

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 5th, 2013
11:00am – 4:00pm

Location
Nevada Department of Education
KEY Realty Building at Maryland Parkway and Silverado Ranch
9890 S Maryland Parkway, Suite 221
Las Vegas, NV 89183 (702)-486-6460

Teleconference #: 888 – 363 - 4735 Access Code: 8293971

Minutes

1. Introductions and Housekeeping Items

Margot Chappel called the meeting to order at 11:00am. Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Members Present:

Margot Chappel, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office
Sherry Halley, Nevada Department of Education
Laura Valentine, Nevada DHHS Division of Aging and Disability Services
Jack Zenteno, Nevada DHHS Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Ann Polakowski, Nevada DHHS Division of Child and Family Services
Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education
Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
Karen Taycher, Nevada PEP
Angela Triche, Sunrise Children’s Foundation Early Head Start
Rutu Ezhuthachan, Southwest Medical Associates

Members on the Phone:

Catherine Lyons, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Members Absent:

Joanne Everts, Community HELPS
Larry Charlton, City National Bank

Gary Vause, Lit'l Scholars Preschool

Guests Present:

Helen Heber, Nevada Early Intervention Services

Tracy Lewis, Children's Cabinet, Inc.

Kayelynn Ogden, Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, The Children's Cabinet

Danielle Holmes, Southern Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, The Children's Cabinet

Alyce Gray, College of Southern Nevada

Cheryl Brecheisen, College of Southern Nevada

Dolores Hauck, United Way of Southern Nevada

Cruz Bohnsack, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Michael Tinsley, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Sarah Marschall, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.

Guests on the Phone:

Denise Tanata-Ashby, Children's Advocacy Alliance

Melissa Burnham, University of Nevada, Reno

Jonah Stuart, Teaching Strategies Gold

Suzanne Scheel, Teaching Strategies Gold

Kellyn Moran, Teaching Strategies Gold

Jennifer Mosel, Teaching Strategies Gold

Sherry Waugh, University of Nevada, Reno Early Head Start

Perry Smith, Nevada Home Visiting

Staff Present:

Carol Gilman, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. For possible action: Approval of December 3rd, 2012 Minutes**

The following revision was noted:

Agenda Item XIII – State grantees include: Nevada, Iowa, ...

- Laura Valentine motioned to approve the minutes with the revision.
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

4. For possible action: Kindergarten Inventory of Development Statewide (KIDS) Project -Update and Approval of Next Steps** – Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.

Sarah Marschall provided a Power Point presentation and members and guests were provided handouts. Please refer to the handout for details.

Overview:

Project Milestones:

- School Readiness Summit February 2012.
- County Needs Assessments Completed June 2012.
- Statewide Needs Assessments Completed August 2012.
- Planning Summit October 2012.
- Draft Implementation Plan January 2013.
- Project Name Change to Kindergarten Inventory of Development Statewide (KIDS).
- School Readiness Definition Adoption by the ECAC.
- Presentation to School Superintendants.
- Selection of Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) as the assessment tool.
 - Customizable to meet Nevada's needs.
 - Aligns with common core state standards and pre-k standards.
 - Valid and reliable.
 - Inter rater reliable certification.
 - Clark County School District and Nevada Head Start programs already use this tool.
 - Flexible reporting.
 - Family component.
 - Costs and opportunities to leverage
 - Train the trainer will provide statewide training opportunities.
 - Responsive and engaged team ready to help state implement program.

Next Steps:

- **Pilot Phase:**
 - Mail out Letter of Interest
 - County participation to include small, medium, and large counties.
 - Expecting high level of interest from districts to participate.
 - Level of participation and interest will be provided during the April ECAC meeting and will determine budget.
 - Begin pilot implementation phase.
 - Hold TSG Train the Trainer program.
- **Budget** – Needs to be determined based on level of interest for TSG Train the Trainer and Project Implementation.

- Possible funding opportunities and partnerships include: Striving Readers (Nevada Department of Education), All day Kindergarten classes in Governor's proposed budget, Council of Chief State School Officers grant (\$20,000.00 for Silver State KIDS), \$4 Million dollar state longitudinal system.
- Present Information Graphic to Council at April meeting.
- Ongoing communication continues with Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada Department of Education, P-16 Council, and Governor's Office on budget and project implementation plan.
- Ongoing activities: Determine budget and funding sources, provide training on TSG, continue collaboration and public awareness with communities and stakeholders, ensure protection of process and data, and continue to ask questions.

Council Feedback and Questions:

Karen Taycher asked how TSG incorporates children with disabilities.

- This will be discussed during the TSG presentation.

