



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.

Spark NH Quality of Early Childhood Programs and Services Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 (and every 3rd Tuesday)

1:00 – 3:00, Delta Dental Building, 2 Delta Drive

Meeting Notes

Committee Charge: Advise lead agencies on issues relative to Federal and State program standards, review/revise as feasible quality standards for early childhood programs, ensure access to and coordination/collaboration among programs.

In Attendance: Amanda Berry, Kristin Booth, Kathleen Gray, Debra Nelson, Cathy Pellerin, Kristi Schott, Patricia Tripp

Chair: Kristin Booth

Note taker: Debra Nelson

1:00 Introductions and Housekeeping

Kristin

- Accept the December meeting summary – Accepted
- Introduced new committee member, Kristi Schott, representing the Child Care Licensing Unit, replacing Kristy Woods, who has left the Department.

1:15 Agenda Items

Agenda was modified to accommodate Peter Antal's request for 15 minutes of Committee time for discussion on data needs. Peter is evaluation consultant for Spark NH. Will look at impact of recent needs assessment on Spark NH members/committees and other constituents and data needs (e.g., impact of poverty on certain part of the state). Tasks: if need to collect data, how can we do so? Products – e.g., infographs, web. He is visiting each Spark Committee this month for input on these issues. Centralize what we know, don't know and want to know.

Input on Data Needs

- Peter noted that a survey on the Needs Assessment report indicated that constituents found it helpful and utilized portions or all of the report in their work
- This suggests that Spark should conduct NA again. What should go in it? Are there other elements of data that would be helpful for improving quality? Consider direct data elements, as well as research questions
- Recommendations
 - Poverty level would be beneficial, especially in Manchester area. Does this affect quality of child care/where children are going?
 - Does quality influence the decisions families make re: choosing programs?
 - What would incentivize families to select quality care?
 - What would incentivize programs to offer quality care?

- Is there an awareness of quality among families and providers?
- What do families do when quality changes or deteriorates?
- How do we know how children are doing when they enter kindergarten?
- Is the QRIS accomplishing what we want it to accomplish?
- Are children who participate in high quality preschool experiences better prepared for school success?
- Is there equitable access to services for young children?
- How are children enrolled in FCESS doing when they leave the program as compared to children who didn't have access?
- GIS mapping of children in child care
- How are families who are ELL accessing services (care, health)?
- Gender issues
- New federal requirements for CCDF will require additional spending for scholarship and quality, which likely will result in wait lists/fewer served. How do children who have access do versus those who did not have access? (child care scholarship). In rural areas of the state where more children are in unlicensed care?

1:50 Quality Definition Cards: Dissemination

- NH KRI (Debra) - Disseminated at Keene forum (33). Did not distribute at Nashua forum yesterday, but will get copies to the Title 1 director for dissemination
- Head Start Directors (Patty) – 100 for families/10 for providers, except for SNHS – 200 for families (they do two counties). Emailed them the letter afterward. Some Family Services Managers indicated that they had received cards and had begun to distribute them. Ed. Managers meeting canceled due to snow. Next meeting in two months.
- Family Resource Centers (Kristin) - John Harrington asked for 100 family cards for each of 18 centers. Gave average of 75/program (1,350), plus 25 provider cards for each. All were distributed to FRCs.
- Sharon Kaiser –SMS – 12 for Partners in Health and 10 for Care Coordinators, 13 miscellaneous
- Safe Schools/Healthy Students State Management Team – canceled due to snow
- Kristin - NH Family Voices – 100 of each, to be distributed at their conference; referral packets for children in target age group; give some to Jen Pineo for children with autism
- Kristin received requests for more cards at a recent meeting.
- Kristin will check with Katie Brisette to see if more requests for cards are coming in through the website.
- CCR&R (Cathy) disseminated to all program managers. Emailed letters afterward

Many Provider cards remain, but only very few family cards remain.

2:05 Other Dissemination Opportunities

- Slides – Cathy will pilot use of slides and cards at Director's meeting on Thursday.
- Slides and cards- perhaps "tier two" effort at conferences
- Conferences:
 - EC – later in March
 - Strengthening Families – later in March

- EC Celebration – April 14
 - Communications and Public Awareness Committee: Can someone attend their meeting on March 5th? No one is available. Kristin to ask Katie Brissette if she can bring the information from Quality to Communications and PA
 - Identify one or more Child Care Basics kits that may be an appropriate dissemination venue for cards/slides.
- 2:30 Policy Recommendations: Continued Discussion
- Debra summarized how the recommendations and strategies were generated.
 - Group to discuss how the recommendations fit into the workplan, and if they do not, do we want to add them to the workplan?
 - Laura's recommendation – Quality Committee create a toolkit for organizations who want to better coordinate services for shared clients. Great materials from Project LAUNCH – MOUs, data sharing, consents, etc.; Coalition for Young Children and Families
 - Amanda shared that LAUNCH MOU is nearly completed. She will share with committee members at next meeting
- 2:45 **Major/Relevant Updates from Other Committees** – Collective Impact training on March 12th.
- Requests To/From Other Committees/Council** – Communications/PA Committee – assistance with adding Spark NH “look” to slides
- Next Steps/Action Items**
- All - Bring back information on use of cards/experience with cards if this information is available
 - Kristi - Download/print copies of cards: Does this work?
 - Kristin – Ask Katie Brissette to bring info. on the cards to Communications Committee
 - Patty – Make adjustments to slides such that matches language on cards
 - Kristin will review and send to Cathy P., who will use them to introduce cards at directors' meeting on Thursday
 - Kristin will send revised slides to all; everyone will use as opportunities present themselves
 - Check with Communications and PA Committee re: graphic design for slides – match Spark NH design
 - All – Review Policy/Practice Recommendations and strategies as compared to current workplan. Come to next meeting prepared to discuss if and where they fit together.
 - Amanda – Share Project LAUNCH MOU at next meeting
 - Kristin – Email everyone copy of the workplan
 - Kristin – Notify Katie Brissette that no meeting in March
 - Debra – Draft list of questions re: effectiveness of cards to bring to Evaluation Committee
- 2:48 **Frequency of Quality Committee Meetings** – Group will reconvene in April (no March meeting) and determine next steps and whether or not we can make sufficient progress if we change meeting schedule to meeting every other month, if we work on tasks in between meetings.
- 2:55 **Program Updates from Meeting Participants**

All

QRIS update –Kristin is working with two smaller groups; one is looking at monitoring standards, and in the process, what suggested changes to the standards, and the second, co-led by Sue Foley, is on how to incorporate TA into the QRIS.

DCYF/CDB – CCDBG reauthorized; states must meet many new requirements. Ellen created list. Most must be in place by September 30, 2016. New Federal Plan includes workplans, each of which requires report on status, goals/objectives, tasks to undertake, timeline (projected start/end date), overall target completion date, lead agency to complete goal/objective. Plan must be written by beginning of April, disseminated to the public by April 6 for the public hearing on May 5. Live location and webinar

EHS/Child Care Partnership Grants – were funded; grantees are up and running

3:00 **Evaluation**

All

What worked well? Debra taking notes; We have the time and take the time to discuss the agenda items. Know what to expect; everything is covered, not rushed.

What could have been better? No recommendations

NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Use of Updated Slides
- Review of Recommendations/Strategies – how fit into workplan
- Amanda Share Project LAUNCH MOU
- Discuss Toolkit
- Make decision on next body of work
- Determine Future Meeting Schedule

3:05 Meeting adjourns

Next meeting: April 21, 2015