

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

8300 Earhart Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70118
November 28, 2018
11:30 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance: Amanda Aiken, Carole Elliot, Thelma French, Keith Liederman, Kate Mehok, Joy Mitchell and Jen Roberts

Committee Members Absent: Maria Blanco (Raynell Washington attended as a non-voting proxy), Kristi Givens, Kunjan Narechania, Joyce Ridgeway and Rhonda Taylor

I. Call to Order

- a. At 11:41 am, Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

II. Coordinated Enrollment

- a. Applications are down from the same time last year due to a slightly later start in enrollment. It is expected to be on track by the end of 2018.
- b. Reminders about the EnrollNOLA Early Childhood process included:
 - i. Pregnant women can and should apply for infant seats.
 - ii. Children wishing to remain at the same program should NOT complete an application.
 - iii. EHS + CCAP students who want to attend a free PK 3 Head Start program SHOULD complete an application.
 - iv. Applicants for Kindergarten do not verify unless they are applying to Scholarship (private) schools.
- c. Verification events and texting will be used to increase verification rates, through notifications about verification events will be limited to families who started the application and live near to the verification event.
- d. Changes to the Coordinated Enrollment Framework included moving the early childhood transfer date to align with the K-12 transfer date; technical changes regarding referenced to the lead agency and dates; and, the inclusion of two new sections (eligibility review and LA4 Monitoring and Preparation, as well as the Coordinated Funding Request Process overview and timeline).
- e. **Comments and Discussion:**
 - i. Having a transfer process that allows families to easily move their children from one program to another makes it very difficult for Head Start programs meet the requirements to perform certain assessments (including vision and hearing screenings) on every child within 45 days of enrollment because there are always new children coming into the program.
 - ii. Family advocates report that many families are moving from Head Start 3 year-

- old seats to LA4 seats so that they don't have to participate in OneApp again.
- iii. We have moved forward on the assumption that it is acceptable to automatically give pre-k students admission to a kindergarten seat at the same school, but we may want to reconsider that assumption.
 - iv. How can we foster more creative models to make the application process work better for more families? What can we do to make sure that families who don't have a good understanding of the system are not left behind?

III. Coordinated Funding Request

- a. Sean Perkins provided an overview of the 2018 Coordinated Funding Request process, which is intended to ensure that the limited number of publicly-funded early childhood seats are allocated to those programs that are meeting families' needs, high quality and in high demand from parents. It is a process required by the Louisiana Department of Education and provides for the allocation of LA4 seats, NSECD seats and Preschool Expansion Seats.
- b. **Process overview:** As in previous years, the CFR process is as follows:
 - i. Operators complete applications
 - ii. Evaluator Committees conduct site visits/interviews
 - iii. Evaluator Committees score applications and make draft allocation recommendations
 - iv. NOEEN Steering Committee reviews & approves allocation recommendations
 - v. LDE reviews NOEEN recommendations and determines final allocations
 - vi. BESE approves final allocations
- c. **Need for Early Childhood versus Demand:** There appears to be more children than available seats for free pre-k in New Orleans East and the West Bank, yet most unfilled seats are located in the East. Members suggested that barriers to filling those seats could include: parents' perceptions of quality, limited availability of public transportation in the East, and a belief among some families that school starts at five, not four.
- d. **Consideration of Recommendations:** Sean Perkins provided an overview of the recommendations. He noted that LDE is not expected to award any new NSECD seats and PEG is expected to shrink by 40 seats.
- e. **Comments and Discussion:**
 - i. **What will happen if we don't approve the recommendations?** They can be amended or we could simply request the same number of seats as we did last year.
 - ii. **What will happen to LA4 seats at sites that will close at the end of this year?** OPSB is requesting some "lagniappe" seats that it will allocate once operators for those sites have been selected.
 - iii. **Measures for quality for PK (e.g. CLASS) are very different from K-12 measures of quality (e.g. SPS scores).**
 - iv. **New operators should engage in a more rigorous process to ensure that they**

understand the needs of four year-olds.

IV. NOEEN Management Updates

- a. Request for Applications for Lead Agency Pilots:** NOEEN is expected to receive a grant opportunity offered by the Louisiana Department of Education to enhance our work as a network. It will focus on heavily on governance issues, including strengthening the by-laws to establish term limits, responsibilities, and member expectations, as well as broadening representation to include business, higher education and other stakeholders.
- b. City Seats:** We expect that the seat request will be increased to serve 100 children when the City Council reviews the budget on November 29th.
- c. Events:** NOEEN will hold an informational session on MMCI and an awards breakfast at Mahalia Jackson as part of its quarterly convening for programs.

V. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Carole Elliot and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Joy Mitchell and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee accepted the minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting of the NOEEN Steering Committee.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Thelma French, the Committee approved the Coordinated Enrollment Framework.
- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Amanda Aiken and seconded by Carole Elliot, the Committee approved the evaluation committee's LA4 recommendations for the Coordinated Funding Request. Kate Mehok abstained from voting.
- **Action Item No. 5:** On the motion of Joy Mitchell and seconded by Amanda Aiken, the Committee approved the evaluation committee's NSECD recommendations for the Coordinated Funding Request. Carole Elliot abstained from voting.
- **Action Item No. 6:** On the motion of Amanda Aiken and seconded by Thelma French, the Committee approved the evaluation committee's PEG recommendations for the Coordinated Funding Request. Joy Mitchell abstained from voting.