



Spark NH Executive Committee Meeting

2 Delta Drive, Concord

June 9, 2015 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Attendance: Jean Briggs Badger, Katie Brissette, Jackie Cowell, Laura Milliken, Debra Nelson, and Deirdre Dunn Tierney.

Minutes Recorder: Katie Brissette

1. May Executive Committee Meeting Summary

The committee came to consensus to approve the meeting summary with one edit.

2. Spark NH Budget

The Impact Monadnock grant was more than originally budgeted for so there will need to be a budget adjustment. As a result, some additional project funds may be available. The grant should be through Governor and Council before the next Spark NH Council meeting.

3. Spark NH Council Membership

Given a new mandate from ECCS (Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems) for pediatric representation on the Council, and a new Governor who endorsed the Council's Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Early Childhood, the Executive Committee took the opportunity to review the current Council membership for overall balance in representation. The Committee revisited the originally proposed Council membership list from April 2011 that was generated over the course of a year and with much thoughtful discussion. This list included 31 members and 3 members-at-large before then Governor John Lynch mandated changes. In considering potential new Council members, the Executive Committee applied the same key factors as were considered during its original formation, including: cross-sector (health, early learning, family support), geography, public/private, families/professionals, diversity, etc.

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). This proposed new membership will be brought to the Council for consensus during the June 2015 meeting. Once the Council reaches consensus, the final recommendation will go to the Governor's Office for approval. The Executive Committee will also recommend to the Council that Council membership be revisited every 3 years, or sooner if necessary (e.g., a grant to the Council requires that we add a position).

4. Spark NH Equity Discussion Update

There was a Chairs' meeting last week to review the Race Matters work. The Committees will start this work and give their conclusions to the Council by the end of the year.

5. Bedrock Training for Council

There will be a Bedrock training at the October Council meeting.

6. Set/Update June Spark NH Council Agenda

There were a few changes made to the draft agenda. In order to meet the requirements of Project LAUNCH for evaluation there needs to be an evaluation of Spark NH conducted at the next Council meeting. PLEASE NOTE: There will be no member presentation or committee reporting this month in order to allow time for the evaluation discussion. A membership discussion will be added after the financials report.

7. Update on DOE Summer Summit

The Summer Summit is August 6 & 7 in Keene. Debra shared two handouts that outline the Early Childhood Strand. This year's Early Childhood Leadership Team will include Jeanne Agri and Bagdat Caglar, Debra Nelson, Kristin Booth and Jessica Sugrue, Kim Firth, Jackie Cowell, Erika Argersinger, Deirdre Dunn Tierney, Ruth Littlefield, Laura Milliken and Suelaine Poling. Hotel accommodations could be paid for with some of Spark NH's travel funds. Debra and Laura will work out the logistics for reservations.

8. Update on Regional Initiatives "Community of Practice"

These meetings are going very well and there is a lot of excitement within the group.

9. Sustainability

The Endowment for Health grant was approved by Governor and Council. Stefany Shaheen has been hired as the Public Awareness Consultant. The Impact Monadnock grant has gone through the DHHS Contracts Unit and is likely to be on the agenda for the next Governor and Council meeting.

10. Spark NH Work Plan Update

No update at this time.

11. Other

- i. Laura was asked to write a letter of support for the City of Manchester's Lead Poisoning Prevention HUD renewal grant. The Committee agreed that this should be supported.
- ii. Laura will ask the Council to take the Pledge for NH's Children and to ask their constituents to also take it.
- iii. Jackie gave a brief update on the October 5th ECE event. She shared the latest event flyer and reviewed the confirmed list of speakers.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2015 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.