

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee
8300 Earhart Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118
Meeting Minutes for June 22nd, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance: Keith Liederman, Kristi Givens, Joy Mitchell, Thomas Lambert, Jen Roberts, Thelma French, Emily Wolff, Maria Blanco

Committee Members Absent: Carole Elliot, Kate Mehok, Rhonda Taylor, Joyce Ridgeway

Community Members in Attendance: Aimee Grainer, Gabrielle Izzo, Emily Madeira, Kenneth Francis, Anna Williamson, Rochelle Wilcox, Jillian Delos Reyes, Lindsay Weixler, Melanie Richarson, Natalie Reich

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. At 3:06 pm Keith Liederman called the meeting to order.

II. COORDINATED FUNDING

- a. Aimee Grainer provided a review and update on PDG & City Seats.

- i. **City Seats**

1. Mayor Cantrell's Office of Youth and Families has funded City Seats for 1.5 million.

- ii. **Preschool Development Grant (PDG)**

1. The LDE's PDG allocation is \$854,205 totaling 74-80 seats for children B-3 YR, with funding varying by age group.

- iii. **PDG and City Seats Funding Proposals**

1. Three proposals were presented:
 - a. PDG for rising students; City funds for new providers.
 - b. Blend PDG and City funding.
 - c. PDG funds new providers; City funds to existing providers.

- b. **CITY SEATS & PDG ALLOCATIONS**

- i. **City Seats**

1. **Applications**

- a. 12 centers applied to receive City Seats funding for the first time; 9 nominated to receive funding.

2. **Timeline**

- a. The goal is to approve seat allocations by June 26, 2020.
 - b. Late enrollment begins early July 2020.
 - c. The City Seats school year starts in August 2020.

- ii. **Total Allocations and Summary**

1. Blending City and PDG funding protects both providers and kids, expands program (63% increase in program options for families), and 63 new children to be enrolled (44% increase in program enrollment).

- iii. **Additional Provider Feedback**

1. Providers expressed the following preferences:
 - a. To meet 1-to-1 with NOEEN to discuss seat numbers.
 - b. For existing providers to receive city funds vs. PDG funds.
 - c. For existing providers to be given preference.

III. READY START NETWORK UPDATE

a. Upcoming News & Next Steps

- i. Thomas Lambert provided an enrollment update.
 1. Virtual enrollment for K-12 will be kicking off the week of June 22.
- ii. Aimee Grainer provided a brief update on providers returning LA4 seats.
- iii. Aimee Grainer provided an update concerning upcoming sub-committee close-outs and the committee close-out report coming this week.

IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Emily Wolff provided an update on the Smart Thermometer distribution project and information on the coordination of thermometer distribution.

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:51 pm.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Thelma French, seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee approved the adoption of the agenda for the June 22nd meeting.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Thelma French, seconded by Keith Liederman, the Committee approved the adoption of Proposal 2 for the allocation of City Seats funding. Kristi Givens, Joy Mitchell, Jen Roberts, Maria Blanco, and Emily Wolff all recuse themselves from this vote.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Thelma French, seconded by Thomas Lambert, the Committee approved the adoption of Proposal 2 for the allocation of PDG funding.