

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 full potential.”

Public Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Nevada Department of Education
9890 S. Maryland Parkway, Ste. 221, Las Vegas, Nevada

Video Conference Location
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street, Carson City, Nevada

Call-In: 877-336-1828 Access Code: 8689179

Minutes

1. Sherry M. Halley called the meeting to order at 8:45 am
 - Welcome and Introductions: Sherry calls for introductions of ECAC member present

ECAC Members present in Las Vegas, Nevada

Tammera Williams, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Office
Sherry M. Halley, Education Program Professional, Office of Special Education, NDE
Latisha Brown, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing
Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center

ECAC Members present in Carson City, Nevada

Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Educational Opportunity
Marty Elquist, Northern Nevada Nonprofit Early Childhood Program, The Children’s Cabinet
Kathleen Bent, Mental Health and Development Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

ECAC Member absent

Angela Triche, Sunrise Children’s Foundation Early Head Start
Steve Schorr, Review Journal, Clark County School District Board of Trustees Representative
Dolores Hauck, Nevada HAND
Dr. Catherine Lyons, UNLV Department of Educational and Clinical Studies
Dr. Linda Young, Vice President of Clark County School Board of Trustees

Public Present in Las Vegas, NV

Patricia Oya, Director of Early Learning and Development, NDE
Denise Tenata-Ashby, Executive Director Children’s Advocacy Alliance
Jared Busker, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
Shelby Henderson, Children’s Advocacy Alliance

Public Present in Carson City, NV

Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District, Nevada Pre-K Standards

Cindy Johnson, Education and Information Officer, Early Learning and Development, NDE

2. Public Comment:

There was no public comment given at this time.

For possible action: Approval of the Minutes for June 03, 2014. Sherry asked for any corrections to the minutes, none was given. Sherry asked for a motion to be made for the approval of the minutes for June 03, 2014. A motion was made by Anna and seconded by Marty. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote, and stand approved.

3. For possible action: Approval of the minutes for August 08, 2014. Sherry asked for any corrections to the minutes. The following corrections were suggested:

- Marty stated to find and replace "I" with the person name.
- Anna stated to change HSSV to HSSC.
- Change statement number 5 pg. 3 to, "TSG is a benefit to kindergarten because it is heavily used as a formative assessment"
- Second bullet from the bottom of pg. 3; end statement after the word tool with period.
- On pg. 6 change the word participates to participants.
- On pg. 8 change the word classroom to classrooms.
- On page 10 add the word Ohio to the Maryland/Ohio Enhanced Assessment Grant. Add Latisha's last name, Brown, to the minutes.

Sherry ask for a motion the approve minutes for August 08, 2014 as corrected. Marty made a motion to accept August 08, 2014 minutes as corrected. Carrie seconded the motion, voting was unanimous to the affirmative, and the minutes stand approved as corrected.

4. For possible action: Appointment of Chair for ECAC Council. A motion was made to appoint Tammie as Chair of the ECAC Committee by Marty and seconded by Sherry. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Tamera Williams is now the Chair of the Nevada ECAC Council.

5. Update: Head Start State Collaboration/Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems-Tammie Williams, Head Start State Collaboration/Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, NDE

- ECCS Grant Transfer from DHHS. To NDE is still in process.
- Silver State Kindergarten Inventory of Development Statewide/Teaching Strategies GOLD Pilot Phase II
 - Technical sub-grants for participating school districts were announced. There were no pilot program participants to request sub-grants.
 - Upcoming trainings by TSG facilitators/trainers for Pilot Phase II will be in Las Vegas, Ely and Reno the week of January 13th. They will include observational assessments and how they inform instruction. There will also be a question and answer period during which participants will have the opportunity to become more aware of and comfortable with the assessment.
 - Explanation of two licenses involved in Pilot phase II – number of domains and validity issues questioned at last meeting. We have a pre-k and a kindergarten license, respectively, during this year of the pilot. It enables us to have more specific KEA data as well as the developmental/formative data in the pre-k side.

