NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK (NOEEN) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 14, 2023

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER	ENTITY REPRESENTED
Jen Roberts	NOEEN Board of Directors
Sheraé Hunter	New Orleans City Council
Asya Howlette	City of New Orleans Mayor's Office
Dr. Fateama Fulmore	NOLA Public Schools (NOLA-PS)
Anna Williamson	Orleans Parish Child Care Resource & Referral Agency
Rebecca Latham	Orleans Parish Lead Agency
Derrick Toups	Orleans Parish Ready Start Network
VACANT	**Louisiana Department of Health EarlySteps System Point of Entry**
Dr. Shayla Guidry Hilaire	NOLA Public Schools (NOLA-PS) Exceptional Children Services (Child Find)
Joy Mitchell	Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
Kate Mehok	Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4)
Vanessa Chavis	Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD)
Maria Blanco	Early Head Start
Dr. Keith Liederman	Head Start
Rochelle Wilcox	City Seats
VACANT	**B-3**
Thelma French	Early Care & Education Community (At Large)
Dr. Maureen Nicol	Early Care & Education Parent/Caregiver (At Large)
Stacey Barquet	Early Care & Education Parent/Caregiver (At Large)
Melanie Richardson	Family Child Care Providers (At Large)

III. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion is to adopt the minutes from the May 10 Steering Committee Meeting and the May 10 Executive Subcommittee Meeting.

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote

IV. COMMUNITY NETWORK UPDATES + CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCY UPDATES

COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCY UPDATES

- Bulletin 140 requires each publicly-funded program to participate in the community network, in the accountability system, and in the coordinated enrollment process.
- Bulletin 140 requires each community network to have a lead agency to coordinate the duties and responsibilities of the community network and to act as the liaison between the community network and the LDOE.

COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCY UPDATES

- **NOEEN Office Hours**
  - June 21, 1-2 p.m. (following the Director's Collaborative)
  - July 6, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Beginning in July, network meetings for providers will be staggered:

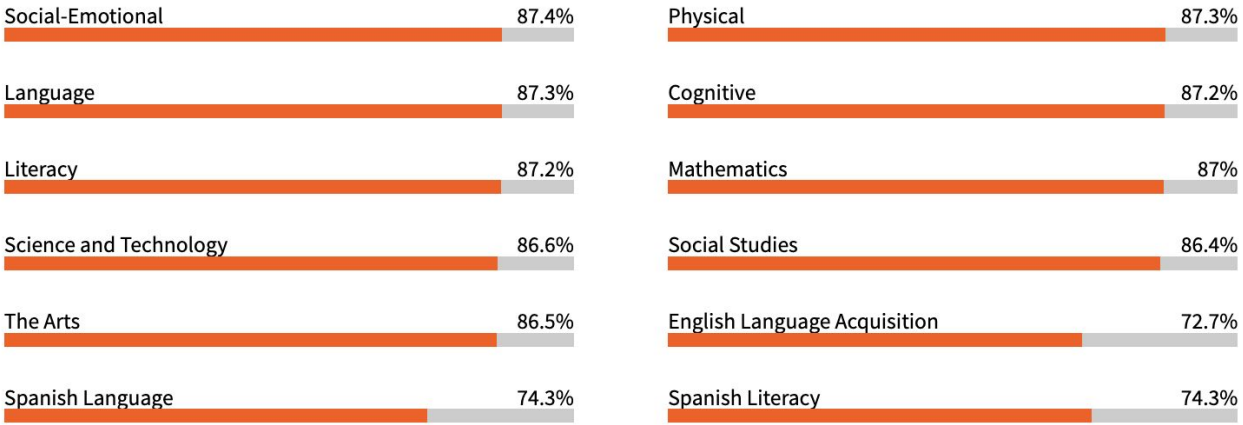
- First week of month = NOEEN Office Hours + NOEEN Newsletter
- Second week of month = POC Call
- Third week of month = Director's Collaborative

ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM UPDATES

- Bulletin 140 requires each community network to participate in the early childhood care and education accountability system.
- TS GOLD
  - By June 16, sites receiving public funds for students are responsible for ensuring the following:
    - All of the children who are matriculating to Kindergarten have been exited and have an exit date finalized
    - All of the children who have accidentally been archived and should be exited have an exit date finalized

ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM UPDATES

- **LDOE TS GOLD Spring Checkpoint Completion Goal:** 90% of sites at 100% completion
- Status as of June 1:



ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM UPDATES

- Spring Checkpoint Completion
  - 80% of sites at 100% completion.
  - Non-Compliant Sites
    - Active GOLD accounts, but not currently receiving public funds for children.
    - Administrative/technical error
    - Student attendance
    - Non-responsive

ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM UPDATES

- **TS GOLD Support - SY 23-24**
  - 3 Months Out
    - Do all sites have access to Teaching Strategies?
    - Are all current classrooms active in Teaching Strategies?
      - Are teachers completing preliminary levels?
  - 2 Months Out
    - Data Review & Action Planning
      - Classroom documentation status?
      - Tiered plan to support?
  - 1 Month Out
    - Email & Phone Outreach
      - Assessment Status; Checkpoint Finalization

COORDINATED OBSERVATION UPDATES

- Intent to return letters have gone out to 15 current observers. Agenda for Children is currently recruiting one part-time, contracted Pre-K CLASS Observer to begin Fall 2023.
- Agenda for Children will request Fall 2023 non-typical days and configurations from sites by end of July.
- Updates on transition from using the **2008 Pre-K CLASS** tool to the **CLASS 2nd Edition Pre-K-3rd** for Fall 2023 observations:
  - Two 2nd Edition Pre-K-3rd Observer Transition trainings are scheduled for contracted observers and self-observers on July 19 and July 26.
  - In process of determining best dates/times for CLASS 2nd Edition Educator Overview training for teachers and leaders. Will survey programs for this determination.
  - CLASS Observation trainings for Infant, Toddler, and 2008 Pre-K CLASS to be held in both July and August have been advertised and are currently open for registration.

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT UPDATES

EARLY CHILDHOOD ENROLLMENT TIMELINE

March 2023

3/10: Early Childhood Main Round Application Closed

3/17: Last day to submit EC documents for verification

3/23: Data exported from Avela for integration to Salesforce for the match

Ongoing: Verification of applicants that applied by the 3/10 application deadline

April 2023

4/19: BESE voted on NSECD and LA4 funding allocations

4/21: NOLA-PS updated 10/1 targets, as needed, based on BESE approvals

4/21: EC Waitlists were archived.

4/19: EC enrollment application re-opened for 23-24 SY for families to apply & submit documents (placements for these families will happen after MR results are released)

May/June 2023

5/30: Main Round Results Shared; family sessions continue weekly

6/12: Verified families, not included in the match will be added to waitlists

6/21: 1st Round of WL offers begin; Open Enrollment & Waitlist offers continue for the 2023-2024 SY (ongoing)

July: ECEF (State Match) funded seats added

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT 23-24 MAIN ROUND UPDATES

For the 2023-2024 school year, NOLA-PS received almost 4,000 total applications for a new early childhood placement – of those applicants, more than 2,200 completed the eligibility verification process and were eligible for at least one choice. The following match rates are for eligible applicants:

- **99%** of sibling applicants were matched to their **sibling's school**
- **54%** of applicants received their **top choice**
- **73%** of applicants received **one** of their **top three** choices

Most students participating in the NCAP have been placed in one of their top three school choices. In nearly every case, sibling applicants were able to be placed with a sibling. While some Head Start centers include sibling status in their priority score calculation, note that the sibling match rate does not include Head Start choices or State-funded Nonpublic Schools Early Childhood Development (NSECD) seats.

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT – FAMILY RESOURCES

New family resource guides were added to the Birth-4 Years webpage on the enrollnolaps.com website to help families understand placement results, register at schools/centers and manage their waitlist choices.

BIRTH-4 Years

Placement results are available on your EC Application Message Dashboard. View our help guides below to understand results and enroll at your accepted school or center.

- Early Childhood Placement Guide
- School/Center Registration Directions & Welcome Messages
  - Early Learning Centers
  - Charter & Private Schools
  - Early Head Start & Head Start Programs
- Questions About Waitlists

Log in to view your placement results, next steps, and waitlisted schools (if applicable).

LEARN MORE ABOUT ELIGIBILITY

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT – REGISTRATION DIRECTIONS

Registration directions and welcome messages are posted for newly placed families to take the next steps to enroll in your schools/centers.

- Early Learning Centers
- Charter and Private Schools
- Head Start Programs

FAMILY APPLICATION SUPPORT SESSIONS

Please assist the early childhood department with sharing our family application training sessions.

Our Early Childhood Bilingual School Choice Advisors will be available to assist families whose preferred language is not English.

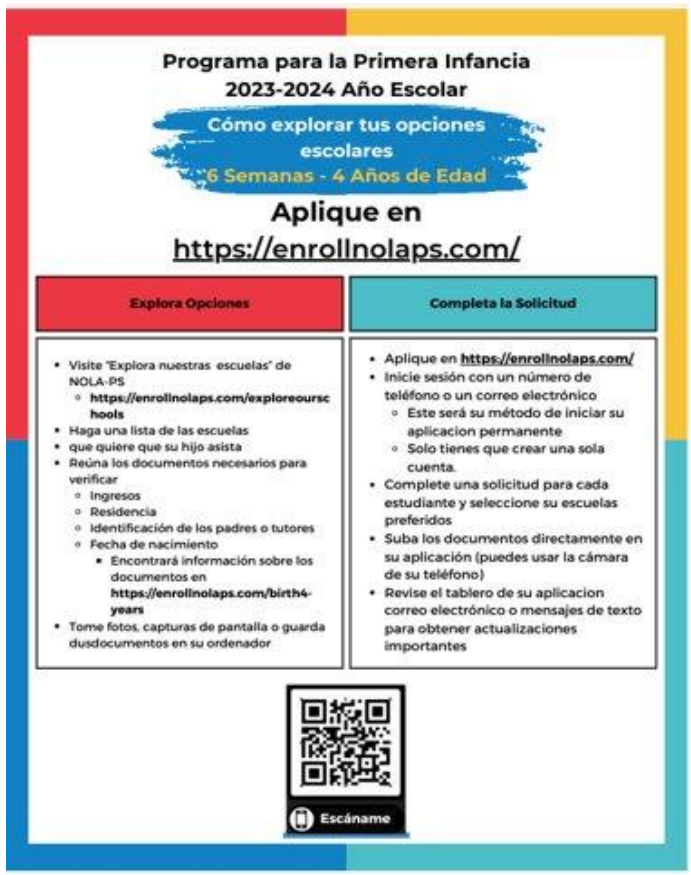
Resources
Zoom Link

June - Family Application Training Sessions/Q&A

NOLA-PS will be hosting several training sessions to assist families with navigating our new Early Childhood application!

Thu., June 8, 2023 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tue., June 13, 2023 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thu., June 15, 2023 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tue., June 20, 2023 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thu., June 22, 2023 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tue., June 27, 2023 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thu., June 29, 2023 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FAMILY APPLICATION RESOURCE GUIDES enrollnolaps.com



ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN

Billboards

- NOLA-PS is utilizing digital billboards and poster billboards to promote the Early Childhood open enrollment application.
- The digital billboards are located near the CCC, on both sides of the interstate near the Smoothie King Center, and near the Westbank/Claiborne split.
- The poster billboards were placed in Tremé (2 posters) and the Gentilly/Chef Hwy (2 posters).
- Advertisements include both Spanish and English. We are working to include ads in Vietnamese as well.
- The billboard campaign is running until July 9.

LDOE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

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LDOE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

In February 2023, Orleans Parish was audited as part of LDOE's routine program monitoring for early childhood seats funded through the Early Childhood Education Fund (State Match).

- On May 5, Agenda for Children & NOLA-PS received notice that Orleans Parish will be put on a Corrective Action Plan for deficiencies in student eligibility verifications managed by NOLA-PS.
- There were zero findings for child attendance verifications managed by centers & Agenda for Children.

A Corrective Action Plan outlining how Orleans Parish will improve student eligibility verification processes is due to LDOE by June 26, 2023.

LDOE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

NOLA-PS is working closely with Agenda for Children to draft a Corrective Action Plan. The plan includes:

- Corrective actions/activities
- Date activities begin/end
- Personnel responsible
- Documentation to be submitted to the monitor
- Date documentation is due

The draft plan is due to LDOE on June 26 for approval, and final determinations will be communicated.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND ALLOCATION

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND ALLOCATION

On June 13, BESE approved a **$21.4M** allocation from the **Early Childhood Education Fund** to Orleans Parish for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This constitutes a **full dollar-for-dollar match**.

Bulletin 140:

- "Fund awards are reserved for projects that expand the number of early childhood care and education quality seats for families eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in type III early learning centers with a performance rating of "proficient" or above and at least one classroom with children age 15 months or younger."
- "At least 70 percent of any funding awarded to the applicant will be used to directly fund additional early childhood care and education seats in type III early learning centers…"
- "Remaining awarded funding will be used to:
  - a. expand seats through improved quality; and
  - b. pay for audit costs required per §909 of this Chapter.
    - A participating local entity must submit to the department an independent limited scope audit conducted by a certified public accountant who has been approved by the legislative auditor."

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND PRIORITY: INCREASE SEATS

Increase the number of 0-3 seats in the system, with a priority for three year olds.

- **Pros**
  - This would fill gap in current funding sources and allow for better continuity of care in the event that the ECEF allocation next year is significantly smaller.
  - This could increase capacity for infants and toddlers as well.
- **Cons**
  - We'd need to recertify all participating children, and there would likely be some who would not qualify.
- **Questions**
  - How many three year old seats are we expected to have?
  - Of those, how many would be eligible for ECF seats?

