

Nevada
EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

“Nevada’s children will be safe, healthy, and thriving during the first eight years of life, and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.”

Public Meeting

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

**Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street, Carson City, Nevada**

**Video-Conference Locations
College of Southern Nevada
6375 W. Charleston Blvd. I Bldg. Rm. 202, Las Vegas, Nevada
Teleconference #: 702-730-1106 Passcode: 04838#**

MINUTES

Sherry Halley called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

1. Introductions:

ECAC members present (Carson City video conference site):

Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Educational Opportunity, State PreK
Kathleen Bent, Mental Health and Development Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

ECAC members present (Las Vegas video conference site):

Sherry Halley, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Educational Opportunity, Early Childhood Special Education
Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
Dolores Hauck, United Way of Southern Nevada
Catherine Lyons, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Department of Educational and Clinical Studies

ECAC Members on the phone:

Marty Elquist, Northern Nevada Nonprofit Early Childhood Program, The Children’s Cabinet
Latisha Brown, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing

ECAC members absent:

Angela Triche, Sunrise Children’s Foundation Early Head Start
Steve Schorr, Cox Communications, School Districts Board of Trustees Representative
Dr. Linda Young, School District Board of Trustee

NDE Staff Present:

Dale Erquiaga, NDE State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Public on the phone:

Lily Helzer, Department of Public and Behavioral Health (sitting in for Deborah Aquino, Maternal and Child Health)

Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan, Pediatrician and Medical Director at United Health Care

Brenna Malone, Head Start Director; Local ECAC Chair

Diane Nicolet, Truckee Meadows Community College Child Care Center

Deborah Aquino, Maternal and Child Health Program Manager

Public (present in Las Vegas):

Patti Oya, Office of Early Childhood Education

Amanda Habousch, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Institute for Children’s Research and Policy;

Southern Nevada Local ECAC

Lisa Mariani, Childrens’ Advocacy Alliance (sitting in for Denise Tanata-Ashby)

Public (present in Carson City):

Melissa Burnham, University of Nevada-Reno; Washoe County Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair

Sherry Waugh, Child & Family Research Center, University of Nevada Reno

Erin Hasty, Office of the Governor

Valerie Dockery, Director of Grants and Special Projects, Carson City School District; Carson City Local ECAC Chair

The Council has a quorum

2. Welcome & Introduction by NDE Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dale Erquiaga

Mr. Erquiaga welcomed everyone to NDE. He announced the signing of an Executive Order to establish an Office of Early Learning and Development in NDE on October, 10, 2013, that authorizes the following:

- 1) Relocation of the Head Start State Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE);
- 2) NDE shall maintain administrative, policy, and operational authority for the Office of Early Care and Education; and
- 3) The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (NECAC) shall act as an advisory body to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who may present any NECAC findings and recommendations concerning all things related to the Nevada’s Early Childhood Comprehensive System to the Office of the Governor

Mr. Erquiaga advised that the ECAC is one of 19 Councils, Committees and Commissions that are overseen by NDE, the State Board of Education and Career and Technical Education. Dale reported that the Head Start State Collaboration Office has moved to Las Vegas and a new director will be hired. The Office of Early Care and Education Office has also transitioned over from DHHS to NDE. Dale states that a restructuring is taking place and a new section is being created which includes the State Pre-K

Program, Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO) and Early Childhood Comprehensive Services (ECCS) and the Office of Early Care and Education.

The Division of Student Achievement will include the early childhood function. Dales states that the Governor has charged the NDE and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to present him with a plan to propose for the 2015 Legislature. He states we must work closely with DHHS to ensure high quality provision for early care and education.

By the end of the fiscal year, the Department transition will be formally complete.

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

Additional participants joined the ECAC meeting.

Marty Elquist from the Children's Cabinet representing statewide resource and referral in quality joined telephonically.

Catherine Lyons, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Assistant Professor, Director of the Childhood Center joined at the southern location.

4. For possible action: Approval of December 3, 2013 Minutes**

Sherry Halley noted the following revisions:

- Page 3, *Supports for rural counties and bully prevention resources*: 2nd bullet, 2nd sentence should read: "She stated a new Nevada Department of Education Program Professional is focusing on anti-bullying initiatives which includes children with disabilities and it will be important to include this person in the planning and implementation."
- Page 4, 1st bullet, sentence should read: "A team of cross sector agency representatives, the new NDE HSSCO Director, and TACSEI Lead Team members will plan and determine whether or not to write the grant application. The team will also look into aligning with the Safe Schools Healthy Schools initiatives."

Marty Elquist noted a correction on Page 11.

- Page 11, 3rd dark bullet, should read: "The grant is managed for Washoe County by Jessica Ernster in the Family and Youth Intervention Department of the Children's Cabinet, Linda Lange with the State of Nevada and Marcia Calloway with the NDE."

