

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda for Children
8300 Earhart Blvd. Ste. 201
New Orleans, LA 70118
March 1, 2016
11:30am

Committee Members in Attendance: Sonjia Joseph, Dr. Keith Liederman, Maria Blanco, Dr. Anthony Recasner, Superintendent Patrick Dobard, and Joyce Ridgeway

Committee Members in Absence: Kate Mehok, Carole Elliot, Kristi Givens, Superintendent Henderson Lewis (Sean Perkins attended as non-voting proxy), Thelma French (Adrian Todd attended as non-voting proxy)

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

- I. **Update on 2016-17 NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations—Elizabeth Kief**
 - a. **Overview:** At the end of February, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) released its recommendations for LA4, NSECD, and PEG (Preschool Expansion) seats. LDE awarded Orleans parish 269 additional four-year old seats for the 2016-17 schools year, including 19 LA4 seats, 110 NSECD seats, and 140 Preschool Expansion Grant (PEG) seats. With the increase in seats for eligible four year olds, there will be an estimated 197 four year olds left without a free seat in the 16-17 school year.
 - b. **LDE Recommendations:** For PEG, all centers recommended by NOEEN were awarded seats. Additionally, LDE granted Agenda for Children an additional 20 seats more than the amount requested. These seats will be awarded to a partnership that has not yet been determined. The additional 19 LA4 seats will expand the number of seats in existing LA4 programs. NSECD was increased by 110 seats, allowing three new programs to participate in NSECD for the first time, and for three existing high-demand NSECD programs to increase their seat allocations. LDE will finalize its recommendations for Allocated CCAP seats in mid-April.
 - c. **Key Points, Questions, and Concerns**
 - o **Will the allocations of seats be affected by the state budget problems?**
These recommendations still have to go in front of BESE for approval.

However, it is not yet clear if/how these allocations may be affected by budget cuts.

II. Update on NOEN Coordinated Enrollment and Coordinated Information Campaign—Kristen Illarmo

- a. Verification Process:** Kristen Illarmo thanked all steering committee partners for their help during the verification process. Many partners sent volunteers to enrollment events (including events on Saturdays) to help families to fill out applications and submit their verification materials.
- b. Data on Round One:** Over 6,000 applications were submitted, of which 58% have been completed and verified. Verification rates for all age groups continue to improve. Four year olds are nearing 70% verification and all age groups except for infants are above 50% verification. EnrollNola has extended the verification deadline to March 4th to provide families and Head Start programs with more time to complete the verification process. Final verification numbers will be presented at the next steering committee meeting on April 5th.
- c. Coordinated Enrollment Working Group:** The coordinated enrollment working group has reconvened. They reviewed the Early Childhood catalog and offered great suggestions on how to improve communication with families.
- d. CCAP and the OneApp Match:** Due to data privacy issues, the LDE will not release data on which OneApp applicants are valid CCAP voucher holders. This prevents OneApp from determining whether a particular applicant has been approved for CCAP. Furthermore, LDE will not announce which centers have been awarded Allocated CCAP seats until mid-April, which is too late to include them in the Round 2 process. There are now two options for how CCAP seats will be handled in the OneApp match:
 - o Provisionally match applicants to CCAP programs:** Rather than guaranteeing a family a spot in a CCAP program, a provisional match would match families to a program, but include a disclaimer that the family will still need to be approved for CCAP in order to accept the seat. Families would then need to go to the program that they are matched to, and show that they are approved for CCAP in order to register for the seat. The benefits of a provisional match would be that providers and families won't feel that they have wasted their time or effort by participating in OneApp and verification process. Families will still have the opportunity to get matched to a program and follow up with them about pricing. The disadvantage to provisional matching is that families may not understand that this is not CCAP approval. In addition, a family matched to a CCAP program may not be able to afford tuition without a CCAP voucher, and almost three quarters of CCAP applicants are not approved for CCAP.

