

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee
8300 Earhart Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118
Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2019

Committee Members in Attendance: Keith Liederman, Gabriela Fighetti, Joyce Ridgeway, Carole Elliot, Kate Mehok, Maria Blanco, Joy Mitchell, Rhonda Taylor, Kristi Givens, Jen Roberts (ex-officio)

Committee Members Absent: Thelma French, Kunjan Narechania

Community Members in Attendance: Kristen Illarmo, Sean Perkins, Tara Zapp, Teresa Falgoust, Emily Madeira, Emily Hartnett, Lindsay Wexler, Liz Santos, Christine McCourtney, Lauren Griffiths

I. Call to Order

- a. At 11:39 am, Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

II. Membership Update

OPSB NOEEN Representative Amanda Aiken has been replaced by Gabriela Fighetti, Chief Student Access Officer.

III. Coordinated Enrollment and Information Campaign

- a. Kristen Illarmo provided an update of the Early Childhood Coordinated Enrollment Plan which is submitted each year to the LDE by Lead Agencies. This plan describes Orleans Parish strategies to meet at-risk service groups, enrollment events, and processes for verification, application, matching and registration.
- b. Verifications are significantly down when compared from January 2017 to January 2018 and January 2019. No causation has been determined. Multiple events for verification have been planned such as events in targeted neighborhoods and the EXPO. The number of places to get verified has remained the same as in previous years. It is possible because the process opened 3 weeks later than before. There has been the same outreach as previous years. The verification process is being examined in order to streamline the process and make it more accessible to parents. It was noted that there is typically a spike in July and August for verifications so they will be staffing in May in order to prepare for that.
- c. The service gap for 0-2 has not been met but has improved and is continuing to expand access with 50 new additional NOEEN City Seats. It was also noted that in 18-19, NOEEN met 84% of demand for 4 year olds and 101% of at-risk gap based on LDOE revised cohort data.

II. **Coordinated Observation & Supports**

- a. Teresa Falgoust gave an overview of CLASS observations in Fall 2018 as well as a current status update for Spring 2019 observations. NOEEN observed all 100% of classrooms in the Fall and also met the requirement of 10% double-coding for total observations performed. NOEEN was highlighted by the LDOE as exemplar for their accomplishments for the Fall term.
- b. NOEEN is on track to expand observer corps with another 4 observers and are hosting observer trainings every month of the year in 2019 with an overall goal to attract more directors and school-based staff to become observers to grow knowledge in the network. NOEEN is also hosting 1 day Intro to CLASS trainings with directors and other leaders in the network in order to accomplish this goal.
- c. It was noted that positive feedback was given by directors and teachers at sites that had received observations on the debriefing forms that rolled out in Fall 2018, to better guide self-led improvement based off of observation scores. NOEEN also plans to include a post-observation survey to increase communication between the network and sites on the successes and trials of observation experiences.
- d. Some kindergarten classrooms are participating in the K-2 School Measures initiative and are examining the two assessment tools to see how they interact.

III. **Coordinated Funding**

- a. **NOEEN City Seats 2019-2020 Recommendations:** Jen Roberts presented on behalf of the City Seats review committee regarding their seat recommendations. There were 22 applications, and 20 were eligible. The applications were reviewed by 6 representatives (NOEEN, Agenda for Children, OPSB, City of New Orleans, private philanthropic funder and external community partner.) “Geographic need” and “high quality” were among top priorities for the Mayor which greatly influenced the recommendations for seats. All 6 sites that received seats during pilot program for Fall 2018 also received seats in this round as well; the Committee recommends five new centers, as well, bringing the total number of participating sites to 11 and a total of 112 seats.

