New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda for Children 8300 Earhart Blvd. Ste. 201 New Orleans, LA 70118 November 18, 2015 11:30am

Committee Members in Attendance: Superintendent Patrick Dobard, Kate Mehok, Joyce Ridgeway, Kristi Givens, Dr. Keith Liederman, Thelma French

Committee Members in Absence: Superintendent Henderson Lewis (Sean Perkins attended as non-voting proxy), Maria Blanco, Carole Elliot, Sonjia Joseph

At 11:35am, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Anthony Recasner

I. Coordinated Enrollment

A. Presentation: NOEEN Coordinated Enrollment and Coordinated Information Campaign Update—Kristen Illarmo and Maria Montoya

- EnrollNola held over 20 SchoolForce and OneApp training sessions in October.
 Sixty-eight percent (68%) of early learning centers attended a training session, and outreach is continuing to reach one hundred percent of early learning centers in Orleans Parish. Sean Perkins stated that the SchoolForce trainings were helpful especially for Orleans Parish School Board schools joining the process for the first time.
- There have been over 1,000 applications for the birth through four year old seats, most of them being for PreK-4 because parents are already aware of those seats.
 There is still a strong push to get the word out about infant through three year old seats.
- Enrollment staff noted that some pregnant woman didn't finish their verification process because they didn't have birth certificates for their children. The wording in the application will be changed to make it clearer that they should complete the verification process.
- o Information campaign activities include participating in radio call-in shows, events for providers and families around holiday time, Education Matters magazine in Gambit in December, Early Childhood Guide distribution to libraries, targeted OneApp ads on nola.com, yard signs, direct mail to families in the Nurse Family Partnership and in mixed income communities, and participation in the 2016 Schools Expo.

В. **Key Points, Questions, Concerns**

- Superintendent Patrick Dobard congratulated everyone on their work from making coordinated enrollment move from discussions to reality. This work puts us far ahead of other parishes.
- Would it be helpful to reach out to delivery rooms? We're working with Families Helping Families and sending an envelope to every mother with a child that may have a child with special needs as pilot, and we're going to see if they find the packet helpful. If so, we'll talk about expanding our reach.
- What languages are materials available in? We have the applications in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The flyers are in the middle of being translated, and the early childhood guide will be translated. Some articles in the Education Matters magazine will be translated as well.

II. **Coordinated Funding Request**

Α. Presentation: Overview and Approval of 2016-17 NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request and Process and Timeline—Luz Kief

- The Allocated CCAP Seats pilot is a new form of funding from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE). LDE will grant a set number of seats to an early learning center, which is different from the current model of CCAP (which operates on a voucher basis). Families will apply for allocated CCAP seats through OneApp. With this, centers will be able to easily fill CCAP slots using the wait list if a child leaves the center. Centers will have a more stable income stream through the allocated CCAP program, and families applying for an allocated CCAP seat will have their CCAP applications expedited.
- For the past two years, we formed ad-hoc committees to review the seat allocation applications, and then submitted them to LDE. However, this year NOEEN will be submitting recommendations to LDE for seat allocations (as opposed to simply reviewing the documents prior to submission). LDE will review NOEEN's recommendations and send their final allocations to BESE for approval.
- NOEEN will automatically recommend seats that are "continuing," meaning that a program has funding for those seats in this school year. However, these seats will not be recommended if there is a major monitoring issue. Any program requesting additional seats will need to fill out an application. Programs requesting a new funding stream will also need to fill out an application and a site visit or interview will be conducted.

B. Key Points, Questions, and Concerns

- Children in Early Head Start and Child Care partnerships seats must qualify for both EHS and CCAP. Thelma French and Kristi Givens both raised concerns about the EHS-CC partnerships working efficiently in OneApp because of the long review times for CCAP applications.
- o **Can Steering Committee members vote on their own seats?** Members can recuse themselves from voting when their seats come up for a vote.
- NOEEN will make recommendations as a Steering Committee, but LDE will
 make the final determination? Yes—LDE will make the ultimate determinations
 and BESE will sign off on those recommendations in March.
- Kate Mehok noted that there are a large amount of programs applying for new funding streams and questioned whether there will be enough time to interview and do site visits. She suggested that program scoring very low on the rubric shouldn't receive a site visit in order to save time.

III. NOEEN Strategic Planning Session

A. Presentation: Summary—Dr. Anthony Recasner

- Dr. Recasner thanked everyone who was able to participate in the Strategic Planning day at Longue Vue House & Gardens.
- The Steering Committee will receive a document from Carl Sussman summarizing the network's Theory of Change. It will be reviewed and discussed during the January meeting.
- The main decision the Steering Committee needs to make at this point is whether 1) the whole steering committee moves forward to revise and recommend this plan or 2) a small group of steering committee members will meet together to revise the plan, then bring it before the full group for review and approval.
- The original application for NOEEN as a community network pilot proposed many committee or working groups. While many of the committees didn't go into effect, the education assessment committee met for a period of time, and the community and family engagement group worked with the Urban League for Schools Expo. We also had working groups for coordinated enrollment. Do we want a data committee and revived education assessment committee? Are there needs for any additional working groups?

B. Key Points, Questions and Concerns

- Thelma French stated that she has a policy concern and doesn't want policy decisions being made without it being presented to the steering committee.
- Or. Recasner noted that the Network is mandated to complete certain tasks, but it also has the opportunity to build a consensus throughout the city about early

childhood. We can play big or we can play small, but we'll eventually have to decide.

Action Items (s)

- **Action Item No. 1:** On the motion of Superintendent Patrick Dobard and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee adopted the Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 2:** On the motion of Superintendant Patrick Dobard and seconded by Dr. Keith Liederman, the Committee approved the Consent Agenda.
- **Action Item No. 3:** On the motion of Superintendent Patrick Dobard and seconded by Kristi Givens, the Committee approved the 2016-17 NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request Process and Timeline.
- **Action Item No.4**: On the motion of Dr. Keith Liederman and seconded by Joyce Ridgeway, the committee approved an amendment to the bylaws that would add Steve Lenahan of Catholic Charities as a member of the Steering Committee.
- **Action Item No. 5:** On the motion of Dr. Anthony Recasner and seconded by Patrick Dobard, the committee meeting agreed to adjourn at 1:00 pm.