



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.

Director's Report – August 27, 2015

Impact Monadnock

As most of you know, Spark NH now is one of the backbone organizations (with Monadnock United Way) for Impact Monadnock (IM), the early childhood development initiative in the Monadnock Region. IM is about to embark on a strategic planning process to choose their priority areas of focus. The IM board recently decided that they would begin their work prioritizing policies from the Spark NH Framework for Action. It has been our hope that as new regional initiatives form they would build on the work of other regional initiatives and Spark NH so I am thrilled IM has made this decision.

Marjorie Droppa, the Project Director of IM has been participating in the Spark NH Data and Policy Committees as well as the Spark NH Community of Practice and I will be participating in the IM Strategic Planning process. These synergies strengthen both organizations and will help to ensure that work done at the regional level will inform and strengthen work at the state level and vice versa.

Spark NH Sustainability

I am very pleased to report that the \$75,000 that Spark NH received this year from the Child Development Bureau will be continued next year. This means that we now have secured our core operating budget through 2016! I want to thank Child Development Bureau Administrator Kristin Booth for her ongoing support of our work.

Project Funds

Spark NH currently has \$9,613.50 in project funds available for committees to support work consistent with the New Hampshire Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Early Childhood. So far the Executive Committee has made a proposal to spend \$1,100 to support Watch Me Grow technology. This proposal will be brought up during Thursday's Council meeting. The Data Committee will be discussing a proposal at their next meeting to bring to the October Council meeting.

October Council Meeting

Governor Hassan has signed the pledge to New Hampshire's children and we are hopeful she will be available to announce this at our October Council meeting. As a result, the meeting will take place in Governor and Council chambers in the state house.

December Council Meeting

You might have noticed that the December Council meeting currently falls on December 24, when I imagine some of you were not planning to be at work. Since the 4th Thursday is usually falls on a day when many of you take vacations, the Executive Committee has proposed that we move the December Council meeting to

the second Thursday of December from now on. This would make the 2015 December Council meeting on December 10. Please mark your calendars.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Milliken,
Director, Spark NH

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller