



Spark NH Executive Committee Meeting

Two Delta Drive, Concord
February 11, 2015 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Meeting Summary

Attendance: Erika Argersinger, Jean Briggs Badger, Katie Brissette, Jackie Cowell, Deirdre Dunn Tierney, Ruth Littlefield (by phone), Laura Milliken, and Debra Nelson. Peter Antal joined the group for part of the meeting.

Minutes Recorder: Katie Brissette

1. **Peter Antal – Council Data Needs** – Peter gave a brief review of his work with the needs assessment. Survey results show positive feedback from those using the report. Peter is collecting information about what data would be useful and where the gaps are. Suggestions for data included: more on local, county, town levels which could highlight disparities; adequacy cap on school funding; HB1 the state budget, impact on businesses. A Children’s Budget might be a way to capture what is being spent on children in the state. Future reports might include dashboards and issue briefs.
2. **January Executive Committee Meeting Summary** – There were a few changes to the meeting summary. The group came to consensus to accept the meeting summary once the changes are made.
3. **Budget** – The 2015 budget will include unspent 2014 money as a separate column. The Monadnock United Way grant will be included once the amount is confirmed.
4. **Governor and Council** – All Spark NH money has to be approved by G&C through DCYF. The latest NHCF grant was tabled by G&C due to questions. The hope is that it will be voted on at their next meeting and Laura will be available if there are further questions.
5. **Filling Open Council Positions**
Ross Gittell will help to name the representative for the vacant higher education seat on the Council. Jackie will continue to reach out to him to confirm. Shaunna Babcock Vice-chair of the NH Child Care Advisory Council will be their representative.
6. **Report on meeting with DHHS** – Laura reported that there were discussions around early childhood and they will continue to meet. The committee suggested working with DHHS to align the Early Childhood Plan and “Blueprint for Action.”
7. **Set February Spark NH Council Agenda**
The draft agenda for the February Council meeting was shared and finalized.
8. **Meeting with Governor’s Staff** – Erika, Laura and Jackie met with new staff member at Governor’s Office, Brittany Weaver. The meeting was an opportunity to update her on Spark NH. They shared the draft “Blueprint for Action”

and requested an introduction from the Governor. A meeting with the Commissioners and Governor's Office will be scheduled once the white paper and the "Blueprint for Action" are final.

- 9. Potential EFH Funded Positions** – There are two positions that could potentially be funded by the Endowment for Health. One is an Advocate or someone who could better coordinate advocacy around early childhood in NH. No one group is focusing on the specific age group across the sectors of Spark NH. The other is a Public Awareness Consultant who could help raise awareness around the importance of the early years. This position would reach out to leaders and influencers from around the state, Rotary Clubs, Chambers, etc. and coordinate Ambassadors to deliver the Bedrock message. They will also communicate and promote who Spark NH is and what we do.
- 10. Committee Guidelines** – The committee will review the updated guidelines and send their comments to Debra. Laura will work with Debra on the final draft and bring it back to the committee. They will include new language about reviewing and updating work plans.
- 11. Discussion of Spark NH Work Plan**

The Executive Committee reviewed their work plan. Goals one and six are two areas that Spark NH is not taking the lead on at this time. Spark NH meets with the Governor's Office and has had discussions about a cross-agency focus on their specific age group. The committee decided to leave goal one as is and have the date say "future." There were still some questions about how a change to infrastructure would allow for data to be shared cross-agency. Laura will soon add racial/ethnicity competency and regional work through Impact Monadnock to the work plan.
- 12. Wellness and Primary Prevention Council Appointment** – This legislatively created council wants to add a representative from the State's Early Childhood Advisory Council to their membership. Laura will attend the first few meetings to see if it's a good fit for her or someone from Spark to participate. John Harrington from DCYF is the contact person.
- 13. Other** – The Collective Impact training is on March 12. This was made possible with Endowment for Health funding. The National Governor's Association has not released the RFP for their TA grant yet. Laura will follow up when she receives it.

The Committee reached consensus to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meeting: The Executive Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1 – 3 pm. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 11th from 1 – 3 pm. (Jean and Dee are not available for the next meeting)