***Parent Testimonials***

“Policy Council has been a wonderful experience for me. I wanted to be more active for my son. Not just to volunteer in the classroom but to also be a voice for all the parents at my center. It has been wonderful to see how the Head Start Program works and how dedicated they are to our children.”

**~ 1st year member and Policy Council Treasurer, Michelle Rapaglia**

“Policy Council gave me a host of connections to Head Start other than seeing my child’s teacher and family worker every day. Because Policy Council is about how Head Start works, it gave me both greater respect and greater confidence in the staff and the entire process. Because Policy Council is about the way Head Start works and about how parents could and must be involved, it gave me a way to use and strengthen my talents without the peculiar pressures of a job. In short, it is one of the most wonderful things I have ever participated in, and I am sorry I am at the end of it.”

**~ 3rd year member and former Policy Council Secretary, Esther Diamondstone**

**Be a Parent Leader in**

**Head Start / Early Head Start**

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**Parent Leadership Opportunities in Head Start / Early Head Start Include…**

**For the center / Center Committee Meetings**

Each site holds Center Committee Meetings (also referred to as Parent Meeting or Family Nights) monthly. All enrolled parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend. Parents can….

* Contribute to classroom curriculum and activities
* Identify topics the you want to learn about at future meetings
* Share ideas about community resources
* Hear the PC (Policy Council) Report
* Offer feedback to the PC Representative

We rely on volunteers to help facilitate the meetings. The following volunteer opportunities are available.

**Facilitator:** Together with the Family Worker, using input from fellow parents, helps to plan topics for monthly parent meetings and to create an agenda. With support from center staff, facilitates the Center Committee Meeting (Parent Meeting).

**Co-facilitator:** Assists the Chairperson is carrying out their responsibilities as outlined above. Facilitates the Center Committee Meeting in the absence of the Chairperson.

**Recorder:** With support from the Family Worker, records the minutes of the meeting on the Center Committee Report and once complete, delivers the appropriate copy to the Policy Council Representative(s). Presents minutes at each month’s parent Meeting for approval.

**In-Kind Assistant:** Collects signatures from attendees on the Group In-Kind form. Collects signatures and any additional documentation needed from any outside, professional speakers on the Individual In-Kind form.

In addition to the above officer positions, there are many other opportunities to volunteer in the classroom.

**For the program / Policy Council**

Policy Council (PC) is a formal means for parents to be involved in the program planning and decision making. In partnership with the Southern NH Services (SNHS) Inc., Board of Directors and key management staff, the PC Representative has a vital leadership role as a representative of their program location to receive information, training and reports which they take back to share with other parents at the monthly Center Committee meeting.

**Who participates on the Policy Council?**

PC membership consists of parent representatives that are elected by parents at their Center Committee meetings and of representatives from the community. PC meets once a month (the third Wednesday of each month) at the Marion Gerrish Community Center in Derry.

**Join Policy Council to:**

* Enjoy adult conversation!
* Speak on behalf of your child’s center
* Share your ideas and opinions
* Make a difference!
* Enjoy a delicious lunch!
* Add committee and board experience to your resume.

**But most of all because….. WE NEED YOU!!!**

**\*\*Generous Childcare & Travel Reimbursement Available\*\***