New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda for Children
8300 Earhart Blvd. Ste. 201
New Orleans, LA 70118
June 13, 2017
11:30 am

Committee Members in Attendance: Maria Blanco, Mary Garton, Kristi Givens, Dr. Keith Liederman, Kate Mehok, Kunjan Narechania, and Dr. Anthony Recasner

Committee Members in Absence: Thelma French, Joyce Ridgeway, and Carole Elliot

At 11:42 am, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Recasner.

I. **NOEEN Updates and Information**

a. **Strategic Plan:** Thanks to Teresa Falgoust, the NOEEN Strategic Plan has been printed as a hard copy, so the plan can be distributed to stakeholders and potential funders. We are also mailing hard copies to all of the people who contributed to the plan. The strategic plan is also available on Agenda's website.

b. **NOEEN Founding Board Information:** Dr. Recasner, Sonjia Joseph, Patrick Dobard, and Pamela Steeg are the NOEEN Founding Board members. Patrick Dobard and Sonjia Joseph have both served on the NOEEN Steering Committee and Pamela Steeg is a former Agenda for Children board member, a member of the business community and Planned Parenthood board member. The board will expand once the organization is officially launched and has paid staff members.

c. **NOEEN Incorporation Update:** NOEEN has hired Andrew Lagrand from the Spera Law Group to incorporate NOEEN as a 501(c)3. This should be completed within the next 90 days.

d. **NOEEN Executive Director Search Update:** The NOEEN Founding Board voted to hire Pam Stevens to lead the executive director search. She is a consultant that has worked with local and national child-focused organizations. The job announcement will go out on Monday, June 19th and stay up for three weeks. The time table for the job post can be extended, if necessary. Our goal is to have interviews scheduled for late July, and hopefully have an Executive Director on board by September 1st.

e. Resigning Steering Committee Members: All of the Steering Committee members have agreed to serve another term with the exception of Dr. Recasner and Sonjia Joseph. They are both resigning so they can serve on the NOEEN Founding Board. The August 29th meeting will be Dr. Recasner's last meeting as the chair of the NOEEN Steering Committee.

f. **Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members:**

i. **What are we looking for in an Executive Director?** Pam Stevens will draft a rubric for review, and the Founding Board will decide on the non-negotiable requirements.
ii. **Are there other stakeholders that need to be involved in the process?** The final hiring decision lies with the Founding Board, but the Steering Committee will provide input once the candidates are narrowed down.
iii. Kate Mehok stated that the Executive Director should be someone who has fundraising experience.
iv. **Are there any obstacles finding a qualified Executive Director?** The position is being advertised for a short amount of time, but we can extend the application window if necessary. There are some other Executive Director positions being advertised in New Orleans, but the pools of candidates will be different as the other Executive Director positions do not require early childhood experience.

II. **Coordinated Enrollment Update**

a. **Early Childhood Seats Filled:** EnrollNOLA anticipates that all Head Start seats will be filled. Early Head Start seats will be filled as well and already have long waitlists. NSECD and PEG seats have not seen a dramatic increase in enrollment to date.
b. **Enrollment of Children by Pregnant Mothers Clarification:** Families can apply for a seat for an unborn child if the child's estimated due date is on or before June 15th of the upcoming school year. This means the child will be 6 weeks by August 1st, and an early learning center will be able to accept them by the start of the school year. Louisiana licensing does not allow early learning centers to accept children younger than 6 weeks old.
c. **Late Enrollment Dates:** Late enrollment for high school students will start the week of July 10th at Dillard University. July 12-14th will be for early childhood.
d. **Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members**
    i. Mary Garton congratulations Kristen Illarmo and the EnrollNOLA team on the seats already filled and the coordinated enrollment effort.
    ii. **Is there data to suggest that there are this many four year olds in Orleans parish?** Census data uses estimates, but there are changing demographics within the city. New Orleans may have a high number of children that fall into a higher income bracket, and the number of eligible children might be lower. We plan to work with LDE to look at the trends in other parishes for filling four year old seats.
    iii. **Have there been plans to do outreach on the importance of preschool?** Many parents believe that school starts at kindergarten, so an information campaign on the importance of preschool may bring in more applications for seats.
    iv. **Do we have a large amount of families being turned away for not being eligible?** The cutoff for Pre-k 4 seats is 185% of the poverty level. Kristen Illarmo estimates that around 30 families have been deemed ineligible because of being

over income.

v. **Have there been neighborhood outreach efforts, such as knocking on doors?** When OneApp first started, there were those efforts to get the word out, but there has not been a concentrated door-to-door effort for early childhood seats.

vi. **What is the relationship with the WIC offices?** EnrollNOLA does not currently have a strong partnership with them.