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND PRIORITY: SEATS FOR ECE TEACHERS' CHILDREN

Create a teacher "CCAP" program.

- **Pros**
  - This would be a great benefit for teachers and could help stabilize the workforce.
  - At least some seats would not be "new," reducing the strain on the system's capacity.
  - This would increase buy-in for state matching program should it be reduced/eliminated in future years.
  - It's a moral imperative that teachers and other staff, who spend their days caring for children, should also have safe, quality care for their own children.
- **Cons**
  - This could require a new program model, especially if children could be placed in non-City Seats centers, necessitating a significant onboarding process for new programs to ensure accountability.
  - We'd need new staff to get information from teachers and families quickly.
  - We'd need to quickly hire new staff to run this program.
- **Questions**
  - How many teachers and children would be eligible?
  - Of eligible children, how many are already in care and how many would be newly in care?
  - Is there a world in which we could subcontract with LDOE to handle CCAP verification and/or attendance?

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND PRIORITY: START-UP + PLANNING GRANTS

Expansion start-up grants for City Seats sites to cover new costs related to compliance with public funds (insurance costs, staffing, wages, etc.).

- **Pros**
  - Would help centers cover potential new costs related to expansion and minimize out of pocket expenses
  - Helps “stretch” the seat funding more in year one and support administration and staff
- **Cons**
  - Will need very clear connections to how the funds connect to quality improvement
- **Questions**
  - How many programs do or do not already meet the (new) requirements?
  - What is an ample distribution formula that equitably accounts for disparity in resources and active partnerships (ex. stand-alone Type III vs. Type III with a veteran EHS partnership)?

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND PRIORITY: MATERIALS + SUPPLIES

Purchase classroom materials for all City Seats classrooms using (in)formal ITERS & ECERS evaluations.

- **Pros**
  - Will ensure a baseline of environmental quality in all City Seats classrooms.
  - Provides an externally-validated tool that can be used to make program improvements and could allow us to have the type of insight and visibility needed to ensure that every classroom has everything they need to provide true quality.
  - Could use existing ITERS and ECERS lists to speed up materials selection.
- **Cons**
  - Will need very clear connections to how the funds connect to quality improvement.
- **Questions**
  - How much time would it take to train CLASS observers or Agenda staff in ITERS and ECERS and to translate those results into materials orders for each room?
  - How could we pair this with coaching or professional development, similar to OLEO?

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES – WORKFORCE

- **Early Educator Media Campaign**
  - "Made Possible By..." filming to begin in July
  - Digital and print media placements - considerations for type or placement?
- **NSNO Early Childhood Job Board**
  - Early childhood section of New Orleans Teacher Job Board is live!
  - 46 sites have shared profiled information; other sites should submit information ASAP
- **Recruitment Focus Groups + Benefits Mapping**
  - Exploring partners to lead this work
- **ECHO Workforce Fund**
  - $520K+ to 106 sites ($1,215 per classroom) to fund workforce ideas
  - Common uses: bonuses, travel vouchers, child care subsidies, 401(k) contributions
  - **NEW**: ECHO Fund Workforce Pitch Competition

EARLY CHILDHOOD OPPORTUNITY FUND

FOR PROVIDERS 4PXP BY PROVIDERS

AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES – EXPANSION

- **Director, Facilities Expansion, Planning, & Support**
  - Nick Kindel hired by Agenda for Children and begins mid-July
  - Formerly a leader in City's Zoning, Permitting, and Planning offices for 10+ years
- **Facilities Modules**
  - Go.Be. and Early Learning Matters developing series of asynchronous facilities modules
    - *Project Planning*
    - *Preparing Your Project for Funding*
    - *Financing Construction*
    - *Licensing, Permitting, & Regulatory Processes*
    - *Real Estate & Property*
    - *Health & Safety*
    - *Environment*
    - *Considerations for Family Child Care Providers*
  - Additional considerations?