5. For possible action: Teaching Strategies Gold Presentation and Approval of Next Steps**

Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) provided a Web Connect meeting presentation on the Kindergarten Inventory of Development. The presentation will be forwarded to the Council after the meeting.

Overview:

- Aligns with common core state standards and pre-k standards.
- Each state can customize tool.
- Professional development and family portal components.
- Local control of choosing curriculum.
- Available in English and Spanish.
- Inter rater reliability. (National rater is through University of North Carolina.)
- Plan to expand through 3rd grade.
- **Reports:**
 - Hierarchy of Report Structure can be determined to protect individual privacy and allow different levels of access to data and reporting.
 - For Districts, Schools, Teachers
 - Teachers would only have access to the data for their students.
 - Parents would have access to information on their child.

- State policy makers and stake holders would have access to aggregated de-identified data.
 - Reports can help states compare to national results.
 - Can download to spreadsheet format.
 - Aligned with Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework.
 - 60% of Head Start Centers nationally use this assessment tool and all military child care centers use the tool.
 - Documentation for I Phones, I Pads, I Pods
 - Types:
 - Growth Reports – Shows a child’s percentage of progress and compares this to national averages. (Aligns with Nevada Department of Education Exceptional Student Education waiver that measures improvement based on an individual child’s growth.)
 - Snapshot Reports: Common Core State Standards (Beginning later this year.)
 - Professional Development Reports (view teacher’s growth and progress).
 - Inter Rater Reliability Report.
- Kindergarten teachers assess students as part of daily routines.
 - Initially implement during the first eight weeks of school and administer again at different times throughout the school year.
- **Cost:**
 - Cost per child
 - Train the Trainer program with TSG to create a base of statewide trainers.
 - Cost is \$54,000.00 for first year based on estimate of training 12 trainers.
 - Possible funding opportunities and partnerships to pay for training – Council of State School Officers grant funds, Governor’s One Shot appropriation for 2014-15 biennium, Part C Office Training Funds?

Next Steps:

- TSG will email presentation to Margot Chappel to forward to Council members.
- Collaboration will continue on planning and design of training and implementation.
- Determine how often and which teachers will implement the assessment.
- Decide upon other configuration tools.
- A workgroup will meet to establish the components that will be used in Nevada’s version of the tool.
 - TSG will make sure that they are reliable and valid.

Questions and Feedback from the Council Members: Responses from TSG staff.

Karen Taycher asked if the cost is dependent upon the quantity of components that are incorporated and the number of times the assessment is administered?

- TSG stated that those are not factors in determining the cost.

Margot Chappel stated some early care and education programs expressed that they would not want to use this program as their sole assessment tool.

Anna Severens asked how other states are linking early childhood and school age.

- Local districts can select curriculum.

Carrie Paldi asked if there is a special rate for private child care centers that would like to use this tool.

- Participation level from the Letter of Interest will help decide savings and budget or if the state can cover the cost.

Angela Triche asked if teachers will be trained through TSG.

- Train the Trainer approach will be used to create a statewide team of trainers.

Public Comment:

Cheryl Brecheisen asked if statistics were based on half day or full day kindergarten and teacher ratios.

- Both half day and full day classes can be part of data.

6. HSC & ECS Director Report – Margot Chappel

- Margot Chappel will attend the next Office of Head Start Collaboration Directors' meeting in March.
- Margot Chappel along with Anna Severens will attend the National Governor's Association meeting on P-3 alignment in learning standards in March. Other representatives attending that meeting include the Governor's Office, Nevada Department of Education and the Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Center.
- NAEYC – Professional Development Institute – P-3 sessions were proposed by Anna Severens. Still waiting to hear if accepted.

7. For possible action: Approval of ECAC Summit Meeting Notes and Next Steps**

Margot Chappel reviewed the meeting notes. There were no comments.

- Sherry Halley motioned to approve the ECAC Summit meeting notes and next steps.
- Anna Severens seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.

- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

The Summit notes will be posted to the ECAC website.

8. For possible action: Recommendations from ECAC MOU Workgroup on Local ECAC MOU and Logo Use**

- MOU is non-binding.
- Local Councils do not need to sign MOU.
- Grant funding is not tied to MOU.
- MOU and grant application are different agreements.

Discussion:

- Item II A – If ECAC does not approve of goals, there is no consequence.
 - Laura Valentine stated to include a mechanism for feedback.
- Item II G – Clarify if materials that ECAC funded would be used for public consumption. If the funds were provided by another source would the Local Council still have to acknowledge the ECAC?
- Need for a mechanism that states the ECAC or Local Council can sever the relationship.
 - (If Local ECAC provided information or did something that was not developmentally appropriate, State Council would have a right to say that they did not approve of this activity.)
- Jack Zenteno asked if the grant funding was tied to the MOU. Margot Chappel confirmed it is not.

