

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee
8300 Earhart Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118
Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance: Keith Liederman, Gabriela Fighetti, Joyce Ridgeway, Carole Elliot, Kate Mehok, Maria Blanco, Joy Mitchell, Rhonda Taylor, Kristi Givens, Jen Roberts (ex-officio), Thelma French

Committee Members Absent: Joyce Ridgeway, Carole Elliot, Kunjan Narechania

Community Members in Attendance: Kristen Illarmo, Sean Perkins, Tara Zapp, Teresa Falgoust, Lindsay Wexler, Alicia Gerry, Emily Madeira

I. Call to Order

- a. At 11:33 am, Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

II. Coordinated Enrollment

- a. Kristen Illarmo provided an update of Early Childhood Coordinated Enrollment.
- b. The number of valid applications submitted since 2017 has gone down. The reason for this could be that families understand that they do not need to reapply to keep their EHS or Head Start seat.
- c. Verifications are currently in line with previous years when reviewed by percentage. There are slightly higher verification rates for Infant and PreK, but verifications are slightly down for 1yr, 2yr, and PK3.
- d. Upon breaking down verification numbers by neighborhood, New Orleans East has the most amount of applications overall, followed by the West Bank, demonstrating a greater need in these areas. Uptown has the third highest verification numbers.
- e. Observations were made that more enrollment data should be collected in order to determine correlation between what seats Orleans residents apply for and the location where parents work versus where parents live. Doing so would more accurately determine the need for seats in different areas. It was also noted that data from zip codes, specifically 70115, which are large and appear to cross over multiple locally significant neighborhoods, should be pulled out and further dissected to determine enrollment trends, rather than grouped with smaller zip codes/neighborhoods.
- f. The final day for early childhood verifications for Main Round is on March 1st. Families will be notified of Main Round placements in mid-April. Open enrollment begins April 29th.

II. Coordinated Funding

- a. **PEG:** Four of five sites confirmed returning seats, noting new requirements. OPSB will be the LEA on these new funds as they are being blended with LA4 funds at the state.
- b. **LA4:** The factors that are taken into consideration with the allocation of seats are as follows: ability of program to meet family's needs, high quality and in high demand by parents/guardians. There were a total of 95 seats available in the Special Considerations Process and a total of 131 seats were requested by 5 schools. Clara's Little Lambs requested 20 seats for their new location in Federal City. KIPP Central City, a new site, requested 60 seats. Lafayette Academy requested 11 seats, which would be supplemented with 9 tuition seats (\$4,580). Pierre Capdau requested to double their seats which would give them a total of 40 seats. Finally, KIPP Morial asked for 20 seats. Priority was also given to adding high quality seats in high need areas such as New Orleans East and the West Bank. A priority structure, ranking the 5 schools who applied allowed allocations to be moved easily when/if operators opt out or more seats open up. PowerPoint
- c. **NSECD:** The reallocation of 15 St. Peter Claver seats has been confirmed by LDE. The rest of the seats will be evenly distributed between Resurrection of Our Lord, St. Alphonsus and St. Mary's Academy.
- d. **There remains a priority to add high quality options that meet families' needs in New Orleans East and the West Bank.** During the Fall Coordinated Funding Request we had a net change of +25 seats to the West Bank, and 0 seats to New Orleans East. In an effort to only take funds that will be utilized, lead agency and agency partners find that the number of requested seats needs to be strategic, due to enrollment for seats remains the same despite there being a high need.
- e. Sean Perkins (OPSB) reminded the Committee that all recommendations and subject to LADOE Approval and must be voted on and approved by BESE.

III. **Coordinated Observations**

- a. Teresa Falgoust gave a brief overview of what a CLASS observation is and how Third Party Observation scores are used.
- b. There has been an overall increase in average CLASS scores across the network in every domain from Fall 2015 to Fall 2018.
- c. Agenda For Children has increased its use of staff to conduct local observations in an effort to increase quality control and to give staff an opportunity to observe interactions in centers that they would otherwise not necessarily experience. This allows Agenda For Children to create higher quality professional development and increase staff knowledge around CLASS. In Fall 2017, 9% of observations were conducted by Agenda staff; in Fall 2018, the proportion doubled to 18%. Partner agency staff conducted 16% to 19% of all

observations. While contract observers still conduct most observations, the proportion of observations they conduct has fallen from 80% to 65%.

- d. Replacement rates dropped significantly from Fall 2017 to Fall 2018. This is partly due to the harmonization of NOEEN observation protocol to 3rd party protocol.
- e. NOEEN has ongoing efforts to improve CLASS Observation via Professional Development for Observers, instituting clear processes for programs to report possible breaches of protocol, and adopting just-in-time scheduling to reduce amount of time between local and Picard observations. Additionally, CCR&R is now allowing us to provide coaching to those who reach out for specific support and for higher performing, larger capacity sites.

IV. **NOEEN Network Updates** – Jen Roberts presented on several field updates. At the NOEEN Quarterly Convening on Feb 19th, in partnership with Training Grounds, NOEEN held focus groups that asked Directors to identify barriers to quality and access, in an effort to collect information for the creation of a grant. Additionally, NOEEN in partnership with Agenda For Children launched the first MMCI Training grant in January 2019, and has so far served 230 teachers and directors. After the success of the first cohort, NOEEN decided to launch Cohort 2 for the MMCI Training in April, and to also potentially launch a 3rd Cohort this summer. Other events in the coming months include, an all-day professional development session with City Seats participants and a ‘Brain Architecture’ training with the Mayor’s office, city employees and funders to increase understanding around the importance of early education. Given the interest in ED and the current Early Childhood climate in Louisiana, NOEEN’s strategic plan that was created in 2017 will most likely need to be revisited at the next Steering Committee meeting. Also at the next Committee meeting, there will be more discussion around a committee partners retreat in an effort to further discuss CLASS and compliance. NOEEN is also currently looking to hire a Deputy Director by late spring.

V. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion Gabby Fighetti and seconded by Maria Blanco, the Committee approved the agenda for the meeting.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Joy Mitchell and seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee accepted the minutes from the January 1, 2019 meeting of the NOEEN Steering Committee.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Keith Liederman and seconded by Gaby Fighetti, the Committee moved to approve the LA4 Allocations. Katie Mehok abstained from voting.

