

Granite Steps for Quality Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 8, 2024

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Location: Virtual via Teams

In Attendance: Andrea Foster, Megan Phillips, Cammie Switzer, Heidi Hammell, Shannon Tremblay, Chris Casserly, Joan Izen, Liz Scruton, Megan Phillips, Hillary Pincoske, Dee Dee Thurber, Alex Amaral, AnnMarie Censullo, Lisa Ranfos, Christina D'Allesandro, Jamie Nadeau, Heidi Karajcic, Suelaine Poling

Updates from the Bureau: Andrea

Andrea shared Charts and Graphs sharing data around GSQ throughout the State

- 141 awarded in GSQ
- 14 Awarded in L+
- 5 accredited programs opting not to join GSQ
- 546 programs licensed but not participating
- 9 applications on deck - all are awaiting documentation

Endorsement Update:

54 Programs currently hold the Family Engagement Endorsement
52 were automatically awarded based on being NAEYC or Head Start

A handful did the Strengthening Families training and got endorsement
One of these programs is not in GSQ

FEEDBACK: In general, programs really liked being able to shop for what they wanted rather than just receiving a toy kit

GSQ Capacity Build contract updates

Credential Incentive:

- Credential Incentive ends on 9/30/24.
- All credential recipients must complete their survey by 9/30 in order to receive the \$100 gift card.
- 495 people have been credentialed since July 2023
- 403 recipients have claimed their gift card

Tuition Incentive:

- \$500,000 for CCSNH has been awarded!
- CCSNH still has funds available through Early Childhood Tuition Assistance (ECTA) and GAP funds - more information about these programs found here: <https://www.ccsnh.edu/paying-for-college/early-childhood-education-tuition-assistance/>

Early Childhood Education Tuition Assistance - Community College System of New Hampshire

ECTA supports New Hampshire's efforts to provide tuition assistance for child care teachers and directors of young children. Our partnership with UNH-College of Professional Studies and the DHHS Division of Economic & Housing Stability enables individuals to increase their knowledge and skills, while working in the field of Early Care and Education. Students, working at [...]

www.ccsnh.edu

ERS Updates:

- Introduction to the Environment Rating Scales (ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS) now available on ProSolutions - programs required to take training for Step 1 in GSQ or to earn PD hours for licensing.
- ERS tool books and Coaching with ECERS books available at no cost to programs if requested, contact Child Care Aware for materials
- Engaging with 15 Step 1 ERS programs for Readiness Series (May-August 2024), upon completion these programs will be paired with a coach to work on individual program goals and CQI plans

Other Incentives/Updates:

- All programs engaging in training, coaching, and pilots have received high quality materials, books, and toys including but not limited to:
 - Family Engagement Endorsement with \$500 Kaplan award (flier here: <https://www.nh-connections.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/GSQ-Family-Engagement-Endorsement.pdf>)
 - Kaplan diversity kits worth \$800 shipped directly to ERS programs
 - Pyramid Model social-emotional kits sent directly to all PM Programs
 - Chalk spinners (<https://kodokids.com/product/chalk-spinner-blue/>) sent to NAEYC programs for taking part in focus group activities for NHAIEYC and GSQ ease of entry and feedback
- Seven programs completed Mixed Delivery Pilot which focused on standards within GSQ Steps and beyond including curriculum, child assessment, child screening, and program policy updates

GSQ Process Evaluation Focus Group Themes -

Keene State College, Behavioral Health Improvement Institute (BHII)

Evaluators: GSQ Capacity Building Contract

Megan with BHII shared a high level overview of themes from focus groups

- Results will be shared broadly once the report is finalized

14 Major Themes:

- Tracking Strengths, Challenges, Barriers, and Impacts of QRIS
- 6 Focus Groups
 - 25 Program Participants
 - 6 TA provider participants

COST/benefit/value added, Factors:

Joining, staying, progressing & How to make it better

“GSQ Evaluation Plan & Validation Study 101” - Megan: BHII

Performance monitoring - process measures - key performance indicators relative to goals or targets

- Used to monitor and adjust implementation in real time
- What or how much is happening
- How many programs are participating in GSQ over time and by step

Evaluation - using scientific methods to investigate relationships between program components

- Used to better understand what predicts or drives process/outcomes
- Why or how is it happening
- What program factors (size, type, geography) predicts GSQ participation/step

Validation - using scientific methods to investigate whether it measures accurately/what we want it to

- Used to make sure our measures have intended “real world” meaning
- Are we using the right measures
- Do programs at higher GSQ steps (measure of quality) have better child outcomes

DRDP under strong consideration as a suggestion to measure child outcome and success in the system

Future of this committee

- New State Leadership Team will act as an Advisory Team.
- Future of this committee will be more of a work group to support State Leadership Team
- Next meeting will be based on what comes out of State Leadership Team and what work needs to be done