



SPARK Regional Advisory Councils April - May 2021 Recommendation Summary

Topic	Recommendation	SDA(s) that made the recommendation	Action Plan identified by SPARK Leadership Team
Engagement	RAC members shared several suggestions about how SPARK and the RAC can improve engagement at meetings. See the Engagement Strategies section of the April meeting summary for more information (http://indianaspark.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SDA-1-RAC-Meeting-Summary-April-2021.pdf).	SDA 1	SPARK will support the SDA 1 RAC as they work on the identified action items/strategies.
CCRRSA	RAC members understood that school-based programs will not be receiving the \$400 stipend because schools already receive CCRRSA funding. However, members asked SPARK to follow up on what can be done when that funding is not actually going to the early learning programs.	SDA 1	Schools that are open and serving children during the summer months are now eligible for the Build, Learn, Grow Scholarship.
Zoning	Members shared that they are facing zoning issues in some counties. Family child care homes (FCCH) have been told by zoning boards that they cannot license the home as a FCCH if they do not reside in it.	SDA 1	SPARK has compiled information on this issue from RAC members and shared it with OECOSL.
Swag and outreach	SPARK should consider attending and providing swag items at the provider fair that Geminus is holding.	SDA 2	SPARK is meeting with CCR&R partners from across the state over the summer and will make sure we are present at provider fairs when these opportunities arise and are appropriate.
Training	SPARK should explore promoting trainings via text, in addition to the emails and Facebook.	SDA 2	SPARK will utilize OECOSL's text message services to promote any new training that is offered each month that has not been offered before. We will also identify a training that has had low attendance and use the text message service to gauge whether or not this communication method is more effective.



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Professional Development	<p>The following professional development needs were identified for SPARK to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Challenging behaviors -Technology use to connect with families -Finding appropriate technology for young children -Supporting English language learners -Peer learning groups/opportunities -Helping programs cope with low staffing (recruiting, hiring, training of new staff; resiliency and well-being of the leadership who are dealing with the issue) -Curriculum training and how to implement 	SDA 2	SPARK is issuing a Needs Assessment in the summer months of 2021 that includes a question about training needs. The data here and that from the survey will be used to inform our learning opportunities starting in October 2021.
Networking and Learning	Members suggested that SPARK build networking and/or socializing time into learning opportunities (both virtual and in person).	SDA 3	SPARK is issuing a Needs Assessment in the summer months of 2021 that includes a question about adding networking opportunities to our calendar of events. This data will be used to inform our learning opportunities starting in October 2021.
Networking and Learning	<p>Members suggested that SPARK send out a poll to better understand providers' interest in attending in-person learning and networking opportunities. Questions should collection information about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agency restrictions on meeting in-person 2. Personal comfort level in convening in-person 3. Preferences between in-person vs. virtual 	SDA 3	SPARK is issuing a Needs Assessment in the summer months of 2021 that includes questions about in-person readiness. This data will be used to inform our learning opportunities starting in October 2021.



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Training	Members proposed that SPARK consider options to offer training credits for recorded webinars. This could include having participants complete an assessment at the end of the webinar, submit notes, or complete a survey or reflection form in order to get a certificate.	SDA 3	At this time, SPARK does not have the capacity to review work that is completed post-training unless the program is engaged in a coaching cycle. To only offer training credit for recorded webinars for those that are in a coaching cycle is not equitable. While we will continue to explore our options here as the opportunity arises, we do not see this being feasible in the near future.
Education Insufficiencies	RAC members suggested that SPARK look at workforce issues and data to inform how to best address education insufficiencies.	SDA 4	In collaboration with IN AEYC who is responsible for overall workforce development supports, SPARK is asking more specific and critical questions when working with programs who have an education insufficiency. If it the insufficiency is due to a larger PD planning problem, SPARK is referring the program to IN AEYC for support.
Education Insufficiencies	SPARK should explore how to better identify programs with education insufficiencies and make referrals to IN AEYC when it is determined they do not have the education requirements.	SDA 4	In collaboration with IN AEYC who is responsible for overall workforce development supports, SPARK is asking more specific and critical questions when working with programs who have an education insufficiency. If it the insufficiency is due to a larger PD planning problem, SPARK is referring the program to IN AEYC for support.
CPR	Members would like to see information about CPR from SPARK. Specifically, a recertification link would be very helpful.	SDA 4	We need more information about what a recertification link means.



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Safe Sleep	RAC members suggested that SPARK follow up on the possibility for licensing consultants to receive more training on what to look for when assessing safe sleep. Members shared instances where a program was written up for staff finishing giving a bottle to a child before picking up a child who had fallen asleep on the floor.	SDA 5	SPARK is discussing how we can support the professional development of our partners in Licensing to see if there is any opportunity here.
Networking and Learning	Members suggested that a hybrid option may be best for networking and learning at this time, when possible. A hybrid format gives people choices based on their preferences and comfort level.	SDA 5	SPARK is exploring a hybrid option for internal professional development. Based on the results of this pilot, we can use the learnings to apply and add a new training option that includes hybrid delivery. The earliest SPARK can implement this new option would be Spring 2022. We can keep the RACs abreast of our discovery and progress.