Committee Members in Attendance: Keith Liederman, Kristi Givens, Joy Mitchell, Thomas Lambert, Kate Mehok, Jen Roberts, Maria Blanco, Emily Wolff, Carole Elliot, Thelma French, Joyce Ridgeway

Committee Members Absent: Rhonda Taylor

Community Members in Attendance: Aimee Grainer, Kenneth Francis, Anna Williamson, Teresa Falgoust, Jillian Delos Reyes, Lindsay Weixler, Melanie Richardson

I. CALL TO ORDER
   a. At 11:35 am Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

II. READY START NETWORK UPDATE
   a. Aimee Grainer and Teresa Falgoust provided an overview of the Strong Start Grant Planning and Proposals.
      i. State of the Sector
         1. 46% of licensed non-Head Start centers were open as of June 1.
         2. 23 centers reopening June, bringing total to 64% of pre-COVID-19.
         3. Many centers struggling with reduced revenue and increased cost.
         4. Committee discussed financial and other supports centers have received during the pandemic, and needs/priorities for reopening.
      ii. Strong Start 2020 Overview
          1. Strong Start 2020 is LDOE’s campaign including priorities and guidelines for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
          2. Campaign includes a community plan that addresses sector-wide needs and incorporates network feedback, plus community grants designed to provide direct and indirect support.
      iii. Network Needs Assessment
          1. “Core Provider Concerns” includes: increased cost; reduced revenues; inability to acquire PPE; limited ability to incentivize staff to return; and fear of illness among staff and children.
      iv. Community Grant Proposals
          1. NOEEN is introducing easy-to-access, low barrier sub-grants to put the most money possible directly into the hands of providers.
          2. Community grants must identify Top 3 Community Needs:
             a. Workforce supports and incentives: bonuses, hazard pay, increased benefits, etc.
             b. Family Supports and Incentives: local scholarships, tuition assistance, creating seats, marketing/recruitment.
             c. General Administrative Support: costs that have become prohibitive, such as facility, essential supplies, etc.
          3. NOEEN is requesting the maximum $400,000 award for phase 1; has proposed to build an emergency reserve with any remaining funds.
b. **Other Discussion**
   i. Kristi Givens shared information about testing employees before they come in for training for reopening.
   ii. Emily Wolff shared information about an opportunity to distribute 25,000 smart thermometers, 9,000 of which would go to Early Childhood Centers.
   iii. Masks are available for centers from LDOE but there are not currently enough to cover long-term or if a center includes masks for children over 2 years old.

c. **Upcoming News & Next Steps**
   i. Jen Roberts provided an update on Agenda for Children’s recommendation to serve as New Orleans Public Schools’ lead agency.
   ii. Aimee Grainer provided an update about the City Seats program.
   iii. Thomas Lambert provided a brief overview on early childhood enrollment and an update on when results should be released.

III. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

**Action Items**

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Kate Mehok, seconded by Maria Blanco, the Committee approved the minutes from May 13th.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion Maria Blanco, seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee approved the adoption of the agenda for June 3rd Meeting.