New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee
8300 Earhart Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118
Meeting Minutes for May 11th, 2022

Committee Members in Attendance: Derrick Toups, Kristi Givens, Rebecca Latham, Jonika Julian (proxy for Thelma French), Kimberly Mitchell (proxy for Joy Mitchell), Kate Mehok, Keith Liederman (Chair), Rhonda Taylor, Maria Blanco

Committee Members Absent: Emily Wolff

Community Members in Attendance: Jen Roberts, Anna Williamson, Ariann Sentino, Ariel Test, Natalie Reich, Caitlin Boley, Courtney Rogers, Kiara Oyola, Emily Madeira, Lindsay Weixler, Jestin Moorehead, Deborah Palmer, Sissy Raque

I. **CALL TO ORDER**
   a. At 11:35 am Kieth Liederman called the meeting to order.

II. **COORDINATED FUNDING**
   a. Jen Roberts from Agenda for Children provided an update on the 2022-2023 City Seats Allocations.
      i. NOEEN has received an additional 3 millions dollars to fund the City Seats program in the 2022-2023 school year.
         1. Matching state funding in the same amount is anticipated but not confirmed. This will be the first year that the legislature is funding the match.
            a. NOEEN should know if the state match is coming in after the legislative session is over on June 6.
         2. Currently, 200 seats have been confirmed and 200 are anticipated to be added.
         3. Families served are either at or below 200% of the FPL with neediest families prioritized.
            a. Continuity of care will continue to be the highest priority.
   b. Emily Madeira from Agenda for Children provided an update on 2022-2023 B-3 allocations
      i. NOEEN has received a distribution for 261 B-3 seats for next school year, which is 111 fewer than this school year.
         1. Additional funding may be distributed; NOEEN will be informed if this is the case likely in late July.
      ii. NOEEN is currently working to refine the attendance counseling process with Tulane School of Social Work.

iii. The new director of B-3 access initiatives (the B-3 and City Seats programs, Mark Thomas, will be joining the team next month.

c. Rebecca Latham from NOLA-PS provided an update on the 2022-2023 LA4/NSECD allocations and a public funding overview.
   i. NOEEN requested 1922 publicly-funded Pre-K4 seats for next school year and has received a preliminary award of 1,871 seats.
   ii. All programs with seats were emailed an allocation letter from the LDOE last week.
   iii. In the 2022-2023 school year, NOEEN and NOLA-PS will:
      1. Administer or support administration of roughly $17.9 million in publicly-funded early learning seats;
      2. Serve over 2,500 economically disadvantaged New Orleans families;
      3. Support seat and programmatic funding at over 70 child care sites and schools.

III. COORDINATED ENROLLMENT AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

a. Rebecca Latham from NOLA-PS provided an overview of the coordinated enrollment system, including the enrollment timeline and main round enrollment data.
   i. Families will complete registration for next school year by May 20.
   ii. On May 27, programs will complete deactivation steps in the enrollment system for any family that did not register to accept assigned placement.
   iii. At the end of June, the parent application portal and enrollment system will be closed while the system is prepared for next school year.
   iv. Summer enrollment begins on July 11.
   v. The match rate for 3 year olds is down from 61% in the 2021-2022 school year to 37% for the 2022-2023 school year.
      1. The timing of the B-3 seat distribution this year allowed NOEEN to seat 3 year olds in the B-3 program.
      2. NOEEN did not have as many B-3 seats in 2021-2022 at the time the match was run.

b. NOLA-PS is coordinating an early childhood open enrollment campaign to fill any currently open seats and open seats for the 2022-2023 school year.
   i. NOLA-PS is looking for additional partners to share social media graphics promoting the campaign. Any interested partners should email jmoorehead@nolapublicschools.com.

c. Agenda for Children and NOLA-PS are working with Avela and Attain to redesign the common enrollment application to be more efficient.
   i. The Salesforce platform will be improved to fully integrate early childhood family needs and plan for future expansion.

ii. Enhanced development will allow the enrollment data systems to better serve as the foundation for birth through grade 12 enrollment.

d. The coordinated enrollment subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, May 24th from 10 - 11 AM to discuss improvement to the enrollment application.
   i. This group will provide recommendations to NOLA-PS on application enhancements, changes and the self-service enrollment features.

e. NOLA-PS continues to meet monthly with early childhood points of contact to provide important updates, upcoming deadlines and receive enrollment feedback from ECE centers.
   i. The next meeting is Friday May 13 from 10:00-11:00 am.
   ii. Reach out to Jestin Moorehead at jmoorehead@nolapublicschools.com to be added to the calendar invite.