Children's Palace Learning Academy, New Orleans East (16 seats)

Cuddly Bear CDC, West Bank (14 seats)

Sentino Early Academy Too, New Orleans East (12 seats)

Wilcox Academy of Early Learning, Mid City (12 seats)

Open Minds Open Hearts Daycare, 7th Ward (10 seats)

Royal Castle CDC, Uptown/Hollygrove (10 seats)

The Preschool Learning Center, New Orleans East (10 seats)

John W. Hoffman Early Learning Center, Broadmoor (8 seats)
Kids of Excellence Learning Center on Higgins, Desire (8 seats)
ReNEW Early Childhood Center, Uptown (8 seats)
Wilcox Academy of Early Learning Too, Central City (4 seats)

Selected seats were widely distributed across City Planning Districts. NOEEN will also receive some funding to support a full-time coach for the programs and to continue the extensive management and coordination of the program. The specific number of seats in each age group is tentative and will be double-checked for accuracy with OPSB based on available seats in the existing City Seats sites. NOEEN and the Mayor's office are in an ongoing discussion on how to find more sustainable funding source. For now, this is an annual request that requires City Council approval each year. Jen Roberts read a public comment that was submitted electronically in support for one of the sites recommended for seats.

- b. **New Tuition Requests:** Sean Perkins highlighted that some operators in this CFR requested new tuition seats. Current NOEEN policy requires that the Steering Committee needs to vote on all tuition requests that exceed the standard LA4 reimbursement rate. It is recommended that a working group be established to review the policy and implications of changing the policy to include all tuition requests.
- c. **LA4 Allocations & NSECD Revisions:** Sean Perkins reminded the Committee regarding the Special Considerations Process. Because the fall CFR requires that we submit our requests before all siting decision and authorizer decisions are made locally, a special considerations process was approved in fall 2018 to allocate any "lagniappe" LA4 seats granted to OPSB by BESE and/or any seats at an existing operator that will no longer be eligible. This process will begin January 31 and include potentially 60+ seats. In addition, BESE made changes to our NSECD allocations. Due to the closure of St. Peter Claver, NOEEN recommends that we re-allocate those 20 seats to the three NSECD sites that had their allocations reduced by the Department /BESE with their (DOE) approval.

- IV. **NOEEN Network Updates** – Jen Roberts presented on several field updates. NOEEN has been awarded a Ready Start Network Grant. Step one is to attend a training in Baton Rouge with the six other grantees. NOEEN has also received additional private funding to conduct community focus groups on barriers to families for childcare and barriers to childcare operators to quality. We are also working with EnrollNOLA to improve the technology of the One App and ongoing verification concerns, including using a call-back system for families, texting services, and appointment scheduling. Among several accomplishments, conducted all Lead Agency obligations, hired a CLASS Administrative Coordinator, held 2 Quarterly Network Meetings, held Honor

Roll/Awards breakfast that awarded high performance in the network, launched MMCI Training with over 250 participants, and more. NOEEN will hold its next Quarterly Network Meeting at Mahalia Jackson on February 19th at 10 AM. Jen will note the Steering Committee's next steps related to the Ready Start grant by the March meeting.

V. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Keith Liederman and seconded by Maria Blanco, the Committee approved the agenda for the meeting.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Keith Liederman and seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee accepted the minutes from the November 28, 2018 meeting of the NOEEN Steering Committee.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Keith Liederman, the Committee moved to approve the replacement of OPSB NOEEN Representative from Amanda Aiken to Gabriela Fighetti.
- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Gabriela Fighetti the Committee moved to approve the 2019-2020 NOEEN City Seats Allocations. Maria Blanco, Kristi Givens, and Joy Mitchell abstained from voting.
- **Action Item No. 5:** On the motion of Maria Blanco and seconded by Carole Elliot, the Committee approved the new tuition requests. Kate Mehok abstained from voting.
- **Action Item No. 6:** On the motion of Maria Blanco and seconded by Carole Elliot, the Committee approved the LA 4 Allocations Revisions.
- **Action Item No. 7:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Gaby Fighetti, the Committee approved the NSECD Revisions.