

**New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee  
Meeting Minutes for March 8th, 2023  
NOLA-PS Central Office Board Room (Suite 1050), 2401 Westbend Parkway**

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**Steering Committee Members in Attendance:** Maria Blanco, Vanessa Chavis, Thelma French, Dr. Fateama Fulmore (proxy Mary Garton), Kristi Givens, Asya Howlette (proxy Jack Shaevitz), Rebecca Latham, Kate Mehok, Joy Mitchell, Dr. Maureen Nicol, Melanie Richardson (Proxy Nahliah Webber), Jen Roberts, Derrick Touns, Rochelle Wilcox (proxy Kenyetta Domino-Perkins), Anna Williamson, Dr. Shayla Guidry Hilaire (proxy Jestin Moorehead)

**Steering Committee Members Absent:** Dr. Keith Liederman

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- I. **Call to Order** - T. French called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.
- II. **Roll Call** - T. French
- III. **Adoption of Previous Minutes** - T. French
  - **Action Item:** Adoption of Minutes from January 18, 2023 Family Engagement Subcommittee Meeting
    - On the motion of K. Givens, seconded by K. Mehok, with no public comment, the Committee approved the minutes from the January 18, 2023 Family Engagement Subcommittee Meeting.
  - **Action Item:** Adoption of Minutes from January 18, 2023 Steering Committee Meeting
    - On the motion of J. Roberts, seconded by M. Blanco, with no public comment, the Committee approved the minutes from the January 18, 2023 Steering Committee Meeting.
- IV. **Lead Agency Updates**
  - **Lead Agency Updates** - Allison Cohen
    - A. Cohen provided updates on Child Count.
  - **Coordinated Observation Updates** - Emily Madeira
    - E. Madeira provided updates on coordinated observations including staffing and observation progress.
    - T. French made a comment about potential for observation overburdening for Head Start sites given new federal requirements and will share observation schedules to avoid scheduling conflicts.
    - J. Roberts asked if information could be shared about the Head Start observations to determine if there can be reciprocity, i.e. can observations be counted as part of the LDOE expectation?
  - **Coordinated Enrollment Updates** - Jestin Moorehead
    - J. Moorehead provided updates on enrollment vacancies and application submission.
    - J. Roberts asked if we differentiate between true vacancies and staffing-related vacancies. R. Latham shared that data of the specificity is not captured in current enrollment system.

- M. Blanco asked for clarification on the completion status of the applications.
- V. **Ready Start Network Updates** - D. Toups, J. Roberts
  - D. Toups provided updates regarding the future of B-3 funding, bridge funding, and context for continuity of care. Additionally, he introduced options for distribution of bridge funding.
    - K. Mehok solicited feedback from the group about what would best serve children. D. Toups communicated consensus input at proposal #1.
    - T. French asked if there would be a new RFP for bridge funding or if they would be recommended to current City Seats providers. D. Toups indicated that seats would be allocated using CFR allocation logic from January recommendations given unmet requests from providers.
    - M. Blanco asked for clarification on allocation. D. Toups indicated that the second and third options are better described as “seat augmentation” vs “seat allocation.”
    - Public comment from Sonjia Joseph included a question about consideration for placement based on continuity of care.
    - T. French made a point of privilege to recognize D. Toups for his leadership in the Orleans Parish Early Care and Education Workforce Task Force.
  - J. Roberts presented on the proposed millage budget.
    - K. Mehok commended the clarity of the millage budget and especially the line item for non-traditional play spaces.
    - Public comment from Sonjia Joseph supported the proposed millage budget.
  - **Action Item:** Millage Budget Approval
    - On the motion of M. Blanco, seconded by K. Givens, the motion to approve the proposed millage budget passed.
- VI. **Subcommittee Reports**
  - **Executive Subcommittee Report** - T. French
    - T. French shared that the Executive Subcommittee would review bylaws revisions, term limits for current Steering Committee members, and calendar dates for Steering Committee meetings in the 2023-24 school year.
  - **Coordinated Enrollment & Coordinated Funding Request Subcommittee Report** - R. Latham
    - R. Latham shared an update on the Coordinated Enrollment & Coordinated Funding Request Subcommittee which met prior to the Steering Committee meeting, noting robust discussion and feedback around updating the CFR process.
  - **Family Engagement Subcommittee Report** - Jack Shaevitz
    - As proxy for A. Howlette, Jack Shaevitz noted that the Family Engagement Subcommittee had gathered local reports and strategic documents related to family engagement for review at its next meeting.
- VII. **Working Group Reports**
  - **Workforce Task Force Update** - D. Toups
    - D. Toups presented K. Givens with the “Rock, Paper, Scissors” Award for winning the competition at the NOEEN Strategic Plan Working Group retreat.
    - D. Toups gave a summary of the Orleans Parish Early Care and Education

Workforce Task Force and shared that T. French had called for a new Working Group to continue the work of the Task Force.

- **Strategic Planning Working Group Report** - D. Toups, Hamilton Simons-Jones
  - H. Simons-Jones presented an update on the strategic planning process and overview of part one of the document.
  - **Action Item:** Strategic Plan (Part 1) Approval
    - a) On the motion of K. Givens, seconded by K. Mehok, with public comment from Sonjia Joseph in support, the motion to approve the Strategic Plan (Part 1) passed.

VIII. **Membership Update** - D. Toups

- D. Toups opened discussion to the EarlySteps vacancy and if bylaws needed to be changed to be more inclusive. There was consensus in comment from the Steering Committee that NOEEN should retain the EarlySteps designation to ensure continuity of services for children with special needs.
- **Action Item:** Steering Committee Nomination (New Orleans City Council Representative)
  - a) On the motion of J. Roberts, seconded by M. Blanco, with no public comment, the motion to approve the nomination of Sheraé Hunter to the New Orleans City Council seat on the NOEEN Steering Committee passed.

IX. **Adjournment** - T. French

- Meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.