- o **Do not match any applicants to a CCAP program:** The advantage to not matching any applicants is that no family would be matched to a seat they may not be able to take if they are not approved for a CCAP voucher. The families would only be matched to free program where the ability to pay tuition wouldn't be a factor. The negative side to not matching any applicants is that families and providers would feel they wasted a lot of time and effort by participating in OneApp and they may lose trust in the system.

Next Steps for CCAP & the Match: Kristen Illarmo will set up a conference call with steering committee members within a week to further discuss their thoughts on whether or not CCAP should be included in the Main Round Match. In addition, Kristen will electronically survey CCAP providers and hold a meeting with CCAP providers to get their feedback. A final decision will be made by March 15th.

e. Key Points, Questions, and Concerns

- o **If the CCAP voucher rejection rate is almost 75%, do we actually think it is a viable option to ask centers to hold seats for parents that may never get approved?** This is one of the concerns that the steering committee should take into account, and one that will be presented to CCAP partners.
- o **Families have to accept their matches. Can they check with the child care centers about costs before accepting the match?** This would be the safety that the provisional match provides. However, we need to consider that we would be sending families to programs that they may never be able to afford.
- o **Do these families realize that CCAP Programs are not free, and copays are required for most families?** Families are required to acknowledge that CCAP programs will have tuition when they apply.

III. Discussion of NOEEN Theory of Change—Dr. Anthony Recasner

- a. **Summary of Theory of Change work to date:** During our Theory of Change meeting in October with our evaluator Carl Sussman, the committee focused on how NOEEN can realize the goal of Act 3, which is that all children in publicly funded programs will enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Mr. Sussman subsequently led a discussion on the committee's aspirational impact for the Network, which is to ensure that every child in the city who is eligible for a

publicly funded seat has access to one. The conversation identified three areas of work that are critical to the Network achieving the committee’s aspirational impact: early care and education, universal access to quality to early care and education and network development. The committee must now decide if it wants to take on these three responsibilities and become an effective and unified voice for early childhood, or work more narrowly to meet the mandated requirements of Act 3 only.

IV. NOEEN CLASS Summit—Dr. Anthony Recasner and Dr. Bridget Rey

a. Agenda for Children will hold a CLASS summit on a Saturday to help teachers and leaders deepen their understanding of CLASS scores and strategies to improve teacher practice. Feedback is welcome from committee members on what they would want to see during the summit and what activities may lead to helping teachers improve their scores. A committee will be formed to plan this event. Our goal is to present the CLASS score results in a compelling manner and build a CLASS environment in New Orleans that would help teachers become better practitioners. A stipend can also be made available to incentive teacher’s participation.

b. Key Points, Questions, and Concerns

o **Are there national CLASS experts that could be invited to the Summit?**

Yes, and NOEEN has some resources to hire a facilitator to lead the working groups.

o **What is the steering committee’s target audience?** This summit would be for teachers and directors.

o **Would it be possible to find a facilitator that has a proven track record of increasing CLASS scores in their own community, or a person that could talk about long term outcomes for their programs or community?**

If the committee decides this is the type of person they want at the CLASS summit, then we can definitely look into finding the appropriate person.

V. Update and Discussion on BESE and Upcoming Legislative Session—Holly Reid (presenting for Superintendent Patrick Dobard)

a. Holly Reid suggested that NOEEN convene a strategy meeting on legislative activity and asked if the NOEEN steering committee would want to take an official stance on legislation and policy decisions.

b. Key Points, Questions, and Concerns

o **How do we leverage effectiveness as a group?** NOEEN has the advantage of being in New Orleans, where many of the decision makers live.

NOEEN’s strategy meeting could focus on how Steering Committee members can connect and engage with those people in an impactful way.

Action Item(s)

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Maria Blanco and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Sonjia Joseph and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee approved the Consent Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Sonjia Joseph and seconded by Maria Blanco, the Committee agreed to adjourn at 1:25pm.