Recommended revisions:

- Carrie Paldi made a motion to revise the MOU document with the following changes and send out to the Council for review.
 - Item II A – replace the word approval with **input**.
 - Item II G – *Reword second sentence to state: **If funding is received from the State ECAC and will be used to support projects or materials that will be used for public consumption or distribution, the Local Council will be required to include the following statement on the materials...***
 - Item III G – Add **Readiness** after School Readiness (State School Readiness Definition.)
 - Add a cancellation clause with a term limit. Laura Valentine will send an example.
- Laura Valentine seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

Next Steps:

- Laura Valentine will email Margot Chappel a sample severability clause.
- MOU will be revised with changes.
- Revised MOU will be forwarded to Council members for review.
- Council will review and approve at the April meeting.

Public Comment:

Amanda Haboush

- Item II A – What are the consequences if state does not approve of Local ECAC goals?
 - Margot Chappel stated there are no consequences since this is non-binding.
- G - What if the materials were paid by someone else. There needs to be a clarification.

9. For possible action: BUILD Initiative Recommendations and Next Steps**

Funding of \$200,000.00 per year for three to four years is needed to support a BUILD Initiative in Nevada.

- Ann Polakowski motioned for the ECAC to solicit private funds to support the BUILD Initiative in Nevada.
- Karen Taycher seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

10. For possible action: Legislative Priorities and Recommendations Through the Children’s Advocacy Alliance - Update and Approval of Priorities - Denise Tanata-Ashby**

Policy recommendations include:

- Add provision to Nevada Revised Statutes that outline minimum qualifications of a child care facility director.
- Increase training hours for teachers who work in child care facilities.
- Laura Valentine motioned that the Early Childhood Advisory Council endorse the Children’s Advocacy Alliance’s Policy Brief on School Readiness.
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

Children’s Week at the Legislature, Early Childhood Day April 3rd:

- The ECAC will provide handouts on projects and initiatives including the school readiness definition, the Silver State KIDS infographic, magnets, brochures and other materials in Room 3100.
- Denise Tanata Ashby will work with Carol Gilman to organize morning presentations.

11. For possible action: 2013 Project Recommendations and Next Steps**

- **Comprehensive Plan**
- **Fiscal Mapping**
- **Teaching Strategies Gold Train the Trainer for one year**

Margot Chappel provided an overview of the project recommendations.

- ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding needs to be obligated by September 30th, 2013 and spent out by December 31st, 2013.
 - ECAC will determine how to allocate remaining funds.
 - Options Include:
 - Allocate \$54,000.00 for the TSG train the trainer project and use the remaining funds on the Comprehensive Plan project.
 - Allocate funding towards state longitudinal system.
- **Comprehensive Plan:**
 - A statewide plan describing the cost and strategy for all young children in Nevada to participate in quality early care and learning experiences.
 - Pre-ECAC meeting of state program representatives reviewed a state planning template document that will be used to create the scope of work for the request for proposals for this project. Input is needed from more partners and stakeholders to complete the document. This would be one of the tasks of the contractor.
 - Funding amount for this project is not known at this time and this information is needed to determine budget needs for this project.
- **TSG Train the Trainer – Create a system of trainers across the state**
 - \$54,000.00 budget to provide a one year train the trainer program on how to use the tool.
 - Other funding stream that could possibly support this project - Part C Training Budget and the Governor’s One Shot for longitudinal data system statewide.

Recommended Next Steps:

- Comprehensive Plan:
 - Develop a Scope of Work for the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Create workgroup to review proposals and recommend contractor.
 - Workgroup Participants Include: Margot Chappel, Carrie Paldi, Anna Severens, Sherry Halley, and Angela Triche.
 - Margot Chappel will invite other Council members to participate.
 - Proposals will provide information on costs and will help to determine if remaining funds can be allocated for the TSG Train the Trainer.
 - Provide recommendation to the Council at the April meeting.

No motion was made.

12. For possible action: Approval of Branding for Early Childhood Programs Endorsed by the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council - Mass Media**

A handout was provided and Council Members reviewed the list of branding options. Branding options were developed recently by Mass Media to complete their work on the ECAC public awareness initiatives.

The Council decided to keep the existing tag line “Starting Early is Starting Right on Time” and “Starting Early” as the main Nevada statements for early childhood.

No motion was made since no branding message was selected.

