

**New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee**  
**8300 Earhart Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118**  
**Meeting Minutes for May 13th, 2020**

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**Committee Members in Attendance:** Keith Liederman, Rhonda Taylor, Kristi Givens, Joyce Ridgeway, Joy Mitchell, Thomas Lambert, Kate Mehok, Jen Roberts, Maria Blanco, Thelma French, Emily Wolff

**Committee Members Absent:** Carole Elliot

**Community Members in Attendance:** Aimee Grainer, Gabby Izzo, Suzanne Torregano, Kenneth Francis, Anna Williamson, Emily Madeira, Teresa Falgoust, Jillian Delos Reyes, Gabrielle Izzo, Lindsay Weixler, Shavonne Hampton

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. At 2:05 am Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

**II. COORDINATED FUNDING**

- a. Aimee Grainer provided an update on the Coordinated Funding Request (CFR).

- i. **City Seats Program Outlook**

- 1. City Seats funding for year 20-21 is unknown due to City of New Orleans' need to financially navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - 2. City Seats providers met earlier in the week; discussed potential options for ways to utilize recently received PDG funding.

- ii. **Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Allocation**

- 1. NOEEN was awarded \$854,205 through PDG funding. This amounts to roughly 74-80 seats for children birth-3yr old.
    - 2. Discussed three separate proposals on how to utilize funds.
    - 3. Voted to protect rising students and create a limited number of new seats for the 20-21 program year.

- b. **LA4 & NSECD ALLOCATION**

- i. LA4

- 1. NOEEN was awarded 1,607 of 1,771 requested LA4 seats.
      - 2. Allocations awarded based off successful enrollment for majority of the previous school year.

- ii. NSECD

- 1. NOEEN was awarded 387 of 482 requested NSECD seats.
      - 2. Allocations awarded based off successful enrollment for majority of the previous school year.

**III. COORDINATED ENROLLMENT AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**

- i. Thomas Lambert provided an update on the status of enrollment.
    - 1. NOLA-PS is working to utilize an online verification tool for early childhood seats. Expected to be online week of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

#### IV. COORDINATED OBSERVATIONS & SUPPORT

- a. Aimee Grainer provided an update on coordinated observations.
  - i. LDOE has suspended all CLASS observations for the Spring semester.
  - ii. Approach for CLASS observations for Fall 2020 are to be determined.

#### V. READY START NETWORK UPDATE

- a. Jen Roberts / Aimee Grainer provided general NOEEN updates.
  - i. **State of the Sector**
    - 1. Early Learning Centers are in crisis due to restricted ratios, financial instability, decreased demand, workforce concerns.
    - 2. Discussed liability concerns as centers begin opening their doors; hopes for partnership with LDOE to address.
  - ii. **Strong Start 2020**
    - 1. LDOE is releasing a “Strong Start 2020 planning guide” that will include priorities and guidelines for safely reopening the sector.
    - 2. The Committee expects to discuss and work on a community crisis response plan for Orleans in June.
  - iii. **Lead Agency Request for Application**
    - 1. For the 20-21 school year, Agenda for Children & NOLA Public Schools will apply together for the Lead Agency contract.
    - 2. The application is due May 22, 2020. The contract will be awarded in June 2020.
- b. **Respite Child Care During COVID-19**
  - i. Agenda for Children, NOEEN have operated as a unified organization responding to the Governor’s call to provide emergency respite child care services during the COVID-19 crisis.
- c. **Pritzker Application**
  - i. NOEEN is in the final stages of applying for a grant with the Pritzker Foundation. An early May site visit was positively received.
- d. **Upcoming News & Next Steps**
  - i. Aimee Grainer provided an overview of upcoming dates, deadlines.
  - ii. Kenneth Francis provided a brief overview of Orleans zoning changes.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.

#### Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Mitchell, seconded by Givens, the Committee approved the minutes from January 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion Kristi Givens, seconded by Rhonda Taylor, the Committee moved to utilize PDG funding to preserve enrollment of current City Seats students.