



March 2025 Council Meeting

Date/Time: March 19, 2025, 2:00-3:30PM

Location: NH Department of Education, 25 Hall Street Concord NH 03301, Available via Zoom

Participants (10 voting members):

- Christine Brennan
- Christine Santaniello
- Jane Bard
- Michelle Lewis
- Athena Cote
- Dee Pouliot
- Trina Inglefinger, on behalf of Rebecca Woitoski
- Jess Carson
- Stephen Zadravec
- Lori Foster

Additional attendees:

- **Diana Krol**
- **Kim Rivers**
- **Kelly Brooks**
- **Liz (?) Granite United Way**
- **Kathy House Granite United Way**
- **Nicole Heller**
- **Rachel Larry, Matt Robley will be joining later**
- **Becky Whitley**

Council Business, Co-Chairs Chris Santaniello and Christine Brennan

- Welcomed attendees; noted this was the first meeting without Christina LaChances facilitating.
- Acknowledged the support of Diana Krol for keeping the Council website and operations running.
- Draft minutes from the last meeting were not available, so approval was postponed.

DHHS Updates-Chris Santaniello

- Reports of discretionary projects are released on NH-DHHS website' will be discussed at state wide early child care leadership meeting.
- Discussion on expanded eligibility for child care programs to 85% of State Median Income (effective January 1, 2024).
- Through support of Couch Family Foundation-funding a data and policy fellow. Excited to look at data and see how it impacts funding and policy.

NHED Updates-Christine Brennan

- We work with REL-Regional Educational Lab-but they no longer exist.

- Ongoing conversations about data management and ownership—questions remain about how eligibility and outcomes data should be tracked and shared.

Guest Presentations-Kim Rivers and Kelly Brooks from Timberlane

- Kim Rivers (Timberlane Regional School District) shared district-level work supporting early childhood programming and school transitions.
- Kelly Brooks (Timberlane) discussed special education leadership and preschool coordination.
- Emphasis on collaboration between early childhood programs, school districts, and families.

Reports and Updates-Nicole Heller and Jess Carson

- Presentation: The Granite State's Child Care Shortage and the Impact on the New Hampshire Economy
- Reinforcement of the Council's commitment to measures of success and the need for strong data to guide decisions.
- Perspectives shared from multiple sectors (housing, health, corrections) reflected the Council's broad cross-system approach.
- Family and parent engagement remained a highlighted priority across reports.

Legislative and Policy Updates

- Members were encouraged to stay informed on bills related to child and family policy in the current legislative session.

Public Comment:

- Some discussion around the process for capturing meeting minutes from the Zoom recording in the absence of a draft record.
- Encouragement for members to continue strengthening cross-sector collaboration (education, housing, DHHS, corrections, nonprofits).