
New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

8300 Earhart Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70118
September 26, 2018
11:30 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance: Jen Roberts, Keith Leiderman, Rhonda Taylor, Maria Blanco

Committee Members Absent: Thelma French (Catherine Robin attended as a non-voting proxy), Amanda Aiken (Sean Perkins attended as a non-voting proxy), Joy Mitchell (Kimberly Mitchell attended as a non-voting proxy)

I. Call to Order

- a. At 11:35 am, Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

II. Coordinated Enrollment

- a. Kristen Illarmo provided an update on the Coordinated Enrollment policy discussion meetings. The following changes were proposed as a result:
- i. Align the registration deadline for early childhood with the K-12 registration deadline (with the exact date to be determined after the K-12 advisory group has met).
 - ii. Ensure that there is adequate staffing to verify families for Head Start during July, when many sites are typically closed.
 - iii. Consider sign-up process for verification events to ensure that all families can be served in a timely fashion.
 - iv. Align the dates for the transfer process to begin with the K-12 process to allow families and programs to stabilize rosters while still allowing families a sufficient amount of time to use the wait list process to transfer to their most-preferred programs. Transfers would begin on the third Monday in August.

III. Coordinated Funding Request

- a. Sean Perkins provided an overview of the 2018 Coordinated Funding Request process, which is intended to ensure that the limited number of publicly-funded early childhood seats are allocated to those programs that are meeting families' needs, high quality and in high demand from parents. It is a process required by the Louisiana Department of Education and provides for the allocation of LA4 seats, NSECD seats and Preschool Expansion Seats.
- b. **Process overview:** As in previous years, the CFR process is as follows:
- i. Operators complete applications
 - ii. Evaluator Committees conduct site visits/interviews
 - iii. Evaluator Committees score applications and make draft allocation recommendations

- iv. NOEEN Steering Committee reviews & approves allocation recommendations
- v. LDE reviews NOEEN recommendations and determines final allocations
- vi. BESE approves final allocations

This year, there will be an additional CFR process that will begin in the spring to allocate seats not allocated through the fall process (typically due to changes in operators in public schools). This second process is designed to ensure transparency and fairness in the allocation of all seats, while also maximizing the number of free four year-old seats in the city. This will mean that families will be aware of all of their potential options for LA4, NSECD and PEG in April. It was noted that the CFR timeline is not as well-aligned to the EnrollNOLA and OPSB portfolio consideration process as would be ideal.

- c. **Scoring:** Each site is scored based on quality (school and ECE performance data), parent demand and program’s abilities to meet the diverse needs of families (including transportation, before and after care, children with special needs and English Language Learners).

IV. Coordinated Observations:

- a. **Coordinated Observation Protocol:** NOEEN submitted its detailed coordinated observation plan to LDE for approval. It was noted that all observations are unannounced, but that some parishes functionally have announced CLASS observations due to the fact that any observation scheduled in the LDE portal is visible to site coordinators. NOEEN does not use the portal to schedule observations in advance, and is using “just in time” scheduling so that local observations are scheduled within the same month as Picard (third party) observations, which is designed to maximize the comparability of the scores. Most observations are completed by NOEEN contracted observers or Agenda for Children staff, though two Head Start grantees and one child care center partner conduct their own observations, using the NOEEN protocol.
- b. **Feedback:** Every classroom will receive written feedback this year, outlining strengths and areas for improvement.

V. NOEEN Management Updates

- a. **Enrollment Self-Assessment Results:** Jen Roberts provided an overview of the coordinated enrollment self-assessment, which each network completes every year to assess how well each network is meeting the goals of coordinated enrollment.
- b. **Request for Applications for Lead Agency Pilots:** NOEEN is applying for a competitive grant opportunity offered by the Louisiana Department of Education to enhance our work as a network. It will focus on heavily on governance issues, including strengthening the by-laws to establish term limits, responsibilities, and member expectations, as well as broadening representation to include business, higher education and other stakeholders.
- c. **City Seats:** We expect that the seat request will be increased to serve 100 children. The RFP to evaluate the City Seats project was reissued and will be due on October 12th.

- d. **Strategic Plan:** We have a funder interested in supporting a citywide educational campaign about early childhood.
- e. **OPSB Working Group:** OPSB has convened a working group to increase access to high-quality early care and education in New Orleans, with a particular focus on identifying potential funding mechanisms. The group has met throughout the summer and will present to the Orleans Parish School Board on October 11th. It has become clear that the solving the problem will require \$200-\$400 million and that additional work is needed to develop a more detailed plan. The working group is expected to propose that working group continues its work, and expand its membership to coordinate with both the City Council and K-12 leaders in determining next steps. The working group is committed to ensuring that expansion of access to early childhood will not come at the expense of K-12 seats or quality. The group identified 60 potential sources of new revenue and prioritized ten of those (including ITEP). The group is expected to recommend that the lead agency be the recipient of the funds, which would have a major impact on the NOEEN Steering Committee and Board of Directors.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Rhonda Taylor, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Maria Blanco and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee approved the Coordinated Funding Request process, and stipulated that the second round of the CFR should be open to all operators (regardless of their participation in the first round).
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Maria Blanco and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 pm.