Motion:

- Catherine Lyons made a motion to approve the Minutes with the corrected information.
- Leticia Brown seconded the motion.
- There was no opposition.
- The December 3, 2013 Minutes were approved.

Flexible agenda

5. ECCS Workgroup Update – Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan

Dr. Rutu announced that the Learn the Signs, Act Early Summit was coming up. She stated that the workgroup looked at what the pediatricians and health care providers were using for screening. The survey monkey was delivered to the AAP Chapter and data will be collected. Dr. Rutu reported they were trying to find a healthy homes champion within the Nevada AAP Chapter. The workgroup will discuss what the next steps are. Sherry stated she would send out contact information. Marty stated she is in the workgroup. Sherry said that she would contact Marty for assistance in getting an Agenda ready for the March 4th meeting. Anna read the list of people in the workgroup.

6. HSC & ECS Director Update

NDE Restructuring: Anna Severens talked about the NDE restructure. She stated that Dale would be looking to the Early Childhood Advisory Council for next steps moving forward. Anna stated that the HSSCO director position announcement has closed, and the interview process will begin for four applicants. Anna stated the Office of Early Learning and Development will hold their first meeting at the end of the month. Janie Lowe will supervise the division in the interim.

Silver State KIDS Update: Anna presented an update on Silver State KIDS. S.B. 486 – pilot project to support statewide kindergarten entry assessment as it is moving forward.

A preliminary draft report of data from Teaching Strategies GOLD was shared and discussed. Seven districts are currently in the pilot which includes pre-k and kindergarten teachers. Anna states there may be an event in the spring to bring those kindergarten teachers together to talk about how the tool is being used and further their training and understanding of using the tool, collecting documentation, and doing observation based assessment. Given the transition of the new Office of ELD, this event will likely be moved to May or June.

Comments:

- Valerie Dockery, Director of Grants and Special Projects at Carson City School District stated that the statement that observational data does not exist in k-12 is not completely true. She stated they have a lot of assessments in place in kindergarten. Valerie encourages the council to work with curriculum directors in the k-12 system in this process. She reports they are collecting a great deal of data within their system.
- Amanda asked the question if there is anything being done with the kids who are identified below Standards?
Anna answered, yes, one of the main goals and purpose of having comprehensive kindergarten data is to provide a snapshot of where children are developmentally across all domains of learning when they enter kindergarten. This may then not only help guide instruction in kindergarten, but also provide important information related to supporting children and programs before kindergarten. Anna commented on Valerie's statements, saying that NDE received a technical assistance grant from the National Governor's Association (NGA) which is working on P-3 reform efforts and is working closely with RPDPs and local districts related to related professional development in these areas.
- Melissa Burnham, UNR Associate Professor, commented on the preliminary TSG data report that it would be helpful to know the numbers of children in each age group. She stated there is some

confusion about the color bands and graphs in the Report. Sherry stated there will be clarification provided by TSG. Anna stated that Amber Joiner, DHHS, is fully aware of the incomplete data.

New ECAC Chair: Given the transition and vacancy of the HSSCO Director position and past Chair of ECAC, Margot Chappel no longer being in this position, Sherry Halley led a discussion regarding the selection of a new chairperson for the ECAC. Marty Elquist suggested that someone who is already familiar with the Council would be a best fit. Carrie Paldi commented that continuity is important and she feels that someone who has served on the Council and is familiar with the history is important. . Sherry Halley stated that she and Anna Severens will do what is best for the Council and they have a scheduled meeting with Janie Lowe on February 27th to further discuss next steps related to selecting a new Chair.

Carrie stated that the people who stand out to her, as potential chairs are Anna, Sherry and Catherine. In the meantime, Sherry stated that the locations for the upcoming Council meetings are scheduled at NDE in the south.

7. Race to the Top Application Update - Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education

Anna stated comments for the application is posted on the USDOE website. She announced that the Silver State Strong ECCS Strategic Planning document is posted on the ECAC website. Anna stated that in the Race to the Top Application process, Nevada was ranked 15 out of 17 and six states were awarded this round of grants.

Comments:

Carrie Paldi asked what things could be implemented that are in the Race to the Top application. Anna stated that this would be one of the many things yet to be determined and further discussed at the first NDE Office of ELD February meeting and future meetings.

Anna stated that the Strategic Planning Document on the ECAC website was the final version.

There was a question asked, who is managing the ECAC website, in the interim. Anna stated that is another question to address at the NDE Office of ELD February meeting. Marty expressed concern over timely updates to the website. Carrie asked about the costs of the website domain and hosting, and the budget.

Anna stated that all of the issues presented in the meeting will be discussed with leadership.