III. Coordinated Observation Update

a. 2016-17 School Year CLASS Overview: NOEEN completed 1,391 CLASS Observations during the 2016-2017 school year. There are 206 Toddler classrooms and 314 Pre-k classrooms. Each classroom received a fall and spring observation, and a little over 65% percent of classrooms received an observation from the Picard Center as the Third Party observation.

b. Reliability: Local observers must score within one point of the third party observer (Picard) domain scores. If they do not, then the Picard score replaces the local score for that domain. NOEEN observers' calibration scores demonstrate a high level of reliability.

c. NOEEN Observer Replacement Rate: NOEEN observer scores are being replaced by Picard observer at high rate, particularly in the areas of Instructional Support (Pre-K) and Engaged Support for Learning (Toddler).

d. NOEEN and LDE Efforts to Support Observer Accuracy:

i. **LDE Efforts:** LDE will allow Lead Agencies to use just-in-time scheduling, so local observations can be conducted closer to the Picard observations. LDE also permits local observers to explain potential causes for differences in scores at the end of the semester.

ii. **NOEEN Efforts:** NOEEN will utilize the third party protocol for the 2017-18 school year to minimize differences in scoring. Agenda will facilitate a professional learning community for local observers and NOEEN will create performance profiles for their contracted observers to identify strengths and weaknesses.

e. Predictions for the 2017-18 School Year: NOEEN anticipates that more program directors will want to become CLASS reliable and conduct their own observations because of how their performance profile rating affects the School Readiness Tax Credits. In addition, NOEEN is expecting that more programs will submit a CLASS score appeals to the LDE.

f. Clarifying Questions and Comments from the Steering Committee:

i. **Why do we have this discrepancy with the NOEEN and Picard observers if they are calibrating at such a high level?** We are unsure of exactly why this discrepancy is occurring. NOEEN staff is going to dive deep into the CLASS data and see if we can find trends to explain this phenomenon.

ii. **Do you feel NOEEN procedures are better than the Picard Center's procedures for conducting CLASS Observations?** NOEEN has followed Teachstone guidance

as closely as possible. The Picard Center has altered Teachstone protocol in several areas, including not observing during "specials." However, for the upcoming school year NOEEN has committed to aligning local protocol with the Picard Center's to help reduce the domain replacement rate.

iii. **In meetings last year, didn't the Steering Committee discourage letting program directors conduct their own observations?** NOEEN has communicated that there is a group of contracted observers available to conduct observations, but programs are permitted to conduct their own CLASS observations. NOEEN decided to hire contracted observers to mitigate bias.

iv. Dr. Recasner stated that we need to clarify if the policy the Steering Committee voted on can be overruled by the LDE, and that we need to reference last year's Steering Committee meeting minutes to know the exact verbiage of what was approved regarding CLASS observations conducted by program partner staff.

IV. NOEEN Legislative Update

a. Overview:

i. Failed:

- Two bills failed to repeal the School Readiness Tax Credits. The testimony of several early learning center directors was critical to the failure of the repeal.

ii. Passed:

- There are now extra requirements related to background checks for early childhood center employees, in order to bring the state into compliance with new CCDF guidelines.
- There will now be an early childhood representative on the Poverty Prevention Council of Louisiana.
- A new law will dedicate a portion of the proceeds from the repealed Education Tax Credit to the School Readiness Tax Credit.

Action Item(s)

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Dr. Keith Liederman and seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Kunjan Narechania and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee adopted the minutes from the March 21, 2017 Steering Committee Meeting
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Maria Blanco and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee approved the Steering Committee membership and meeting dates.
- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee approved the revisions to the Coordinated Enrollment Framework to include language addressing enrollment of children by pregnant mothers.

The Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm.