

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

Location

**Nevada Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Room 3100 (Third Floor)
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747**

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

Meeting Minutes

1. *Introductions and Housekeeping Items:*

Margot Chappel called the meeting to order at 11:00am. Introductions were made and housekeeping items were reviewed. Ms. Chappel acknowledged the Children’s Advocacy Alliance, the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy, and the Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council for their support in organizing the Children’s Week at the Legislature and Early Childhood Day activities and meals.

Members Present:

Margot Chappel, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office
Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
Angela Triche, Sunrise Foundation Early Head Start
Ann Polakowski, Division of Child and Family Services, Early Childhood Mental Health
Joanne Everts, Community HELPS
Sherry Halley, Nevada Department of Education
Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education
Karen Taycher, Nevada PEP

Members on the Phone:

There were no members on the phone.

Members Absent:

Larry Charlton, City National Bank
Rutu Ezhuthachan, MD, Southwest Medical Associates
Catherine Lyons, PhD, UNLV
Gary Vause, Lit’l Scholars Preschool
Jack Zenteno, Department of Welfare and Supportive Services
Laura Valentine, Division of Aging and Disability Services

Guests Present:

Deborah Aquino, Program Manager, Maternal Child Health in the Nevada State Health Division
Denise Tanata Ashby, Children's Advocacy Alliance
Michael Maxwell, Urban League of Southern Nevada
Tiffany Alston, Sunrise Children's Foundation Early Head Start
Kellyn Moran, Teaching Strategies
Patti Oya, Office of Early Care and Education, Child Care and Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services within DHHS
Lisa Mariani, Children's Advocacy Alliance
Lillie Englund, Southern Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children and Adjunct Faculty at UNLV
Amanda Haboush, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council
Diane Nicolet, Truckee Meadows Community College
Cindy Johnson, Office of Early Care and Education, Child Care and Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services within DHHS
Kayelynn Ogden, The Children's Cabinet/NevAEYC/Southern Nevada AEYC

Guests on the Phone:

Sherry Waugh, UNR Early Head Start/Child and Family Research Center
Cruz Bonsack, Intertribal Council of Nevada
Perry Smith, Nevada Home Visiting
Chad Westom, Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning, Epidemiology and Response
Latisha Brown, Child Care Licensing

Staff:

Carol Gilman, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office

Periodically Nevada State Legislators introduced themselves to the Council and provided updates of early childhood bills. The ECAC resumed the meeting after the Legislative updates and after taking a lunch break.

2. Public Comment

Sequestration:

Lynson Beaulieu from Assemblyperson Swank's office asked if the sequester impacted the Nevada Head Start programs.

Ms. Chappel stated that the 2013 Head Start Fact Sheet has information on the sequestration impacts. Programs will now serve fewer children, which is only 7.6% of children in the state who qualify for the program.

Child Care Subsidy:

Ms Beaulieu asked about the status of subsidy cuts at the federal and state levels.

Ms. Chappel stated cuts are across the board federally.

Patti Oya from the Office of Early Care and Education stated her office has not received official notice of the direct impact to Nevada.

Angela Triche from Sunrise Foundation Early Head Start stated there is an impact on enrollment numbers but to also keep in mind how the cuts will impact families. Parents may have to stop working or children may be in low quality care.

3. For possible action: Approval of February 5th, 2013 Minutes**

There were no changes noted.

- Karen Taycher motioned to approve the February 5th, 2013 Minutes as written.
- Angela Triche seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

4. HSC & ECS Director Report – Margot Chappel

2013 Head Start Fact Sheet:

Copies of the Head Start Fact Sheet were available for ECAC members and guests.

- i. Contact Margot Chappel or Carol Gilman if you would like an electronic copy.

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Application:

- ii. The HSC and ECS Office is the lead agency for the grant.
- iii. Applying under Strategy 2 to coordinate pediatric health care and child care providers with the state Early Childhood Advisory Council to increase the number of children from birth to age three that receive developmental screenings. Nevada's proposal focuses on linking children to the ASQ and/or the Kindergarten Inventory of Development Statewide.
- iv. Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan, pediatric representative, will lead the Developmental Assessment Workgroup of the ECAC.
- v. Proposals are due April 26th.
- vi. This is a three year grant at \$140,000.00 per year. (The Head Start Collaboration grant is for \$125,000.00 per year.)
- vii. The HSC&ECS Office is contracting with Kari Earle to assist with writing the grant application.

Forward the following information to Margot Chappel:

- Early Learning Guidelines paragraph (Joanne Everts)
- Bright Futures and Milestones Moments (Deborah Aquino, Jan Marson, Debra Vigil)

Early Learning Guidelines:

Joanne Everts stated the Early Learning Guidelines are being edited and scheduled to be finalized before June 30th. The revised version is easier to read, understand link with Pre-K Standards, and provides resources.

5. For possible action: Approval of ECAC/Local ECAC MOU - Margot Chappel**

Editable version of logo from Mass Media is still needed.

Discussion:

Carrie Paldi asked Amanda Haboush if she had any comments.

Amanda Haboush asked if the logo does not fit can they request another format

Margot Chappel stated this could be done.

- Carrie Paldi motioned to approve ECAC/Local ECAC MOU.
- Ann Polakowski seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

6. For possible action: 2013 Legislature Bill Review**

- **ECAC may discuss and vote to endorse specific bills**

No action was taken. Bill status was discussed during Agenda Item 7.

7. Update of Legislative Priorities and Recommendations Through the Children's Advocacy Alliance - Denise Tanata-Ashby

The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is providing advocacy around early childhood issues through United Way of Southern Nevada. The project is funded by a grant from the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation.

Legislative Bill Update

AB 109:

- i.* Proposes to increase Child Care Center Director qualifications and teaching training credit requirements.
- ii.* Amendments were proposed and are scheduled to be heard.
- iii.* Child care industry was concerned on the impact this would have on small centers.

Discussion:

Karen Taycher asked if training hours would be required by all staff. (Adults with disabilities are aides in classrooms and this may affect them). Nevada PEP would like to find out so they know whether to support this bill or not.

Ms. Tanata Ashby stated if a person is required to meet the current requirements of fifteen hours of training, then they would most likely need to meet the new requirements.

Ms. Chappel stated the ECAC should clarify with Child Care Licensing later during the meeting which staff needs to meet this requirement during the Child Care Licensing update.

Margot Chappel provided an update on the following bill.

AB 79:

- iv. Proposes to establish the ECAC in statute.
- v. The Governor's Office amended the bill on March 29th and no other revisions are expected.
- vi. Governor will appoint ECAC members.
- vii. Membership and duties align with the Head Start Act.
- viii. Status: Amend and do pass.

Anna Severens provided an update on the Nevada Department of Education bills.

AB 163:

- Proposes to expand State Pre-K.

Discussion:

Joanne Everts stated the Nevada Women's Lobby wanted to find out if discussions are taking place to connect with Title I and to fit with existing programs.

Ms. Severens stated she is unsure if funding streams would remain separate or combine. The alignment of wording would create a connection.

SB 182:

- Proposes to expand full day Kindergarten and English Language Learners programs.
- Both are in the Governor's budget.
- Nevada Department of Education State Board endorsed this bill and emphasized that they needed to be high quality.

Ms. Severens asked if the ECAC would endorse this bill.

Ms. Chappel stated this specific bill is not an action item to endorse and ECAC would possibly endorse idea but not the bill.

Child Care Subsidy Update:

- The Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) provided a presentation to the Legislative Budget Committee on the impact of decreased funding to support child care subsidies.
- Currently there is no proposal to decrease funding any further or to restore funding to levels before the cuts.
- Waiting lists continue to grow and funding is needed.
- Assemblyperson Marilyn Dondero-Loop supports increased funding.

CAA Issue Briefs:

- Issue Briefs provide information on the five areas of recommended CAA policy priorities. Ms. Tanata Ashby will forward the briefs to Margot Chappel and Carol Gilman to share with Council members. Hard copies of the briefs as well as The Lincy Institute Policy Brief on School Readiness authored by Dr. Sonya Horsford were available at the CAA exhibit table as part of the Early Childhood Day at the Legislature activities.

Public Awareness Campaign:

- The CAA is working on public awareness messaging to educate the community on the importance of supporting early childhood initiatives.
- Will provide an update to the ECAC on progress and request feedback.

Ms. Chappel stated the ECAC public awareness materials can be leveraged. Carol Gilman will communicate with Ms. Tanata Ashby.

8. For possible action: Kindergarten Inventory of Development Statewide (KIDS) Project -Update and Approval of Next Steps – Margot Chappel**

Updates:

- Approved by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nevada Department of Education (NDE).
- Changed to a two year contract with Teaching Strategies Gold.
- Budget will change depending on quantity of participants. Current pricing is \$9.25 per student.
- All districts that apply and are interested in participating will be funded.
- Letter of Interest (LOI): Four school districts have responded so far. The deadline for responding is Friday, April 12th. Three of the letters received to date would like to begin participation in the first year and the fourth would like to begin in the second year. Early childhood special education data and State Pre-K data are included in counties where those programs are offered.
- \$4 million dollars was requested in the Governor’s budget to support projects of the P-16 Council related to the state longitudinal data system.