8. Head Start Collaboration Leadership Team Update – Brenna Malone

No new updates. Brenna stated that a new HSSCO director will be hired and she or a delegate will be part of the interview team.

9. Children’s Advocacy Alliance Update – Lisa Mariani

Lisa reports that the Strong Start website is up and running and the address is www.strongstartnevada.org.

Channel 8 Community Pride supports Strong Start, and has given them a micro site. Lisa advised to go to www.8newsnow.com to view the postings. Strong Start Nevada is posted on Twitter and Facebook. Regarding kickoff events, First Lady Kathleen Sandoval has agreed to be the Strong Start Ambassador. A kickoff event in the north will be potentially held March 11, 12 or 13, 2014. She states they are reaching out to business organizations for support related to early childhood.

Strong Start newsletter was posted last month. Copies will also be delivered to Anna for distribution. A sponsorship letter will be distributed to groups to help reach out to potential sponsors. A second kickoff event will be held in the south in early summer.

10. Resources Links of New Jersey Department of Education – Anna Severens

Anna shared the NJ Kindergarten Implementation Guidelines document and stated she has been reviewing other NJ DOE links related to their extensive work and materials they have put together to support developmentally appropriate practices in kindergarten for teachers and administrators and related professional development. She encouraged the ECAC members to check out these resources and/or adopt to use for related activities to further support Silver State KIDS. She proposed that our CCSSO mini-grant may be able to further support kindergarten teachers in the state involved in this pilot. NJ has developed kindergarten implementation guidelines aligned to the common core. Also, they have created some great videos regarding classroom environments and high quality kindergarten today. See following links: <http://www.nj.gov/education/ece/k/>; <http://www.nj.gov/education/ece/k/hqktoday/>

Comments:

- Sherry stated that she has viewed the videos and they are of high quality, informative, and entertaining.
- Carrie stated that she liked the idea of setting up learning centers in the classrooms. She stated that mini-grants should be used on things to enrich the classrooms. Marty agrees and states that the document is easily readable. Valerie Dockery states that leadership in the school districts needs to be aware of these proposed issues and what is being brought forth to teachers. She states some of these things are already in place in Carson City. Marty proposes an update to the document for Nevada and forward the draft to the district curriculum directors and give them a chance to review it before it is finalized.
- Marty suggested adopting the document, modify it, make it Nevada's own, review it with curriculum directors and bring it back to the Council.

Motion:

- Marty made a motion to adopt the New Jersey document, and modify it to fit Nevada, and have all appropriate leadership review.
- Carrie seconded the motion.
- There was no opposition, or request for extension.
- The Adoption was approved.

Sherry asked that a workgroup be formed to work on the document. Marty requested to be part of the workgroup. Catherine and Sherry also volunteered. Anna stated that the public can also volunteer.

11. Maryland/Ohio Enhanced Assessment Grant Update and Discussion – Anna Severens

Anna reported that Nevada is part of the Maryland/Ohio Consortium that was awarded one of three Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: Enhanced Assessment Grants (EAG). Maryland/Ohio used part of their initial Race to the Top money to develop Version 1.0 and through the enhanced assessment grants,

will be developing a 2.0 version along 6 other states. The states included in this Consortium include: Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, and Ohio. The Consortium is in the process of developing common language standards to develop and pilot Version 2.0 KEA assessment and aligned professional development. (a handout with more information was provided). Anna encouraged others who wanted more information about this project to contact her. Dolores indicated she was interested in receiving more information.

Sherry reported that Teresa Oster came to the meeting but the door was locked and she could not get in. She left a message on the door that Angela was on her way to the meeting today, and was involved in an accident, so could not attend.

12. Expanding Opportunities Workgroup Update – Sherry Halley

Nevada PEP has asked for help in distributing four Kidsmart computers loaded with software – one in southern Nevada, one in Washoe and two in rural areas. Sherry has created a list of questions and rubric. Catherine and Dolores have offered to help with the review. Sherry suggested sending the rubric to the Council members so it can be passed on to centers and different organizations.

13. Child Care Licensing Update – Latisha Brown

Latisha stated they just did a questionnaire for some proposed regulations that will move to workshop and Board of Health meeting. She stated proposed fee regulations are going out which are for facilities that are not in compliance and adds a fee to the facilities that do not come into compliance within a set amount of time. They will no longer do partial background checks, just full checks on people who will be in contact with children within a childcare facility, including volunteers. Parent volunteers will be exempt. They have repealed regulations NAC 432A.115. NAC432A.35 is their process for waivers. She states there will be a workshop on February 11 at 1:30 in regards to the proposed regulations. A small business impact statement was put on their list serve and was sent to the licensed facilities. There will be a Board of Health meeting in March. A committee was created in October 2013 for licensed providers to allow communication regarding multi-disciplinary work and working together. The committee will meet quarterly.

14. Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children Update – Carrie Paldi

Carrie stated that the NevAEYC Conference is scheduled for April 17-19. The public policy day is April 17. DEC day is on that day also. There will be activities to work on with a social media station. There will be a video booth where participants can make video statements and a science display. SNAEYC and RAEYC are both conducting a leadership academy.

15. Home Visiting Update – Lilly giving update in Deborah Aquino's absence

Lilly reports they have three agencies, one in Reno and two in Las Vegas. There are 120 families receiving home visiting services. They have completed over 2000 home visits. They will bring on three new agencies into the rural areas. She stated that domestic violence training is needed so they have been doing best practice trainings with the current agencies. They continue to identify trainings that are needed throughout the state of Nevada.

16. Fathers and Families Coalition Conference Update – Amanda giving update for Angela Triche

Amanda stated the conference will be February 11-14, 2014 in Las Vegas. Amanda stated they were looking for volunteers for the conference. Also, the conference price was approximately \$500-\$600.

17. Updates from ECAC members

- Catherine gave an update on the Wendy Whipple Scholarship. Catherine explained that she and others have forwarded the information to several agencies and is posted on the NevAEYC website. Sherry offered to send it to the state special education directors.
- Anna reminded everyone that the NDE MEGA Conference is April 4-6, 2014 and they will be having a P-3 Track, and save the date has been sent out.

18. Local Nevada Councils Update

- Amanda stated they have been working on partnering for the Family Engagement Day on March 29th. She stated they are developing 15-minute modules in four different areas to help parents and kids grow in the areas of nutrition, physical activities, literacy and promote learning. She stated there will be a revised save-the-date that will go out soon.
- Brenna in Elko states they have not met since the Summit. She states there is not a plan for another conference and they are deciding on the next steps.
- Valerie Dockery, Carson City, says they have been meeting monthly since August. She said that SPED staff came and talked about Child Find and the services available for children in the age 0-4 age group. Valerie stated they need more private providers to come to the meetings. She stated they are going to print a flyer and distribute to some of the private providers. They are working on providing a brochure for parents on what to look for in choosing an early childhood program. They feel that parents' choice is often based on monetary issues and proximity to work. Kindergarten Round-up will kick off in March. Anna commented that Carson City has done a great job of expanding pre-k services through the recently passed ELL legislation and funding. Marty stated they would be happy to help regarding contacting and/or disseminating information to child care programs.
- Melissa Burnham stated their work has been focused on P-3 related work in one local Washoe County School – Kate Smith Elementary. They are focused on doing mentoring and coaching using the CLASS tool for the teachers and hosting leadership seminars with school principals. There are 12 principals currently signed up. The WCECAC also played a large role in organizing, planning and hosting the statewide P-3 Summit held in October 2013

19. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Several items were discussed to be considered as agenda items for the next meeting. These included:

- Process for selecting new chairperson and roles and responsibilities for possible action.
- Kindergarten task force to further look at NJ resources and related supporting materials for Nevada related to Silver State KIDS
- Update on the budget and/or funding for ECAC and local ECACs. State and local ECAC members expressed the great value in past mini-grants to continue their work at the local levels.
- The next meeting is April 1, 2014. Sherry stated that any items for discussion should be emailed to her or Anna. Sherry reported that the next meeting will be at the Department of Education board room and encourages attendees to check emails to keep up-to-date on meeting locations and any changes. It was also mentioned that Cindy Little should be

notified of the meetings. Anna stated that future meeting location preferences should be discussed. Carrie stated she likes having the meetings at Department of Education because of being more accessible. Future meeting dates have been posted on the website. Carrie suggested resending the notice of future meeting dates and locations once they are known to eliminate confusion.

20. Discussion of face-to-face or video-conferenced meetings – Sherry Halley

Sherry asked should the April 1 meeting be video-conferenced or have everyone together for the meeting. It was suggested that due to unknown budget situations, video-conferencing would be best.

21. Public Comment

Amanda stated that April is National Childhood Abuse Prevention Month. She stated that they are working with counties all over the state to put on awareness activities. Prevent Child Abuse Nevada is partnering with CAN Prevent to put on a statewide conference on child safety and abuse prevention on Friday, May 16, 2014 in Reno. There will be sessions that focus on human trafficking. There was a question about the best way to get information and resources. Amanda stated that www.childabusenevada.org has some of the materials listed. It was asked if there would also be an event in southern Nevada. Amanda said yes, there will be, and they are open to suggestions about locations.

22. Adjournment

Motion:

- Catherine Lyons made a motion to adjourn.
- Dolores seconded the motion to adjourn.
- Motion carried.
- The February 4, 2014 ECAC meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.