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES – ENROLLMENT

NOLA-PS is working with the Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee and other stakeholders to:

- Improve the coordinating funding request (CFR) process, including researching new application and evaluation software to make the CFR more responsive to program requests and the needs of applicants participating
- Launch the next phase of the coordinated enrollment information campaign, including partnering with a local campaign consultant to integrate enrollment information into the work of the City's Family Connects initiative
- Examine the matching process to implement improvements that will allow for faster release of placements results after the application deadline

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES – WRAPAROUND SUPPORTS

- **Children's Hospital and Thrive Kids**
  - Partnership will provide wraparound support services that will include connections to social work services, nursing care, early intervention, speech language pathology, and a percentage of time of a pediatrician
  - Partnership to be formally announced on June 21 at press conference!
- **Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS)**
  - AnLar creating support and service maps for children with (suspected) disabilities

READY START NETWORK + MILLAGE CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATES – ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Power Coalition Partnership**
  - New Partnership to canvas neighborhoods and discuss updates
- **Provider and Wraparound Partner MOUs**
  - MOUs being finalized
- **Facilities Funding**
  - Meetings with NORA, TRF, and LIIF to explore partnerships

V. SUBCOMMITTEE + WORKING GROUP REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

FALL 2023 MEETINGS

Date	Time	Venue
July 26	9-11 a.m.	Clover
August 23	9-11 a.m.	NOLA PS
September 20	9-11 a.m.	Clover
October 18	9-11 a.m.	Joe W. Brown Park Recreation Center
November 15	4-6 p.m.	Wilcox Academy at Southern University at New Orleans
December 6	9-11 a.m.	NOLA PS

SPRING 2024 MEETINGS

Date	Time	Venue
January 24	TBD	TBD
March 6	TBD	TBD
April 17	TBD	TBD
May 15	TBD	TBD
June 12	TBD	TBD

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

CURRENT NUMBER OF UNALLOCATED SEATS

- City Seats = **22**
- B-3 Bridge Funding = **6**
- State Match = **TBD**

The next Enrollment Subcommittee meeting will be June 22 from 9-10 a.m. at NOLA Public Schools central office. We will be discussing priorities for allocating seats and updates related to ECEF.

FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Venue
June 22	9-10 a.m.	NOLA-PS
July 19	9-10 a.m.	NOLA-PS
August 21	9-10 a.m.	Agenda for Children
September 13	9-10 a.m.	NOLA-PS
October 16	9-10 a.m.	Agenda for Children
November 8	9-10 a.m.	NOLA-PS

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

NEXT STEPS

- Identify funding source for Working Group.
- Subcommittee would develop an application and disseminate through different channels.
- Once applications are received, subcommittee would review and choose applicants.
- Develop training materials for participants.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING GROUP

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKING GROUP

- Strategic Plan approved at March 8 meeting. Printed copies now available.
- Internal work plan (working document) which will support NOEEN in measuring progress toward strategic priorities has been shared.
- Executive Subcommittee will monitor internal work plan and will present an annual “State of the Sector” report.
- Strategic Planning Working Group officially complete.

WORKFORCE TASK FORCE

WORKFORCE TASK FORCE

- Workforce Task Force created as official NOEEN working group in May.
- Goal of working group is to continue the work of the Orleans Parish Early Care + Education Workforce Task Force and to share regular updates on progress of strategies with Steering Committee.
- Working Group members: T. French, D. Toups.
- As of June 2023, Orleans Parish is actively working toward 16 of the 22 strategies listed in the Playbook. Major updates shared in millage capacity building updates.

VI. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

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Melanie Richardson	Family Child Care Providers (At Large)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Vacancies

- Louisiana Department of Health EarlySteps System Point of Entry
  - Nomination today.
- B-3
  - Recommend dissolving this seat and updating to **Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund** representative.
    - *This member represents a provider, advocate, or program partner involved with the administration of seats or services for children enrolled in an early childhood seat funded by the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, also known as the "state match."*
  - Awaiting legal review of bylaws to incorporate this change.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EARLYSTEPS SYSTEM POINT OF ENTRY REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION

Tomorow Fondal
Regional Coordinator, Regions 1/10, EarlySteps

Tomorow is a mother of three sons and brings 28 years of experience working in the social service field and nine years of experience working with the 0-3 population. At EarlySteps Tomorow has served as a Family Service Coordinator, a Family Service Coordinator Supervisor, Community Outreach Specialist, and most importantly a parent of a former EarlySteps baby. She has also worked at the Metropolitan Human Service District LGE Intellectual and Developmental Disability Department to transition EarlySteps babies to the Office of Community Developmental Disabilities so they could continue to receive their services after age three. Tomorrow has a bachelor's degree in biology from Dillard and a master's degree in social work from Southern University at New Orleans. She genuinely believes that it is an honor and privilege to be able to serve others.

VOTE ON NOMINATION FOR LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EARLYSTEPS SYSTEM POINT OF ENTRY REPRESENTATIVE

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote
    - Motion is to approve the nomination of **Tomorow Fondal** to the **Louisiana Department of Health EarlySteps System Point of Entry** seat on the NOEEN Steering Committee.

VII. OPEN FORUM

FUTURE MEETINGS

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT