



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.

Meeting Notes

December 18, 2015

2 Delta Drive, Concord, NH – 2nd Floor

Committee Charge: Develop recommendations and implementation plans to enhance NH's capacity for the recruitment, retention, advancement and support of qualified professionals across early childhood programs via education/training and credentialing. **Meeting Co-Chairs:** Tessa McDonnell and Farrah Deselle

Welcome and introductions

In attendance:

Kristen Barden, Melissa Clement, Richie Coladarci, Maria Doyle, Jessica Emond, Lisa Furman, Carol Garhart, Joan Izen (remote), Claudette Mallory, Tessa McDonnell, Caralie Morrison, Shannon Quinn, Monica Rogier, Ellyn Schreiber, MaryEllen Schule, Mark Vallone (remote), Tammy Vittum (remote), Karyn Yeatman, Kristen Booth (guest)

Minutes for November 20, 2015 Meeting

Minutes approved with edits regarding Family Resource Centers in Professional Standards Section of notes

Cross-Sector Early Childhood Professional Development System

QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) project – presented by Kristen Booth, Child Development Bureau Administrator

Background on development of QRIS: Where do educational standards and credentialing fall?

- No funding right now to mandate system. Completely voluntary
- Re-authorization received by state for child care funding for low income working families and also with intent to improve quality of child care
- Intention of funding for low income working families went from focus on work support to work support and child development – pay consistently and regularly and increase low income children in high quality programs
- Need to be able to measure quality – have quality rating system currently, but looking to use revised and enhanced QRIS (standards include: program curriculum,

educational standards, community engagement and use a measured tool (ex. Environment Rating Scale and CLASS)

Kristen shared a draft of QRIS proposed standards and described how it is used. Centers meet various levels of quality and receive points within each level, ultimately receiving a particular level based on points and accomplished standards.

Initial challenge will be getting programs familiar with tool and how to use it as well as informing parents/families of existence of quality rating system.

Incentives for achievement of rating - some states connect ratings to subsidy (paying for childcare scholarship). Programs may use it as a recruitment tool.

Child Care Aware NH will be the consumer website to inform parents about quality etc.

Claudette Mallory presented on EC Credentialing –

Several different levels of credentials in early childhood and after school program exist. Supported by level of education and documents.

Licensed Plus – 21 standards. Program has to meet 11 required and 5 optional standards. Submit paperwork that documents how they have met the standards.

Claudette sent links to applications for Licensed Plus and ECE Credential

Licensed Plus: <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/licensedplus/quality.htm>

Credentialing: <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/cdb/profdev.htm>

There is a fee for credentialing, not for Licensed Plus

When families use CCR&R (Child Care Resource and Referral Center of Southern NH Services) they will learn about licensing and Licensed Plus.

Claudette – presented on NH Professional Registry

Discussion on gap in data on how many professionals are in Registry compared to individuals working in Early Childhood. HV/family supports/health – less aware of Registry and not using.

Discussion on incentive for participation in voluntary Registry – one incentive is awareness of prof development opportunities.

Incentive for those not working in child care – a place to store personal files, electronically. Potential incentive – if trainings that are listed appeal to cross sector professionals.

As a result of this information and discussion: How can this committee support the work of QRIS and the registry as movement towards enhancing WPD?

Note on other credentialing - NAEYC accreditation is time consuming, rigorous and costly – 61 in NH out of 700 centers 900ish licensed programs including family based programs. 120 with Licensed Plus.

SPECCC feedback and process going forward

Reviewed SPECCC feedback from one individual who gave detailed feedback of particular sections. One recommendation was to explore how DEC – Division of Exceptional Child – evidence based practices may relate to SPECCC.

Joan Izen informed group that DEC is a professional organization and is used in developing evidenced based practices.

Small group will review areas of suggestions and report back to group on changes the group agreed to make/review (action item)

Action Items

- Claudette will send link to licensing applications for group to review as it relates to improving childcare professional standards – a priority area of the ECPDS (Done).
- Farrah and Ellyn will review areas that large group approved to review on SPECCC feedback and return to group with changes next meeting.
- All: Think about how work of committee can support QRIS and Registry.

Meeting evaluation

Group felt meeting went well and was pleased to hear from Kristen and Claudette.

Next meeting:

January 22, 2016, 9:00 – 11:00

2 Delta Drive, Concord, NH – 2nd Floor