13. Council of State School Officers project to Enhance State Kindergarten Entry Assessment Initiatives Grant Update and Next Steps - Anna Severens

- Tom Schultz will facilitate a meeting with the state grant recipients during the National Governor’s Association meeting in March.
- Tom Schultz can travel to Nevada to facilitate a meeting with partners and stakeholders. April 8th is best date and the Nevada Department of Education room in Las Vegas is available.
- Grant funds of \$20,000.00 are allocated for the KIDS project and funds need to be used within two years.

14. For possible action: Recommendations from ECAC Infant Toddler Workgroup on Quality Care - Joanne Everts**

Joanne Everts was not present and the workgroup has not met again to provide new updates since the December meeting.

15. Expanding Opportunities (EO) Update – EO Team members

Sherry Halley provided an update.

- EO messaging materials will be included as part of the ECAC exhibit table at the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children’s Conference in April and in the Legislative Room 3100 during Early Childhood Day at the Legislature for the April 3rd ECAC meeting.
- Leadership Team will meet next Tuesday, February 12th.

16. Child Care Licensing Update – Melissa Faul

Melissa Faul was not present to provide an update.

17. Home Visiting Update – Perry G. Smith

Perry Smith was not present to provide an update.

18. Updates from ECAC members

Carrie Paldi:

- Will travel to Reno for the April 3rd meeting and Children's Week at the Legislature activities. She will work with Carol on the arrangements.

Anna Severens:

- Mega Conference will take place in Las Vegas on April 25th – 28th.

Angela Triche:

- 2014 National Fatherhood and Families Conference will take place in Las Vegas February 10th – 14th. Planning for the conference is taking place. She will provide an update during the April meeting.

19. Updates from Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils

Local ECACs have contracts signed to receive the grant funds.

Tribal ECAC: Michael Tinsley

- Developing a video with tribal leaders and representatives about the importance of supporting early childhood programs.
- Tribal Education Summit will take place on March 11th and 12th.
- Council meets monthly.

Southern Nevada ECAC: Amanda Haboush

- Denise Tanata Ashby from the Children's Advocacy Alliance provided a presentation on the Healthy Communities Coalition at the first meeting of the year.
- Children's Week at the Legislature – Grant funding will help to support activities, including sponsoring a bus to transport early childhood advocates and families from Las Vegas, providing buttons with children's statistics, and sponsoring the breakfast on Wednesday, April 3rd.

Washoe County ECAC: Melissa Burnham

- Completed CLASS assessments at P-3 pilot site.
 - Data will be used to plan professional development trainings.
- Members and Sharon Ritchie will present at the Nevada AEYC Conference.
- Melissa Burnham will travel to Harvard to learn more about the Pre-K-3rd approach.
- P-3 Pilot site is recommended for recognition at Mega Conference.
- Partnering with Striving Readers.

20. For possible action: Agenda Items and Meeting Logistics for Next Meeting April 3rd**

April 3rd New Agenda Items:

- Fatherhood and Families Conference – Angela Triche
- Legislative Impact

Travel for April 3rd Meeting:

- Email flight preferences to Carol Gilman. An email will be sent out to all Council members with more information.

21. Public Comment

Dolores Hauck, United Way of Southern Nevada:

- United Way of Southern Nevada Day at the Legislature is scheduled for February 21st.
- Advocacy Efforts - United Way received a 2 year contract with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to focus on statewide collaboration, public awareness and advocacy on early care and education initiatives. Children’s Advocacy Alliance is the supporting partner and will provide the legislative testimony, research and public policy briefs focused on increased funding for ECE programs and increased quality of care and education for school readiness programs along with other community partners.
- Assessment Tools - Past 5 years using two assessment tools from HighScope Research Educational Foundation to assess children on their school readiness skills as defined by Nevada Pre-K Standards and Program Quality Assessments to identify professional development training opportunities directly linked to improved learning environments for children.
 - 70 child care centers have participated
 - Unique student identifiers are created by the school district to ensure United Way and the community can track their academic success through on time graduation.
 - School district tracks the student's 3rd grade CRT proficiency scores in math and reading, attendance rates and transiency rate of the at-risk students participating in school readiness programs and compares their data with general population stats.
 - One positive impact indicator can be the reduced number of children who need Individualized Education Plans or remedial education upon entering the K - 12 system.
 - Data collection and system can serve as a prototype for the state to identify and track outcomes linked to school readiness through community partners and with private dollars.
- Early Care and Education Staff at non-profit, corporate and for profit Child Development Centers are employed with minimum requirements and the majority of the Directors and staff are at the caregiver level, fewer are teachers or degreed in ECE.

22. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:49pm.