

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda for Children
8300 Earhart Blvd. Ste. 201
New Orleans, LA 70118
January 14, 2016
11:30am

Committee Members in Attendance: Superintendent Patrick Dobard, Joyce Ridgeway, Kate Mehok, Sonjia Joseph, Carole Elliot, Dr. Keith Liederman

Committee Members in Absence: Superintendent Henderson Lewis (Sean Perkins attended as non-voting proxy), Maria Blanco, Anthony Recasner, Thelma French, and Kristi Givens

At 11:40am, the meeting was called to order by Superintendent Patrick Dobard

I. Coordinated Funding Request

a. Presentation: *Overview and Approval of 2016-17 NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations—Teresa Falgoust and Elizabeth Kief (Agenda for Children staff)*

- **Overview:** Bulletin 140 requires that each Lead Agency submit a Coordinated Funding Request to the LDOE. The Coordinated Funding Request process allows programs to apply for funding from all state-funded early childhood education programs (Allocated CCAP, LA4, NSECD) through a single application process, with one set of deadlines. In addition, the process was designed to ensure fairness and transparency, so each application was scored using a clear rubric and evaluation process, which was shared with all providers prior to opening of the application process.
- **Process for Programs Renewing Existing Seats:** Programs that only wanted to renew seats that they already have (e.g. a public school that currently has 20 LA4 seats and only wanted to request 20 LA4 seats for the 2016-2017 school year) were required to submit a letter of intent and a seat renewal request form, but did not have to complete an application.
- **Process for Programs Seeking New Funding Streams:** Programs requesting a new funding stream were required to submit a letter of intent, an application, and have a site visit. However, due to a very tight timeline and overwhelming demand for allocated CCAP seats, the evaluation committee decided not to conduct site visits at the 40 early

learning centers that applied for CCAP, and to instead determine rankings solely on the basis of each applicant's score.

- **The Scoring Process:** Each application was scored by an impartial evaluation committee. The evaluators for public schools included one Agenda for Children (AFC) staff member, one OPSB staff member, and one RSD staff member. For NSECD, the evaluators were one AFC staff member and one LDE non-public staff member. For early learning centers, two AFC staff members served as evaluators. Each evaluator scored each application, then the weighted scores from each evaluator were averaged, then programs were ranked according to their scores (with adjustments based on information determined by site visits as applicable.) The evaluation committee recommended more seats than are currently available.
- **New Seats:** More seats were requested than will likely be made available.
 1. **LA4 and NSECD:** The state is providing no new funding for LA4 or NSECD seats, so the only way New Orleans will be able to get new seats is if a program somewhere in the state either decides to give up some of their seats or closes.
 2. **Allocated CCAP:** Allocated CCAP is a new funding opportunity and the state expects to provide approximately 1,200 Allocated CCAP seats in six communities statewide through a pilot program. NOEEN received requests for 1,196 seats, or roughly the same number of seats that will be available statewide.
 3. **Preschool Expansion:** The city currently has 120 Pre-K Expansion seats, of which 80 will be renewed for the 2016-2017 school year. The state is making an additional 660 seats available statewide. 120 new seats were requested through school/center partnerships, and 351 site based center seats were requested.
- **Next Steps:** Committee members were given a detailed timeline for next steps in the coordinated funding process. Any program can ask LDOE to review NOEEN funding recommendations and submit complaints by emailing earlychildhood@la.gov.

b. **Key Points, Questions, and Concerns**

- **If a program is recommended, they will not necessarily be funded? Is it correct that the state will be given a rank order of NOEEN's recommendations, which the state will then use to determine its allocations?** That is correct. The rankings are listed on the Agenda for Children website for all programs to access.

- Superintendent Patrick Dobard congratulated everyone on the amount of work that went into the application process and the great level of transparency. He stated that this work speaks to our desire to have high quality seats in the city and the large demand for them.

II. Fall CLASS Observation Results

a. Presentation: *Fall CLASS Observation results and support for early learning programs in the network—Teresa Falgoust, Elizabeth Kief, and Dr. Bridget Rey*

- NOEEN observed 98% of toddler and pre-k classrooms in Orleans parish. A small number of programs refused assessment. The LDOE was notified of any refusal.
- NOEEN is required to observe 500 classrooms in both the fall and spring. The Network is very close to hiring a sufficient number of contracted CLASS observers needed to complete Orleans Parish’s classrooms without having to rely on program partners to observe classrooms.
- To build the capacity for the contracted CLASS observers, NOEEN has paid for CLASS trainings, background checks, scoresheets, recertification, and iPads. The iPads will replace the use of paper scoresheets eventually.
- Dr. Bridget Rey provided an overview of the CLASS observation tool and scoring. CLASS uses a seven point scale:

Scores	CLASS Range	LDE Performance Profile Rating
6 or 7	High Range	Excellent
3, 4 or 5	Mid Range	Proficient
1 or 2	Low Range	Needs Improvement

