

## **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  
November 28th, 2017  
11:30 am

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

**Committee Members in Absence:** Carole Elliot, Kunjan Narechania, Maria Blanco, Rhonda Taylor

At 11:38 am, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Liederman.

### **I. NOEEN Strategic Plan Update**

- a. Search for NOEEN Executive Director:** The search for the NOEEN executive director will resume in January 2018. The initial search process focused primarily on candidates with local experience; however, it did not generate a large pool of candidates. The search process will now be re-opened with a national focus. Also, the search will be widened to include candidates that have education experience, but not necessarily experience in early education.
- b. NOEEN Activities:** In an effort to fundraise for NOEEN, Founding Board members Pamela Steeg and Dr. Recasner are working to make School Readiness Tax Credits (SRTC) more popular within the business community. NOEEN already has a grant from Bloomberg, and Dr. Recasner has talked with the Kellogg Foundation about funding in order to have funding ready for the new Executive Director when he/she is hired. Dr. Recasner has also worked to spread awareness of NOEEN. He will be presenting about NOEEN at the Institute of Mental Hygiene Annual Meeting on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **II. Coordinated Enrollment Update**

- a. Early Childhood Applications Submitted:** EnrollNOLA is seeing a slightly higher percentage of applications submitted (not necessarily eligible) than at the same time last year. Currently, there have not been any outreach events to promote early childhood seats, so EnrollNOLA considers the 523 verified applications to be a high number that will continue to rise as outreach events begin to happen. When application submissions are separated out by neighborhood, the largest numbers of applicants live in New Orleans East or the Westbank.
- b. Verification Reminders:** EnrollNOLA now has a text message service that will text families that have not verified their applications about outreach events and what documents they need to bring.
- c. Reminder on Coordinated Enrollment Framework changes:**
  - I.** Move the Early Childhood Transfer date from first Tuesday after Labor Day to first Thursday after Labor Day.

- II. To keep students on their first choice waitlist for a longer period of time, students will remain on the waitlist until the Early Childhood Transfer date (first Thursday after Labor Day) instead of until August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- III. Create an Intra-agency Head Start process to allow for transfers from one Head Start center to another within that Head Start Grantee's network.
- IV. To align with revised Head Start standards, change the last day for placements to the last day of school.

### III. **Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations**

- a. **Process Overview:** The Coordinated Funding Request process has not changed from the last school year. The application weighs parent demand and program quality equally in the process. The evaluation committee members include: Teresa Falgoust, Kathy Namba, Sean Perkins, Holly Reid, and Lindsey Bush. Only early childhood sites that do not currently operate a LA4, PEG, or NSECD seats received a site visit. LDE will receive the recommendations on December 1<sup>st</sup> and BESE will give final approval of the allocations on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- b. **Recommendations:** NOEEN programs requested 289 seats more seats for the 2018-2019 school year than were allocated in the 2017-2018 school year. For LA4 seats, NOEEN program partners requested an overall increase of 72 seats. For NSECD seats, program partners requested 217 more seats than are currently allocated. The Preschool Expansion Grant (PEG) did not request any additional seats, as the 2018-19 school year is the last year of the grant. The evaluation committee recommended an increase of 37 seats total (32 LA4 seats and 5 NSECD seats). With budget cuts at the state level, it is very likely that NOEEN will not receive all of the seats requested.
- c. **Why is it recommended to have slightly more seats than needed?**
  - I. The extra seats in Orleans parish allow for movement between programs, and for children who move to Orleans parish mid-year to enroll.
  - II. LDE has indicated that they are seeking to align Medicaid eligibility and seat eligibility, which could allow for more children to qualify for seats.
  - III. If Congress does not reauthorize the Preschool Expansion Grant, New Orleans will lose 160 publicly-funded seats in the 19-20 school year.

### IV. **Coordinated Observations and Supports**

- a. **Performance Profiles:** Earlier this month, LDE launched the School Finder. Parents can now access all early childhood programs' performance profiles on Louisianaschools.com. The LDE has information and videos to explain the School Finder, CLASS, and the significance of performance profiles to families.
- b. **Orleans Parish Performance:** There are two unsatisfactory programs in New Orleans. NOEEN programs are more likely to be approaching proficient than proficient; by comparison, a majority of programs statewide are rated "Proficient" or higher. Head Starts were the setting most likely to be rated Proficient in Orleans parish, and early learning centers were most likely to be rated Approaching Proficient. 73% of sites in Orleans Parish reported using a Tier 1 curriculum, which is an increase of 26 percentage points from 2015-2016. The main reason for the dramatic increase is due to the

Curriculum Initiative from the LDE that allows early learning centers to purchase a Tier 1 curriculum and get reimbursed up to 80% of that cost. We expect the rate of 41% of certified teachers to rise this school year, as more teachers receive their CDAs and apply for the ancillary certificate. Last, 16% of NOEEN programs did not provide any informational metrics at all. NOEEN intends to lower this percentage in the 2017-2018 school year.

c. **CLASS Observer Supports:**

- I. **Quality Control:** NOEEN double codes every observer at least once each semester and requires calibration every semester.
- II. **Support:** Observers can attend a monthly community of practice session during the observation semesters.
- III. **Protocol Alignment:** Guidelines from LDE for the 2017-18 school year require local networks to align their protocol to the Picard Center's protocol. This alignment should result in a reduction of replacement rates.

d. **Early Learning Program Supports:**

- I. **Observation Training offerings:** NOEEN has increased their offerings of the two-day CLASS observation trainings. The trainings are offered almost monthly instead of just during the summer.
- II. **Communities of Practice:** NOEEN plans to implement Communities of Practice around myTeachstone usage and capabilities.

e. **Clarifying Questions and Comments from Steering Committee Members**

- I. **Are other parishes experiencing similar hurdles with alignment to Picard scores?** In most networks, school leaders and directors conduct the observations on their own classrooms. The Picard replacement trend in other networks is that programs tend to score higher than Picard, not lower like (as is the case in Orleans parish).
- II. **There are multiple indicators used to create School Performance Scores, while the Early Childhood Performance Rating is determined solely by CLASS scores. NOEEN should consider lobbying LDE to add other instruments for the Performance Profile rating. Concern was also expressed that the authors of the CLASS tool have stated that the tool should only be used for professional development, and it should not be used as an evaluation tool.**

### 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 September 26, 2017 Steering Committee Meeting.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Joy Mitchell and seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee approved of the revised 2018 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting dates.

- **Action Item No. 4:** On the motion of Kristi Givens and seconded by Joyce Ridgeway, the Committee approved the 2018-19 Coordinated Enrollment Framework
- **Action Item No. 5:** On the motion of Mary Garton and seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee approved the 2017 Coordinated Funding Request recommendation for NSECD seats.
- **Action Item No. 6:** On the motion of Joyce Ridgeway and seconded by Thelma French, the Committee approved the 2017 Coordinated Funding Request recommendation for LA4 seats.
- **Action Item No. 7:** On the motion of Kate Mehok and seconded by Thelma French, the Committee approved the 2017 Coordinated Funding Request recommendation for PEG Seats.

The Steering Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.