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## New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

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Agenda for Children  
8300 Earhart Blvd. Ste. 201  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
March 21, 2018  
11:30 am

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**Committee Members in Attendance:** Mary Garton, Kristi Givens, Joyce Ridgeway, Dr. Keith Liederman, and Kate Mehok

**Committee Members Absent:** Carole Elliott, Kunjan Narechania, Rhonda Taylor, Maria Blanco (Raynell Washington attended as non-voting proxy), Joy Mitchell (Kimberly Mitchell attended as non-voting proxy), Thelma French (Catherine Robin attended as non-voting proxy)

At 11:40 am, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Liederman.

**I. Network**

- a. **NOEEN Executive Director Search Update:** The search process has been re-opened with a national focus. The search will close on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Currently, there are 36 applicants.
- b. **Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members:**
  - **What is the anticipated start for the Executive Director?** The Executive Director should be in place by late May or early June.

**II. Update on City Funding for Early Childhood Seats**

- a. **Overview:** NOEEN will receive \$750,000 for the 2018-19 school year to fund early childhood seats for children aged 0 to 3 years old. The City Of New Orleans has committed to funding 50 seats at the rate of \$12,000 per seat for a total of \$600,000. The remaining \$150,000 will go to administrative and enhancement costs. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with the city will be signed in April. NOEEN is pursuing additional private funding to increase the number of seats available through the program.
- b. **Child/Family Eligibility Requirements:**
  - The children must be under three years old as of September 30, 2018.
  - The family's income must be less than federal poverty level, consistent with Early Head Start guidelines.
  - Children with a disability that is documented by an IFSP, children in foster care, and children in homeless families will receive priority.
- c. **Program Requirements:** Participating programs must be licensed as a Type III early learning center with a 2016-17 CLASS score average above 3.75, which is the higher tier of Approaching Proficient. Sites must also have the capacity to take these students; children cannot be displaced to accommodate these seats.

d. **Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members:**

- **How will the \$150,000 for enhancements and administrative costs be used?** NOEEN will hire a family service worker and a program coordinator to support the programs that receive these seats.
- **Given that the seats will open after the OneApp match process, how will children be matched to programs?** These seats will go through EnrollNOLA as part of the Late Enrollment process. There are many eligible children under the age of three on Early Head Start waitlists. Families on the waitlist could be notified about the availability of this program, or these seats could be opened to the general public.
- **Can Head Start centers apply for these seats?** Head Start and Early Head Start programs are licensed as Type III early learning centers. As long as they meet the CLASS score average requirement, they are welcome to apply.
- **When will the program start?** The program will start in August.
- **What is the purpose of the additional funding that NOEEN is pursuing--is it for longer term seats or more seats?** Ideally, the additional private funding would secure additional seats and a long-term funding commitment from the city.
- **Would a new center be able to apply?** The City of New Orleans would need to determine if new centers would be allowed to apply for the seats, as they would not have received a rating yet.

III. **Coordinated Observations and Supports**

- a. **CLASS Observation Update: In Fall 2017, 98.7% of NOEEN toddler and Pre-K classrooms were observed.** A small number of classrooms were not observed due to frequent teacher changes (such that teachers weren't in place for at least 10 days at the time of observation attempts), classroom closures, and program's refusal of entry. NOEEN aims complete CLASS observations for 100% of toddler and Pre-K classrooms in the network in the spring semester.
- b. **Observer Interest:** Early learning center directors and leaders have contacted NOEEN to become contracted CLASS observers for the network. To minimize conflicts of interest, any employee of a NOEEN program hired on a contract basis to conduct CLASS observations will only conduct observations in other program types (e.g. an employee of a private Type III early learning center would only conduct observations in schools or Head Start centers).
- c. **CLASS Trainings:** Agenda for Children will provide more 2-day CLASS reliability trainings to increase the number of certified reliable observers in the community. There will be at least one CLASS training offered per month.

IV. **Coordinated Funding**

- a. **Pre-K Tuition-Based Seats:** NOEEN received several questions about how much an LA4 program can charge for tuition-based seats, especially because most schools lose money providing LA4. NOEEN's current Coordinated Funding Process (CFR) is not sufficiently clear regarding the amount of tuition that can be charged in excess of the current LA4

rate of \$4,580 per child, or how those amounts get approved.

**b. Questions for the Steering Committee to Consider:**

- Would the NOEEN Steering Committee approve all requests for tuition-based seats?
- Which agency is responsible for the oversight of tuition charges?
- When LA4 seats are designated outside of the CFR process due to school closures and takeovers, what will be the policy regarding tuition-based seats?
- Should there be a maximum threshold for how much a program can charge for a seat?

**V. Coordinated Enrollment**

**a. Update:** EnrollNola received a thousand more applications at the end of the Main Round and 371 more applicants were verified in comparison to last year.

**b. Pre-K Availability:** There are currently 137 open Pre-K seats. Fifteen programs have four or more empty seats. Many Head Starts programs reduced their Pre-K 4 vacancies by converting Pre-K 4 seats to Pre-K 3 seats, because there is greater demand for Pre-K 3 seats than the current supply.

**c. Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members:**

- **Are there more open 4 year-old seats in certain areas of the city?**  
The open seats are spread out across the city.
- **Are there repercussions for not filling Head Start seats?** Head Start grantees could be in jeopardy of losing some of their funding if they do not fill all of their seats.
- **How is the EnrollNOLA process more efficient than families working directly with the program?** EnrollNOLA is able to see availability for seats citywide which is easier than families going from program to program checking on availability of seats.
- **How does enrollment work outside of Orleans parish?** All parishes are required to have a coordinated enrollment system. The system must meet the following requirements: match based of preference, utilize a common waitlist, parent-led system, and eligibility must be verified.

**VI. Other**

**a. Pre-K Expansion Grant (PEG) Improvement Fund:** The LDE is using PEG funds to improve and support programs that fall in the unsatisfactory/low end approaching proficient rating. PEG grantees were invited to apply for funding that could be used to implement MMCI (a group training model), implement My Teaching Partner (an intensive coaching model) or purchase curricula (and provide additional training on the curricula) for eligible programs. NOEEN was awarded a grant to provide MMCI group coaching to eligible partners, with a goal of reaching teachers in 100 classrooms. NOEEN is currently seeking partners to become MMCI instructors. In order to be eligible to become an MMCI instructor, an individual must be reliable in CLASS (Pre-K or Infant and Toddler). Instructors will be responsible for delivering at least one series (10

sessions) of MMCI to staff in participating programs. Instructors will receive free training and a stipend for their time.

**Action Items**

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Joyce Ridgeway, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Joyce Ridgeway and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee adopted the minutes from the January 31, 2018 Steering Committee Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.