

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee
8300 Earhart Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70118
Meeting Minutes for September 25th, 2019

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

Committee Members Absent: Kunjan Narechania

Community Members in Attendance: Kenneth Francis, Emily Madeira, Lindsay Wexler, Gabby Izzo, Sean Perkins, Aimee Grainer, Jillian Delos-Reyes, Tara Zapp, Melanie Richardson

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. At 11:45 am, Keith Liederman called the meeting to order.

II. READY START NETWORK UPDATES

- a. Taylor Dunn, from the LDOE, gave a presentation on the current status of early childhood in the state of Louisiana.
 - i. Early Childcare centers in LA have seen an overall increase in quality trending over the last three years. Data around access to early childcare in LA continues to demonstrate a deficiency in seats for 0-2 yr. olds.
 - ii. Ready Start Networks were born out of the desire to increase quality and access while also taking into account local context. Ready Start Networks are continuing to expand with Cohort 2 being announced earlier this year.
 - iii. The LDE is again utilizing the Super App to have a more efficient CFR process and to collect data for future strategies to increase access and quality in the State.
 1. The Steering Committee discussed the fact that Orleans functions differently than other school districts in the State. Required parts of the Super App are unable to be completed by Orleans providers. To troubleshoot, NOEEN could potentially submit one Super App application on behalf of the parish.
 2. This year, the application will have a question around capacity in the network, meaning there will be a hypothetical 'ask' for birth-3 yr. old seats so that the LDOE can greater inform decisions around the next Preschool Development Grant.
 - iv. The LDOE also discussed how they are starting a small scale pilot with registered family childcare homes. By and large, there has been state-wide focus on Type III providers, leaving family childcare providers out

of the conversation. Through this pilot, the LDOE and participating community networks will learn more about family childcare providers, in an effort to work with them to create better outcomes for children. The 40 family homes selected will receive coaching visits, as well as mental health consultants from Tulane. Throughout the pilot the family childcare providers will receive CLASS observations and FICKERS assessments. LDE has long term goals to reevaluate the licensing process for these providers and potentially introducing a tiered licensing level system within the home-care licenses.

- b. **Bylaws** – Jennifer Roberts presented the finalized the bylaws with the steering committee.
 - i. The committee moved to adopt the bylaws as written, including transfer of leadership. Given the updated bylaws, NOEEN will be seeking a new committee chair at the end of 2019.
 - ii. Steering Committee members have finalized their subcommittee commitment and which will convene for the first time at the October committee retreat.
- c. **National League of Cities: Site Visit**
 - i. Location will be Louisiana Children’s Museum from 9am-4pm on Friday October 4th, 2019. The goal is to have a working agenda as a body and in subcommittees, and to realign the vision of the work. The National League of Cities will be in attendance to assist with creating a building block focus.
- d. **Citywide Funding Initiatives** - Kenny Francis with Agenda For Children and Jillian Delos Reyes with The Campaign of Grade-Level Reading at United Way gave an update on their work around advocacy to increase funding to quality early education seats.
 - i. In the year 2019, community partners are continuously working on expanding funds for the City Seats program. Last year’s evaluation of the City Seats program demonstrated positive results. Despite wraparound supports reportedly being essential to the positive results of the program, they were not funded by the City in the second year. Agenda For Children instead actively acquired funds for the second year. For the potential third year of the program, community partners will ask for the City to fund the wraparound supports for any seats that they provide funding for. The opportunity is the ask the city for a 3.6 million City Seats budget for the 2020-2021 school year and restructure the program to more closely align with CCAP program that also has wraparound supports. If successful children would be reimbursed at market rate, and families will not have any co-pay.

III. COORDINATED FUNDING REQUEST

- a. Aimee Grainer with NOEEN gave an overview of the CFR request for this year including an overview of the process, this year's timeline and elements of the application, including scoring and evaluation rubrics elements.
 - i. New centers applying for the first time will receive site visits.
 - ii. Steering Committee members moved to allow repeat applications to select an option to maintain the previous school year's funding request.

II. ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

- a. Sean Perkins gave an overview of enrollment in the network.
 - i. As of September 24th, 2019, there are 267 vacant seats in the network (compared to last month's report of 350). LA4 accounts for 50% of vacant seats.
 - ii. The Committee moved to return 20 LA4 seats from Joseph A. Craig.
 - iii. The Committee moved to return 40 LA4 seats from Harriet Tubman at Clara's Little Lambs.
 - iv. The Committee moved to return 5 LA4 seats that were remaining from the last Steering Committee meeting and have yet to be allocated.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Emily Wolff, from Mayor's Office of Youth and Families, spoke on civic engagement trainings they are hosting for parents. Trainings will be 20 weeks long and transportation will be supported via bus passes or potentially with a bus.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.

Action Items

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Thelma French and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee adopted the agenda for the meeting.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Thelma French and seconded by Maria Blanco, the Committee ratified the bylaws.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Maria Blanco, and seconded by Rhonda Taylor, the Committee moved to return 65 LA4 seats to BESSIE.