New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2023
NOLA-PS Central Office Board Room (Suite 1050), 2401 Westbend Parkway

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Steering Committee Members in Attendance: Asya Howlette, Kate Mehok, Joy Mitchell, Melanie Richardson, Jen Roberts, Derrick Toups, Rochelle Wilcox, Maria Blanco, Stacey Barquet

Steering Committee Members with Proxy: Thelma French (Jonika Julian), Dr. Fateama Fulmore (Ashley Jones), Dr. Shayla Guidry Hilaire (Jestin Moorehead), Rebecca Latham (Wesley Taylor), Dr. Keith Liederman (Shavonne Hampton)

Steering Committee Members Absent: Vanessa Chavis, Anna Williamson, Dr. Maureen Nicol, Sheraé Hunter

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. **Call to Order** - R. Wilcox
   - Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m.
II. **Roll Call** - R. Wilcox
   - There was not a quorum of voting members.
III. **Adoption of Previous Minutes** - R. Wilcox
   - **Action Item**: Adoption of Minutes from May 10 Steering Committee Meeting and May 10 Executive Subcommittee Meeting.
     - Action deferred due to lack of quorum.
IV. **Community Network Lead Agency Updates and Considerations**
   - **Community Network Lead Agency** - D. Toups
     - Provided updates on accountability measures (TSGOLD), office hours, calendar planning.
       a) Questions/Comments
         (1) How can TS GOLD implementation at the site-level address issues including impact of teacher transiency, capacity to implement assessment?
         (2) Increased support for management of student records, identifying opportunities to provide concrete guidance where subjectivity impacts data (thresholds for attendance impacting documentation).
         (3) Identification of opportunities to reduce redundancy, specifically combining requests and reducing frequency.
   - **Coordinated Observation Updates** - D. Toups
     - Provided updates on the hiring process for observers, observer training and certification.
     - General comments/questions:
       a) Provide clarification on site eligibility for self-observer training and existing opportunities to complete requirements.

- **Coordinated Enrollment Updates** - Jestin Moorehead
  - Provided updates on the current status of the enrollment process, including opportunities for family support, current enrollment data, and efforts to publicize enrollment information.
  - General comments/questions:
    a) Public Comment - Tanya Bryant
      (1) Request for movement of LA4 seats between ReNEW schools and that seats taken from one school (performing at F) be given to higher performing schools with wait lists.
      (2) Discussion of public comment
        (a) Clarification on who designates seats and whether or not NOEEN or NOLA PS owns this decision-making.
          (i) How many kids have applied who are not verified (LA4) and what is the NOLA-PS plan to address this
        (b) Have sessions for verifications been considered to increase enrollment verification completion rates?
          (i) Not yet internally considered for planning.
        (c) If a site is under enrolled, do those seats return to a reallocation pool?
          (i) Not yet internally considered for planning.
        (d) How is NOLA-PS addressing the ongoing confusion that families are experiencing related to enrollment status?
          (i) Continuing to offer online support and referencing website resources.
        (e) How well attended were enrollment support meetings? Are there in-person opportunities to provide support?
        (f) D. Toups provided clarification on NOEEN steering committee's role in advocating at the state level
    b) Public Comment - Sonjia Joseph
      (1) A large group of early head start and private pay parents are concerned that they are applying for multiple schools and receiving conflicting information related to placement status.
      (2) Discussion of public comment
        (a) How is NOLA-PS addressing ongoing requests for in person support? How is the family resource center equipped to support enrollment? How responsive to requests for support are the resource centers?
    c) Steering Committee discussion
      (1) K. Meehok recommends development of a plan to address the 900+ families who have begun the application process and whose status is incomplete.
- **LDOE Corrective Action Plan** - Mary Garton

- Mary Garton presented the Corrective Action Plan draft for ECEF seats for program year 22-23. The plan addresses deficiencies in eligibility and seat management, which are managed by NOLA-PS. Attendance, managed by Agenda for Children, was not an area of concern.

- **Early Childhood Education Fund Allocation** - J. Roberts
  - Reported on BESE approval of funding match from the state and priority recommendations for funding usage. Recommended priorities include: *increase the number of 0-3 seats in the system, with a priority for three year olds*; *create a teacher "CCAP" program; expansion start-up grants for City Seats sites to cover new costs related to compliance with public funds (insurance costs, staffing, wages, etc.); and purchasing classroom materials for all City Seats classrooms using (in)formal ITERS & ECERS evaluations.*
    a) Discussion of recommended priorities
      (1) Timeline for decision-making? Focus on socializing ideas that may differ greatly between parishes and aligning on how to leverage funds.
- **Ready Start Network and Millage Capacity Building** - D. Toups, J. Roberts
  - Provided updates on workforce, expansion, enrollment, wraparound reports, and accountability.

V. Subcommittee and Working Group Reports

- **Executive Subcommittee Report** - D. Toups
  - Finalization of times/venues of Fall Steering Committee schedule.
- **Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee Report** - Wesley Taylor
  - Identified seat allocation and updates related to ECEF as priorities for the upcoming subcommittee meeting.
- **Family Engagement Subcommittee Report** - A. Howlette
  - Provided updates on next steps for engaging families including the following: Identify funding source for Working Group and process for application and membership selection
- **Strategic Planning Working Group Report** - D. Toups
  - Working group has concluded. Internal working document maps strategic priorities which will be monitored by Executive Subcommittee.
- **Workforce Task Force Update** - D. Toups
  - Provided an update on the official establishment and goal(s) of the working group.

VI. Membership Update - D. Toups

- **Action Item**: Vote on Nomination for Louisiana Department of Health EarlySteps System Point of Entry Representative
- Action deferred due to lack of quorum.

VII. Open Forum

- A. Howlette suggested an alert or flag for missing documents in the new early childhood application.

VIII. Adjournment - R. Wilcox

- Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.