New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN)
Steering Committee Meeting
NOLA-PS, 2401 Westbend Parkway
September 17, 2025 | 9am - 11am

Minutes

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Steering Committee of the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) was held on September 17, 2025, at 9:00am at NOLA-PS. Rochelle Wilcox, Vice Chair, presided over the meeting.

Attendees

Steering Committee Members in Attendance
Dr. Fateama Fulmore, Dr. Shayla Guidry Hilaire (Dionne Parker-George), Amy Hook-Poirier, Jonika Julian-Harris, Sheraé Hunter, Kate Mehok (Parliamentarian), Joy Mitchell, Tonia Loria, Angelique Morris Francois, Yolanda Motley, Emmy O'Dwyer, Melanie Richardson (Ashley Butler), Jen Roberts, Monique B. Rouege, Rochelle Wilcox (Vice Chair)

Guests in Attendance
Nick Kindel, Sonija Joseph

Steering Committee Members Not in Attendance
Stacey Barquet, Tomorrow Fondal, Thelma French (Chair), Asya Howlette, Amanda Peek, Benita Plaisance

Approval of Minutes
Emmy O'Dwyer moved to approve the minutes of the August Steering Committee Meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Fateama Fulmore. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Steering Committee Member Reports
Jonika Julian-Harris presented the Coordinated Enrollment Report, including the Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee Report.

- Steering Committee members discussed ECEF enrollment challenges, timing of verification events, and the demographics of testimonial videos.

Amy Hook-Poirier presented the NOEEN Executive Subcommittee and Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Reports.

- Steering Committee members discussed terminology used in the CFR process, anticipated performance profile release, licensing audit reviews, differentiating who approves various funding stream allocations, Family Child Care (FCC) eligibility, licensing deficiency submissions, expectations for the upcoming fiscal year, and the timeline for confirmed funding.
- **Public Comment:** Sonjia Joseph of Clara's Little Lambs asked for clarity regarding critical incident criteria in the CFR process..

Other Reports
Nicholas Kindel presented the Facilities Fund Working Group Report.

- Steering Committee members discussed meeting frequency, participation, and promotion.

Motions

On the motion of Joy Mitchell, seconded by Kate Mehok, the NOEEN Steering Committee unanimously approved Rochelle WIlcox to be named Chair.

On the motion Emmy O'Dwyer, seconded by Kate Mehok, the NOEEN Steering Committee unanimously approved the Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Notice of Intent (NOI), Seat Application, and New Provider Criteria for the 2026-2027 CFR Process.

On the motion of Rochelle Wilcox, the NOEEN Steering Committee received the Coordinated Enrollment and Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee Report.

On the motion of Rochelle Wilcox, the NOEEN Steering Committee received the Ready Start Network and Mileage Capacity Building Report.

On the motion of Rochelle Wilcox, the NOEEN Steering Committee received the NOEEN Executive Subcommittee, CFR, and Facilities Fund Working Group Reports.

Announcements
Dates and times of upcoming NOEEN Steering Committee, Subcommittee, and Working Group Meetings were announced.

Adjournment
Rochelle Wilcox moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was agreed upon at 10:57am.