- Teresa Falgoust presented results from Fall 2015 CLASS Observations, and noted that in previous analyses, NOEEN and the state have primarily reported on CLASS score averages for each domain. However, when classroom scores are looked at from the low, mid, and high range, NOEEN and programs can more clearly identify where programs are struggling the most, and what types of interventions are needed. For example, the data shows that 45% of toddler teachers scored in the low range for Engaged Support for Learning and 57% of pre-k teachers scored in the low range for Instructional Support.
- NOEEN can improve scores through myTeachstone, technical assistance, training, and professional learning communities. myTeachstone was purchased by NOEEN as a professional development tool for all lead teachers in Orleans parish. It is a way for program administrators to see

CLASS scores and assign professional development immediately through online content.

b. Key Points, Questions, and Concerns

- **When scoring, is more weight given to certain domains?** All dimensions are equally considered.
- **Does this tool take into account children with disabilities?** Any classroom can be observed using the CLASS tool because it's designed to measure the quality of teacher/child interactions, regardless of the abilities of the children in the classroom.
- **Do we have data on classrooms with children with special needs?** A CLASS score reflects the quality of teacher/child interactions, and does not provide information on individual children. TS GOLD may provide more information regarding child-level data for children with special needs.
- **Is there quality control in place for the observers?** LDOE requires that 10% of toddler and pre-k classrooms be "double-coded," meaning that two observers observe a classroom simultaneously and develop a consensus score. In NOEEN, 50 classrooms must be double-coded each semester. It was also noted that data from the third party observations and double-coding processes indicate that the observations are reliable.
- **Is it possible for steering committee members witness an observation firsthand?** Agenda offers CLASS overviews trainings, which provides videos showing observations.

III. Coordinated Enrollment Update

a. Presentation: *NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment and Coordinated Information Campaign update—Kristen Illarmo and Maria Montoya*

- The main round application window opened on November 2nd and will close on February 26th. Currently, we have a verification rate of thirty percent. As a comparison, at this time last year for the scholarship verification we were at fifty-two percent.
- In addition to visiting a Family Resource Centers or Head Starts, families can be verified at the Urban League Schools Expo on February 13th.
- EnrollNola staff is currently calling and emailing parents and letting them know that they have to get verified. Sean Perkins stated that he completed an application for his child to see what the system is like and he received 4 emails and 2 calls to complete his verification.

- The outreach around OneApp is now switching gears to focus on making sure that children get verified. Each family that has an unverified child will get two direct mail pieces. We've started home visits through partnerships with the Nurse Family Partnership and Healthy Start. In addition, we'll do verification events that are similar to tax time, with services offered from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm.
- All the Agenda for Children coaches are bringing early learning centers bags with the Education Matters magazine, the Early Childhood Guide and "Get Verified" fliers.

b. Key Points, Questions, and Concerns

- **With the verification rate at only thirty percent, is that enough to run the match?** The match can be run at any time. EnrollNola may come back to the steering committee to receive permission to run "provisional matches" if the numbers are very low.
- **Do we run the match on verified seats only?** Yes, that was a policy decision from the working groups. However, this decision can be changed, if the Steering Committee believes that it is necessary.
- **Can early learning centers verify families?** In the working group, program partners decided that not to place that burden on centers. It would be helpful to the EnrollNola team if centers could ask about what barriers families are facing in getting verified. The Steering Committee could consider adding centers that want to be a verification location in Round Two.
- **What will happen if the number of verified children is lower than the number of available slots? Would those slots be at risk?** EnrollNOLA could make provisional placements, which means placing families that haven't been verified in those slots. It would then be incumbent upon the centers and schools to verify the families. Any unfilled seats will also move to round two, providing another opportunity to fill the seats.

IV. NOEEN Working Groups

a. Discussion: *Spring 2016 NOEEN Working Groups—Elizabeth Kief*

- Dr. Recasner has proposed two working groups—a theory of change working group and an education working group. The Theory of Change working group would build upon the planning session held in October with Carl Sussman. This group would be made up of steering committee members only. The education working group will identify what interventions have been successful, refine the NOEEN coordinated observation plan and identify ways to support teachers through improved

professional development. The Education Committee will be comprised of steering committee members or their appointed delegates.

- Patrick Dobard encouraged his fellow steering committee members to participate in these groups.

Action Item(s)

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Sonjia Joseph and seconded by Joyce Ridgeway, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Joyce Ridgeway and seconded by Carole Elliot, the Committee approved the Consent Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Dr. Keith Liederman and seconded by Joyce Ridgeway, the Committee approved the Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations for LA4 seats.
- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Sonjia Joseph and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee approved the Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations for Pre-K Expansion seats.
- **Action Item No. 5:** On the motion of Dr. Keith Liederman and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee approved the Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations for NSECD seats.
- **Action Item No. 6:** On the motion of Joyce Ridgeway and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee approved the Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations for Allocated CCAP seats.
- **Action Item No. 7:** On the motion of Joyce Ridgeway and seconded by Sonjia Joseph, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 1:22pm.