Discussion:

Sherry Halley asked if participating districts would include the State Pre-K programs. Carrie Paldi clarified that early childhood programs would receive the same rate.

Ms. Chappel stated districts would specify on the LOI which programs and classes in the district would participate and would be paid for as part of the district group. (State Pre-K, Special Education, Early Childhood, and Community Based Programs).

The ECAC's role today is to approve the concept. The final budget must be approved by the Director or Deputy Director of DHHS.

- Joanne Everts motioned to approve the KIDS Implementation Plan as a working document.
- Angela Triche seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

9. For possible action: Teaching Strategies Gold Presentation and Approval of Next Steps - Kellyn Moran**

Objectives for Development and Learning:

- TSG recommends beginning with all thirty-eight objectives and then assessing what is useful at the end of the first year. (Other states have taken this approach.)
- Breakdown: 10 Content Areas contain several Objectives for each Content Area. Dimensions describe how children meet the Objectives.
- There are different levels and indicators that include new or emerging levels if children are in between levels.
- Online video and audio clips are available to assist teachers, helping them expand on observations, documentation, and providing activity ideas for helping children meet objectives.

Discussion:

▪ ***Pre-K Standards:***

Karen Taycher asked if the tool aligns with the Pre-K Standards and if the state should begin with the adopted standards first.

Ms. Moran stated the tool is aligned with Nevada's Pre-K Standards as well as the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. A snapshot report for Nevada is available on the TSG website. She will send a copy of the report to the Council members.

Ms Chappel stated all Head Start Outcomes Framework, Common Core, and State Pre-K are aligned. Hatch has also aligned the tools. She asked Tiffany Alston if she could describe Sunrise Foundation's Early Head Start staff experience on using the tool and the alignment process. At this time, they are still training.

Clarification:

Ms. Chappel and Joanne Everts stated the Standards provide an overall picture of what children should know and are not an evaluation. The assessment tool provides a checklist to see how a child gets there. It is importance to align activities and curriculum so that a child has the skills and tools to meet the Standards and then TSG can assess if the child is developing the skills.

▪ ***Teacher training:***

Anna Severens stated Kindergarten teachers will need information, tools and training that describes the link between school and early education environments. She asked how other states have bridged that gap.

Sherry Halley stated it was important to describe how the objectives align with the standards. She emphasized the importance of teachers to be aware and sensitive to Individual Education Plan goals and the TSG trainers should have experience and knowledge working with children with special needs.

Ms. Moran stated trainings can be customized and/or they can speak to teachers regarding the alignment process.

Wisconsin and Minnesota developed their own objectives and dimensions in a goals report. In New Jersey the Department of Education is meeting with teachers on the importance of social and emotional development.

An entire day focuses on inter rater reliability and teachers can continue to build their reliability with online practice checkpoints. After completing the training teachers will receive a three year certification.

Ms. Chappel stated Early Childhood faculty will be invited to participate in the TSG training so that they can pass along this information to students on what the tool will cover.

▪ ***Children identified with a disability:***

Sherry Halley stated TSG is helpful with supporting Individual Education Plans. She stated Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) provide a menu of options for assessment tools and TSG is one option. By using TSG data should be enhanced and become more reliable. Inclusion data will also show the effectiveness of children who participate in a general education environment compared to self-contained classes.

Karen Taycher asked if there is built in information that helps teachers to communicate information in a positive and understandable manner to parents. Is there flexibility when an indicator does not apply to a child so that it accurately reflects where the child is? (A child may be blind but the indicator only allows the teacher to answer that child has no eye contact.)

Ms. Moran stated teachers can indicate if a student has an IEP, outcomes are aligned with OSEP, and take in to account circumstances unique to each child (e.g., if the child has a wheel chair). If a child has not been identified with a disability, the tool supports teachers on how to communicate information to parents on where the child is, what the

next steps are, and if the child may need further assistance. Ms. Moran will forward information on the resources and references available regarding this topic.

Ms Chappel stated that of the three districts that plan to participate in the first year, early childhood special education classes are included as part of the district group.

Recommendations:

- Add to the Frequently Asked Questions section of the Implementation Plan information on including children with special needs.
- Nevada PEP, Part B & C Offices, and Family Ties create a brief on how to use the tool with children you have a disability.

Reports:

- Class Profile Reports help with teacher curriculum and activity planning.
- Family Access: Development and Learning Reports for families provide information on where the student is and what comes next. Suggested activities that promote development are provided.
- Comparative Reports can provide information to administrators on county, state, and national comparisons and are available in pdf format. (Districts can compare fall 2013 to results collected in the fall of 2014.)

Other Discussion:

Deborah Aquino asked what is the reading level of the tool especially information and reports that are available to parents.

Ms. Moran stated the tool is created at a high school reading level. Teachers can edit the language depending on the reading level of the parents.

Joanne Everts asked what is included with using the tool.

Ms. Moran stated the contract is for one year and includes use of the tool four times a year beginning at the first six weeks of school and data storage.

Sherry Halley stated tool will be helpful to see how TACSEI is impacting scores and if it is effective.

Project Name Clarification:

Karen Taycher commented both KIDS and KEA (Kindergarten Entry Assessment) are used.

Ms Chappel explained that KEA is common language used at the national level. The state's assessment was changed to KIDS to better communicate that the tool is not used to remove children from kindergarten.

Continue discussion on public awareness and messaging at the June ECAC meeting. Collaborate with CAA public awareness campaign.

Ms. Moran stated Washington KIDS provides a good messaging model about the assessment.

TSG Next Steps with Nevada:

- Collaborate on needs assessment and implementation plan.
- Configure assessment tool to meet Nevada's needs.
- Design a custom training plan to meet the needs of teachers in Nevada.
- Provide ongoing support: technical support line, implementation staff, webinars, embedded support.
- Work together to analyze data and interface with Nevada's longitudinal data system.

Note: TSG Tool will eventually expand up to third grade.

- Sherry Halley made a motion to use the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment tool as is for the first year.
- Joanne Everts seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

10. For possible action: 2013 Project Budget Recommendations and Next Steps
Comprehensive Plan – Recommended Contractor
TSG Train the Trainer**

Update:

- Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. was the only Comprehensive Plan proposal that was submitted.
- Proposal came in below budget.
- Workgroup who reviewed the proposal recommended using the remaining \$100,000 of the ECAC ARRA funding towards the TSG Train the Trainer.

- Carrie Paldi motioned to use the remaining funds for the TSG Train the Trainer.
- Angela Triche seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

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

National Governor's Association (NGA) Institute:

- Team met with Tom Schultz.
- Representatives from the Nevada Department of Education, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, and Governor's Office attended the NGA meeting.

- Kristie Kauerz was a presenter.
- Meeting outcome included partnering with the Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP) to sponsor a Nevada P-3 Summit modeled after the NGA Institute with district teams and keynotes.

Grant Updates:

- State grant recipients (Nevada, Iowa, Missouri, and Arizona) met with Tom Schultz at the NGA Institute. States are all expanding P-3 Initiatives and Kindergarten Entry Assessment implementation.
- Mr. Schultz will be in Nevada to gather more information, meet with P-3 team and attend the P-16 Council.
\$20,000.00 needs to be spent by September 2014 and state needs to determine to use fund towards the KIDS pilot or P-16 Council efforts.

KEA Discussion:

- Angela Triche asked how other states are incorporating the TSG assessment tool.
- Ms. Chappel stated that most states are keeping most of the elements.
- Consortium of states discussions are proving helpful to learn how other states are implementing KEA and how some states are applying for funding through the National Department of Education.

12. For possible action: Approve and Recommend Nevada Milestone Moments Brochure – Debra Vigil and Jan Marson**

Handouts were provided to the ECAC members.

Learn the Signs, Act Early:

- Improve identification of autism through education.
- Autism identification has increased due to a number of factors including more awareness and a broader definition.
- Website provides free resources and materials for providers.

Milestones Moments Brochure:

- Helpful resource for child care providers and parents.
- Brochure can serve as a resource on typical development while Nevada does not have standards in place.
- Information provides a pathway for referral for child care directors. (Diane Branson with the Nevada Health Division conducted a study and found that teachers and providers are good at identifying possible developmental delays, but directors lacked this education. Similar results were found in Michigan.)
- Adaptable to program needs.
- Partnering with Nevada LEND.

- Sherry Halley created a crosswalk using the Nevada Pre-K Content Standards and information is aligned.
- Printing over 48,000 copies costs around \$20,000.00.

