 2014, a graduate course in infant mental health was designed for Plymouth State University. NHAIMH will host their 2015 conference on September 24th and 25th. The keynote speaker is Dr. Vincent Felitti, who will be presenting "From Risk to Resilience".

Director's Report: Laura shared that the committee guidelines have been updated and they are included in the Council meeting packet. She urges the Council, committee chairs, and members to review them. Laura reminded Council members to take the pledge on the website if they have not yet done so.

Financials: Katie presented the December financials with a slight change, the financials show that a portion of the budget was unspent, but it was spent in early 2015. The grantors' fiscal year does not always run on the same fiscal year as Spark NH. The December budget was on track. The January – March financials are on track and everything spent according to the grants. Katie shared the FY15 amended budget, which shows that two new grants have come in; they covered the collective impact training and the future hire of a public awareness consultant. Spark NH is waiting on the final amount of the Impact Monadnock grant, but we do know the range. The Council reached consensus to accept the financials and amended budget.

Project Funds: There are currently \$9,613.50 dollars in unspent project funds. Three committees have requested a portion of the funds. The Workforce and Professional Development Committee has requested \$1,500 to hire a consultant for two days worth of work on the Cross Sector Blueprint. The Data Committee is working on early childhood indicators and they are requesting \$2,000 to continue that work. The Policy Committee has requested \$6,013.50 to hire Peggy Kieschnick to create a community of practice. The Executive Committee explained that they would like authorization to reallocate funds as necessary to close out the grants before the next Council meeting. An update will be given at the June Council meeting. The Council reached consensus to approve the proposed spending of project funds and reallocation of funds.

Equity and Discussion Follow Up: Amy updated the Council on the equity work. Laura and the Executive Committee divided up the back map and assigned various factors to the committees. The committees will answer questions 4a and 4b, and question 5 of the Race Matters questionnaire. Laura has requested that committee members look at the factors assigned to them and make sure they fit with committee assignments. The committees will use the Racial Equity Impact Analysis during this activity side-by-side with the on-going work of the committee. The committee representative will report out on the equity work during the June Council meeting. The Council discussed the importance of this process and brainstormed other ways for this work to be completed on the committee level. It was proposed that a committee chairs meeting be scheduled to better inform this work.

Committee and Task Force Reports:

Executive - The Executive Committee had nothing additional to share.

Data - The Data Committee is in the process of identifying EC indicators.

Quality - In February, the committee met with Peter Antal to discuss their data needs. They evaluated the dissemination plan for the quality cards. In April, the committee discussed creating a toolkit for supporting programs to jointly serve families in a better and more coordinated way.

Workforce & Professional Development – The committee met with Peter Antal to discuss their data needs and important items that are needed and/or should be included in future needs assessments. The committee is going through a leadership change because of Ellen's departure. The committee is looking for a new co-chair and they are also looking to expand the committee. Ruth shared that the Professional Competencies are getting close to completion and they are working on a letter that will explain the competencies. She updated the Council on SEE Change by explaining that the project has continued to move forward.

Evaluation – The committee last met in March and two new members joined. They are focused on getting the committee survey out.

Policy – The April meeting focused around the Framework for Action. The Framework for Action has been presented to the Governor's office, where it received positive feedback. The committee is working on a white paper to accompany the Framework.

Family Partnership &Engagement - Julie and Laura represented Spark NH at Parent Advocacy Day in order to get feedback from parents to be shared with the Family Partnership & Engagement Taskforce and the Quality Committee.

Communications and Public Awareness - Katie played the new public awareness video for the Council. It is posted on Spark NH's YouTube page and eventually will be embedded on the website.

Public Comment Period: Lara Quiroga provided information on Project LAUNCH for new Council members.

Other Council news: Erika shared federal policy updates: CHIP and MIECHV have been reauthorized for two years. The Senate is working on reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The committee working on reauthorization has released their draft of the bill, which includes a competitive early learning grant for states. The grant will require a 30% match.

Next Meeting: June 25, 2015 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. at Two Delta Dr. in Concord, NH.

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