IV. COORDINATED OBSERVATIONS & SUPPORT

a. Natalie Reich from NOEEN provided an update on coordinated CLASS observations.
   i. Currently, about 93% of all Spring 2022 CLASS observations are complete.
   ii. NOEEN is welcoming a new CLASS Program Coordinator this summer, Kiara Oyola.

V. READY START NETWORK UPDATE

a. Derrick Toups from Agenda for Children provided an update on the Ready Start Network (RSN) MOU.
   i. Agenda for Children has been a RSN since 2018.
   ii. There needs to be a formal MOU between the lead agency and RSN.
      1. Agenda for Children serves as the fiscal agent if NOEEN receives RSN funding. Ready Start Network funds cannot go directly towards seats or agencies.
         a. Ready Start Network funding is $100,000 per year.
   iii. Agenda for Children must submit an application to renew its designation every two years.
      1. The application should include a blueprint, information on RSN goals, and program partner support.
         a. So far, 42 program partners have signed on in support of Agenda's application.
   iv. The Committee voted to approve Agenda For Children's RSN application.

b. Jen Roberts provided an update on the Early Childhood Education Millage and an overview of important next steps.
   i. The Early Childhood Education Millage passed on May 1, 2022.
      1. It will allow for up to 2,000 children to be served next school year, a drastic increase from 50 children served in 2018.

2. Seventy percent of the funding will go towards 1,000 high quality seats each year with wrap-around supports for child care providers.
3. For the first five years, 30% of the funding will go towards:
    a. Center expansion and start-up grants;
    b. Family outreach and enrollment coordination;
    c. Teacher training and professional development;
    d. Staffing, program evaluation and oversight.

ii. This millage will help NOEEN provide much expanded access to high-quality early care and education through federal funding.
    1. The millage is eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar from the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund.
        a. If the state match comes through, NOEEN will be the 3rd largest publicly funded Pre-K program in the country and one of the only ones that serves infants and toddlers.

iii. This program is administered by NOEEN.
    1. It operates under a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between the City of New Orleans and the two co-lead agencies (NOEEN and NOLA-PS).
    2. It requires monthly reporting on use of funds and progress toward achieving benchmarks.
    3. The Committee will approve the program's annual spending plans and partners.

iv. Millage collection begins on January 1, 2023.
    1. Between now and January 1, NOEEN will prepare for implementation.
        a. Agenda for Children is leading the development of a 180 day execution plan by building internal capacity.
        b. Additional meetings will be added to the NOEEN calendar for reporting and strategic planning.
        c. Program expansion begins in August 2023.

v. NOEEN and NOLA-PS have participated and led a number of activities to date to prepare strategy, data analysis, capacity building, and additional funding.

vi. The Steering Committee discussed what needs to be prepared and planned for ahead of January 2023.
    1. Maria Blanco suggested that NOEEN should create a framework to provide the public and communicate constantly about what their tax dollars are paying for.

a. Maria also emphasized the need and urgency to address the huge workforce challenges the sector is facing.

2. Kate Mehok suggested that supporting facilities and expansion grants should be required to have expertise involved.
3. Keith Liederman encouraged the Committee to approach management and costs in a collective manner.
4. Jonika Julian asked if the self-service enrollment seats will be included in the millage funding.
    a. Rebecca Latham provided more information on design flexibility of the self-service enrollment features and suggested participating in the enrollment subcommittee.

vii. Caitlin Boley from NOEEN provided an overview of the current subcommittees and working groups, their purpose, required membership, chairs, and members

1. Term limit updates were sent to rotating members on May 10. These notices are purely information at this time and are subject to change with bylaws updates.

c. Upcoming News & Next Steps

i. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 9.

1. NOEEN hopes to hold this meeting in-person.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:59.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1**: On the motion of Maria Blanco, seconded by Rhonda Taylor, the Committee approved the May 2022 Steering Committee Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion Maria Blanco, seconded by Rhonda Taylor, the Committee approved the minutes from March 2022 Steering Committee Meeting.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Maria Blanco, seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee approved NOEEN's Ready Start Network Application. Jen Roberts, Kieth Liederman, and Derrick Toups abstained.
- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Maria Blanco, seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee adjourned the May 2022 meeting.