

**Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration
Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Meeting - Provider Presentation
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023 (9:00-11:00)**

In Attendance: Sarah Henry, Emma Salerni, Debra Nelson, Heidi Hammell, Karen Hebert, Joan Izen, Hillary Pincoske, Suelaine Poling, Lisa Ranfos, Marianne Barter, DeeDee Thurber, Jackie Firmin, Annmarie Censullo, Chris Casserly, Cathy Hazelton, Christina D'Allesandro

Regrets: Andrea Foster, Heidi Karajcic, Jamie Nadeau, Liz Scruton

Meeting Objectives:

- Complete the GSQ Advisory Committee Charter
- Provide an opportunity for the GSQ Advisory Committee members and public to share information on their experiences with GSQ

Charter Work:

- The Charter helps us stay grounded in this work as we move forward. We need to make sure that it represents what we want it to represent. Context hasn't changed.
 - Relook at Mission. May change the mission section slightly as we continue to meet over time - e.g., "caring" adult language.
 - Does it represent what we want it to represent?

Committee's role in GSQ

- **The following items have been MOVED TO ACCEPT:**
 - Committee's Purpose: See Charter
 - Primary Objectives of the Committee: See Charter
 - Group voted to organize order of objectives based on importance of Committee's vision

Comments for future consideration:

- Where is data going to be kept and will members have access to the data?
 - New Hampshire Connections Information System (NHCIS) or Pyramid Model Implementation Data System (PIDS)
 - CQI development data
- Data will be shared with the group for analysis and conversations as it develops.

GSQ Capacity Building Contract:

- Keene State, Behavioral Health Improvement Institute (BHII), will be lead evaluators of this contract and Pyramid Model Consortium is the content lead hiring Sarah Henry and Emma Salerni to carry out the majority of the activities/deliverables.
- Contract found here:
<https://media.sos.nh.gov/govcouncil/2023/0719/12%20GC%20Agenda%20071923.pdf>
- GSQ is only 15 months old. So much learning is still happening and what its effects might be.
- Keene will capture and gather data.
- Keene subcontracts with PMC.
- PMC reaching out to people/organizations named in contract.
- Will this group have the ability to change the content of GSQ?
 - Keene will not make changes itself. Keene is looking at content and will discuss any changes to the system with evaluation.

- Content and system building will be happening through this group. Processes can be changed as we learn from people on the ground.
- The standards don't get changed unless the evaluation says the standard wasn't meeting the requirements.
- The evaluation study will help us determine if our charter is meeting its purpose.

Committee Membership:

- Child Care Aware can help with getting a representative for family child care facilities
- Meetings changed to monthly while evaluation period is happening - then possibly returning to quarterly schedule in 2024.

Presentation from Child Care Providers

Providers present:

Jen Legere, Kitty LaRoche, Cora Hoppe, Airole Warden

- Cost Analysis
 - Providers discussed Cost Analysis created by Jen Legere
 - First year in GSQ - a lot of money, a lot of time, and stress for her staff.
 - Can centers afford to be in GSQ without initial support?
- Step Designations
 - "Step 1" does not feel like an accomplishment to share with families- need marketing materials
 - "Step" language
 - License plus providers multi-site representative \$35,000. If they lose that money to do steps for GSQ that is extremely troubling.
 - Easy for the NAEYC and others but for the License Plus programs it is challenging for them to jump from LP to GSQ
 - Providers proposed Licensed Status to be equal to Step 1 in GSQ
 - Providers need more support onboarding into the system
 - One program employs a staff member specifically to manage each site's GSQ application
- Credentialing
 - Too much time on staff and directors
 - Required for GSQ but the provider doesn't really benefit from it.
- General
 - Cora - flooding of grant money from the last 2 years and now a barrier to be able to stabilize after covid.
 - Is ERS the best evaluation tool for NH?
 - Quality versus checking boxes for evaluation tool
 - Everyone defines quality differently
 - Lack of provider input when building GSQ system- providers need more input and more support to follow expectations of QRIS
 - Providers suggested viewing VT QRIS system as reference
 - <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/providers/care/STARS>
 - Programs removing OST population from license to qualify for GSQ

Comments from Team:

- Many of these items being addressed currently within BCDHSC and GSQ Capacity Building Contract
- Child Care Aware of New Hampshire and ACROSSNH provide TA opportunities for credential support- increase marketing and awareness

- OST Support for programs who serve both age groups needed for programs to be successful in ERS pathway: GSQ and quality for all ages
- ERS Pathway alternative evaluation tool options
 - Can NH make its own evaluation tool? To create a tool takes 7-8 years. Standardized, a lot of money, a lot of time, a lot of resources.
- Revisit original GSQ Task Force work regarding Steps and entry level Step requirements re: Licensed, License Plus, GSQ
- Incentives available for Provider costs
- Next Steps:
 - Committee will discuss provider presentation today
 - Group will meet monthly. Notes will be posted and accessible to the field on NH Connections. Agendas will be shared. Bi-directional communication.
- Monthly meetings. **2nd Thursday of the month from 9-10:30** looks like it works for the Advisory members the majority of the time.
 - Agenda Items for September:
 - Positive experiences. New Morning Schools mentioned as possible presenter
 - Particularly NOT centers that cross walked in. Targeted outreach to LP programs.
 - Assessment tools - ERS. Are there Socio Economic constraints?
 - Invite BHII member to begin conversation around evaluation plan
 - GSQ positive experiences
 - What makes the system successful for those who are flourishing within GSQ?
 - Actionable items

Targeted Outcome:

- All are informed about and have an opportunity to provide input on the development of the Charter
- All are clear on the progress/outcomes from the meeting and action items/agenda items for the next meeting, and have an opportunity to provide feedback on the meeting.