ECAC recommended updates:

- Expand brochure with developmental milestones up to age five. (Sherry Halley and Anna Severens would provide this information.)
- Add Nevada Department of Education and Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council logos.

Ms. Vigil will contact the CDC to receive approval to expand information up to age five.

Ms. Chappel stated the ECAC and HSC & ECS Office can provide support to build partnerships especially related to the ECCS application for 2014.

Other Online Resources:

- Association of University Centers on Disabilities.
- Centers for Disease Control – Learn the Signs Act Early.

Next Steps:

- Pilot sites at Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Clinics, Tribes, and Early Intervention Services.
- Trainings with child care centers on use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ).
- Build a website that will include modules for early childhood educators.
- Link with Early Care and Education systems included in the ECCS grant application.

Contact Debra Vigil and Jan Marson for more information and for copies of materials.

- Sherry Halley motioned that the Early Childhood Advisory Council endorse the project and the brochure to include the Early Childhood Advisory Council logo.
- Joanne Everts seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

13. Bright Futures – Deborah Aquino, MCH Manager, Health Division

Deborah Aquino provided handouts on the project.

- i. Information addresses the needs of the family and that children need to be healthy to be able to learn.
- ii. Resources and information on healthy living for infants, children, and adolescents.
- iii. Targeted to advocates, parents, and schools.
- iv. Text for Baby aligns with goals.

- v. Resources:
1. Tool Kit includes parent and provider forms for different age groups. (Looking in to licensing this for the State of Nevada.)
 2. Family Voices Pocket guide – geared towards children with special needs.
 3. Health Promotion Sheets.
 4. Website includes information on a variety of topics for parents, providers and health care providers. (Nutrition, health, oral health)
 5. Website Address: www.brightfutures.aap.org

Discussion:

Karen Taycher commented the forms will be helpful to educate health care providers and physicians on the importance of following through on Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) screenings. (Families and children who are eligible for Nevada Check-up or Medicaid are required to have this completed.) Physicians have used the forms as a resource when working with patients. (Marti Cote is the state contact for Medicaid.)

Ms Taycher also asked if the EPSDT forms could be changed back to the original format which was easier to use.

Provider dialogue is needed and Ms. Aquino will follow-up with Ms. Taycher and Ann Polakowski to discuss concerns and feedback.

Contact Ms. Aquino if you would like more information or need copies of the materials.

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

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

15. Child Care Licensing Update – Latisha Brown

- a. Latisha Brown is the acting program manager for child care licensing.
- b. Child Care Licensing office resides in the Division of Health, under the Bureau of Health, Statistics, Planning, Epidemiology, and Response. This name will change.

Ms. Brown and Chad Westom provided an update of the status of the following bills:

AB 109:

- o Proposes to increase qualifications for child care center directors and increase training hours for teachers.
- o Child Care Licensing is creating a spreadsheet to list current child care center directors and their education and experience.

Discussion:

Karen Taycher asked which staff would be required to complete the training hours. State disability advocate community is concerned if this would apply to teacher aides who may have a disability and that cost may be a barrier to complete trainings. Professional development trainings are available for anyone, are not pass/fail, and it is a positive thing to learn new things. She asked if anyone is addressing these concerns. Carrie Paldi stated in her experience all staff are required to attend trainings.

Ms. Brown stated any person who cares for or works directly with children is required to meet the training hour requirements. (Cooks, janitors, and music teachers may be the exception.)

If bill passes, Child Care Licensing would want to recommend accommodations.

Legislators, the Governor's Office, and advocates are discussing the bill and best approach would be to talk with the Legislators about any concerns. Ms. Brown stated one option is that the training requirements would only apply to child care centers not family day care homes.

AB 352:

- Regarding the Out of School Task Force and defining and creating policies around out of school care.

Discussion:

Carrie Paldi asked if the next meeting for the Board of Health Advisory Council for child care issues has been scheduled.

Ms. Brown stated no meetings have been scheduled at this time.

16. Home Visiting Update – Perry G. Smith

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

17. Fathers and Families Coalition Conference Update – Angela Triche

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

18. Updates from ECAC members

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

19. Updates from Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

20. For possible action: Agenda Items for Next Meeting June 4th**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

21. Public Comment

No public comments.

22. Adjournment

- Margot Chappel motioned to adjourn the meeting early and table the remainder of the agenda items until the next meeting so that members of the ECAC could attend legislative hearings.
- Joanne Everts seconded the motion.
- All members were in agreement.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.