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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  
August 29, 2018  
11:30 am

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**Committee Members in Attendance:** Amanda Aiken, Kate Mehok, Kristi Givens, Joy Mitchell, Dr. Keith Liederman, Joyce Ridgeway Carole Elliott, , and Rhonda Taylor

**Committee Members Absent:** Kunjan Narechania and Thelma French (Catherine Robin attended as non-voting proxy)

**I. Call to Order**

- a. At 11:35 am, Jen Roberts called the meeting to order.

**II. Adoption of the Agenda**

- a. Kate Mehok moved, and Kristi Givens seconded, a motion to adopt the agenda.

**III. Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2018 Meeting**

- a. Kate Mehok moved, and Kristi Givens seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2018 meeting.

**IV. Coordinated Enrollment**

- a. **Seat Availability:** There are currently 297 seats available for the 2018-2019 school year, which is 14 more than were available in late August 2017. Among PK4 programs, LA4, NSECD and gifted programs had fewer seats available in 2018 than at the same point in 2017, while PEG and Head Start had more vacancies this year than at a similar point in 2017.
- b. **Waitlist:** Since April 23, 2018, 667 open seats were filled through waitlist offers. More PK 4 seats were filled by direct enrollment this year, while there were several Head Start centers that filled their PK3 seats primarily through waitlist offers. Families have 24 hours to respond to a waitlist offer. One major change to Schoolsforce in 2018 is that families can no longer see their position on a waitlist. Because positions on a Head Start waitlist are determined by a child's EPC score (not when they applied), it was extremely confusing for families to see that their position on a waitlist could actually get higher over time.
- c. **Early Childhood Transfer Process:** The transfer process begins September 6<sup>th</sup> and allows families to transfer to other sites, provided that they have a space available and the child is eligible. Neither schools nor EnrollNOLA may deny a transfer request.

**V. Coordinated Funding Request Process**

- a. **Overview:** The Coordinated Funding Request process determines which sites are recommended to receive NSECD and LA4 seats (and how many seats are requested for each site). NOEEN makes recommendations to LDE by December 1, and LDE reviews the recommendations and then makes their own set of recommendations to BESE, which ultimately votes to allocate seats in these programs statewide. The funding request process will remain similar to the one used in previous years, and will rank programs based on quality, demand and ability to serve families and children of all abilities.
- b. **New Considerations:** One of the challenges presented by the CFR process is that sites must request seats before School Performance Scores are released, so that schools may apply not realizing that they may be recommended for closure. Additionally, BESE allocates seats after the OneApp main round opens, making it impossible to include seats in newly participating program in the Main Round application. One result of these challenges is that there are sometimes seats that need to be reallocated after the coordinated funding request process has formally concluded. A new Special Considerations process was proposed, which would open a second round of the coordinated funding request process in February that would conclude with additional recommendations made to LDE on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. Coordinated Observations and Supports**

- a. **Infant CLASS Updates:** In the 2018-19 school year, infant classes must be included in the portal, and lead agencies are required to add capacity to observe infant classrooms. Third Party will conduct Infant observations in some classrooms on a voluntary basis. In 2019-2020, all infant classrooms will need to be observed, but the scores will not be incorporated into a program's score. Observations in Infant classrooms will be mandatory and incorporated in sites' CLASS scores beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.
- b. **LDE Updates:**
  - a. **New Rating:** There is a new rating-High Proficient (CLASS scores between 5.25 and 5.99) designed to recognize the work of higher-performing Proficient sites.
  - b. **Improvement Planning:** Sites with CLASS scores below 3.75 on their Performance Profile will be required to participate in improvement planning with LDE; 13 Type III centers in New Orleans will be in this category.
  - c. **Observations by Program Partners:** Most CLASS observations are conducted by contracted observers or Agenda/NOEEN staff. A small number of programs (including two Head Start grantees) conduct their own observations of classrooms in their sites. In these instances, observers do not observe classrooms over which they have a supervisory role. The Steering Committee considered the pros and cons of utilizing program partner observers, and recommended that a working group be formed to establish the best protocol for the 2019-2020 school year, with recommendation both on who should conduct observations (contracted observers vs. program partners) and how they should

be conducted. Audience members raised the concern that some networks effectively announce the exact date of all observations, which could have an inflationary impact on CLASS scores. Currently, all NOEEN observations are unannounced, though sites are told the month in which their observations will be conducted.

**VII. Future NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting Dates**

- a. Kate Mehok moved, and Rhonda Taylor seconded, a motion to accept the proposed meeting dates for the 2018-2019 school year.

**VIII. City Seats**

- a. **Evaluation:** The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has funded an evaluation and additional quality supports (through TrainingGrounds and Tulane University’s Infant Mental Health Consultant program).

**IX. Upcoming Events**

- a. An RFA will be released to pilot a new approach for community networks.
- b. There will be a NOEEN Provider meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- c. After the September NOEEN Steering Committee meeting, the Education Research Alliance will present a “Brownbag Lunch” presentation on the use of texting to increase verification rates for the Early Childhood OneApp process and answer families’ questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.