

New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda for Children
8300 Earhart Blvd. Ste. 201
New Orleans, LA 70118
August 4, 2015
11:30am

Committee Members in Attendance: Dr. Anthony Recasner, Patrick Dobard, Dr. Henderson Lewis, Carole Elliot, Sonjia Joseph, Kristi Givens, Kate Mehok, Thelma French, Keith Liederman, Joyce Ridgeway, Maria Blanco

Committee Members in Absence: None

At 11:39, the meeting was called to order by Dr. Anthony Recasner.

Adoption of the Agenda

On motion of Patrick Dobard and seconded by Maria Blanco the agenda was adopted as printed and disseminated.

Reports/Presentations

- New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) Overview—Dr. Anthony Recasner, Elizabeth Kief, and Teresa Falgoust
 - The presentation provided a brief history of the New Orleans Early Care and Education Network (NOEEN), as well as a summary of CLASS scores, the new Site Profile and Network Profile that the Louisiana Department of Education will use for accountability, and estimates of how many at-risk children are being served in publicly funded seats in the city. NOEEN now includes 155 different programs that serve over 5,500 publicly funded children.
 - Members recommended that staff provide more information on the number of “at-risk” Children vs. Publicly-Funded Children Served in ECE programs in New Orleans to present a more accurate picture of the service gap and need for additional early childhood funding.
 - Dr. Recasner expressed his gratitude for those that sent volunteers to conduct Pre-K and Toddler CLASS assessments for the past two years.
 - Members, including Patrick Dobard and Carole Elliot, expressed their gratitude for Agenda for Children’s efforts to support programs of all types in the network

Key Points/Questions from NOEEN Overview Presentation

- **Will the State have access to myTeachstone?** We’re currently working with the State to provide access to authorized staffers at the Louisiana Department of Education.
- **Who will be performing CLASS assessments this year?** Agenda for Children, as the Lead Agency, is currently hiring contracted observers.

The Department of Education is contracting with third party observers to conduct at least one observation per program.

- **When will programs receive their CLASS scores and performance profiles?** Agenda for Children is requiring that observers enter the scores within a week of observation, at which point they will be made available to the program. At this time, it is not clear when the Performance Profiles will be released. However, because the Department of Education is taking into account both fall and spring scores, we believe it would be no earlier than the end of the 2015-2016 school year.
- Review of NOEEN Proposed Coordinated Enrollment Process—Patrick Dobard and Kristen Illarmo
 - Coordinated enrollment is designed to make the process of applying to early childhood education programs easier by providing a single application that families can use to apply to any publicly funded early care and education program in the city, regardless of its setting or funding streams. The Coordinated Enrollment Framework was developed by a work group that consisted of representatives from every part of the early childhood education sector (public schools, private schools, Head Start and private child care centers.) Key decisions made by the group included:
 - Each match will be made based on program priorities and family preferences.
 - The infant-to-four application process will be based on the existing OneApp process for four year-olds and will follow the same deadlines as the K-12 OneApp.
 - Families will answer a series of eligibility questions online so that they only apply for programs for which they are eligible.
 - Due to the complex nature of eligibility, the application process will be online-only and available through enrollnola.org.
 - EnrollNola will maintain waitlists. If a child is placed in a setting that was not her family's first choice, she will be placed on waitlists for the programs that her family ranked higher.
 - There will be a mid-year placement process for children and families in need of immediate placement. It is anticipated that most CCAP seats will be filled through the mid-year placement process.
 - Members recommended that staff invite those in Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships to Early Learning Center Coordinated Enrollment sessions.
 - Members recommended that the waitlist policy for Head Start programs be reexamined to ensure that it is in compliance with federal Head Start guidelines.

Key Points/Questions from Coordinated Enrollment Process

- **Will the application allow for pregnant moms to apply?** Yes.
- **Why can't the documents for eligibility just be scanned into the system?** There were privacy concerns with scanning documents. As a result, EnrollNola is not allowed to maintain eligibility documents.
- **When does this process start?** The application process for the 2016-2017 school year will begin in November. Round 1 matches will occur in April and Round 2 matches will be made in July.
- **Why are we required to coordinate this process?** Act 3 called for coordinated enrollment, and subsequent legislation (Act 717) required that all community networks develop a plan for coordinated seats by October 2015. The Louisiana Department of Education will create and implement a plan for coordinated enrollment for any community network that does not develop a plan for coordinated enrollment by that date.

Action Item(s)

- **Action Item No. 1:** On motion of Patrick Dobard and seconded by Kate Mehok, the Committee approved the 2015-16 NOEEN Steering Committee Handbook, including bylaws and meeting calendar.

At 1:35 the meeting was adjourned.