- ECCS Grant Transfer from DHHS to NDE: Tammie reported the DHHS grant is now closed. All that is needed to complete the transfer is the Final Financial Report (FFR).
- Silver State Kids Inventory of Development: TSG is going well. There are two separate licenses, Pre-K and KEA. KEA has the WaKIDS model for Kindergarten teachers to use. Tammie will send members both the Pre-K and KEA objectives along with the email from TSG that states both assessments are valid. There is a training being planned for teachers in January 2015 that will assist teacher with observation based assessment and how to use assessment outcomes to plan for their students; the trainer will be from Teaching Strategies and will facilitate all three trainings. The locations for these workshops are being planned for Las Vegas, Ely, and Reno. Ely was chosen because they have Early Head Start, Head Start, and School District participation. Sherry asked if the training will be open to Pre-K. Tammie stated the training will be open to Pre-K and K teachers. Sherry has also requested as soon as we know times and dates send a “save the date” email so that teachers have time to make arrangements. Tammie has contacted the school districts, requesting them to send her their professional development dates so that she can be more accommodating to their schedules.
- Sherry asked if there were any changes made to the Pre-K assessment. Tammie stated that the Pre-K side has been the same throughout the pilot. We now have the KEA objectives as a separate license will be able to collect distinct separate data based on the WaKIDS model.
- Anna wanted to know how many kindergarten teachers will be at each training sessions because she has the web site up to order materials from the CCSO mini grant to support to K-teachers. Tammie will let Anna know the number of K-teachers attending.
- Sherry wanted to know which of the school districts that use TSG for early childhood outcomes required measure for OSEP; the data collection is important and would like to tag on small trainings at least for the small districts.
- Status on sub-grants for technical support: Tammie stated the Lincoln County was the only group that requested funds. Washoe County asked for an extension and one was given.
- Tammie reported that Washoe and Churchill Counties are the best participants, indicating that whatever is asked of them the follow-up is almost immediate, our best data will come from these counties along with Heads Start programs. Clark County has declined to participate in the trainings in January.
- Marty asked Tammie if there is any updated information from Steve Schorr as he was going to reach out to the CCSD for the committee regarding TSG to ascertain any barriers or guidance needed for their participation. Tammie replied that no updates have been given nor did she know if a meeting took place.
- Sherry asked Tammie to send Steve Schorr an email and ask if there are any updates or meetings that took place with CCSD as to their participation in TSG by the next meeting.
- Marty reminded the committee that Dr. Young wanted to team up with Steve Schorr to approach CCSD on this issue also. She also inquired if Superintendent Erquiaga sent a letter out to school districts urging participation in TSG? She also asked if there is more involvement this year as opposed to last year with everyone working in Pre-K and now with the KEA abbreviated version of TSG. Tammie stated that Pre-K use of the assessment is about the same as last year; we have more kindergarten participating this year. Marty asked which districts are included. Marty has also requested a report on TSG with data from both years of the pilot and that TSG be a standing item on the

agenda. Tammie suggested that we share quarterly reports with the committee moving forward.

- Tammie also shared the possibility of TSG developing unique identifiers for the children participating in the assessment that can carry through from birth to 3rd grade. Marty also reminded that the state longitudinal data system can provide information.
 - Inclusive in the report is the exact number classrooms and students participating in TSG. Tammie will have reports at next meeting.
 - After Marty reminded the committee that she had sent out a list of assessments that various programs throughout the state, and Sherry requested the crosswalk list.
 - Anna concurred with previous statements and added that school districts will be required to participate in KEA and be involved in the process once we get the pre-k development grant.
 - Sherry has also suggested that at the next CCSD Early Childhood Programs quarterly meeting to take Marty's list of assessments and inquire if they are being used and are they accurate.
 - Tammie referred to the Silver State Kids handout on frequently asked questions which can answer some of the questions the committee may have about TSG. Sherry asked if the teachers participating in the program had been given this handout. Tammie sent it out to teachers and administrators at the beginning of the school year. She also stated this year her office has been really working hard to answer all questions TSG participants may have, and supporting them through this process in addition to the handout.
 - Sherry stated that she did not see any questions that referred to how the TSG Assessment supports young children with disabilities and suggested it be added to the next handout on frequently asked questions. She asked the committee if they hear about any questions on children with disabilities to refer them to her.
- 6 Update: Nevada Department of Education Office of Early Learning and Development –Patti Oya, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Patti reported we are working on OELD goals and aligning them with the Department of Education. The current QRIS model is working well, there are close to 60 center participating and we now have some rated centers with Child Care Licensing posting them on their licensing list. The nv.silverstatestars.org webpage has had parents using the site with good feedback, information of the participating center are listed on the webpage with limited information on those who have not been involved. We have a waiting list for coaches for six centers in the north and one in the south. The response from the centers on the support given by the coaches has been very positive, there are improvements in the ECERS rating system, and pre and post evaluations have progressed also. The Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy evaluation piece on children's outcomes has been sending out letters to families and centers for permission to start their assessment. The Family Childcare pilot administered by Cindy Johnson has nine family home care providers participating. The QRIS and CCSD Pre-K program and have been working on developing a model for the past year and are looking at narrowing it to data from ECERS scores, CLASS scores, and the 12 indicators the Federal Government has established for high quality pre-k programs. Also elementary schools that have Title I, Special Education, and State funded pre-k programs will be rated together, because there was a consensus that this is the way to go. Sherry asked if Patti would a copy of the 12 indicators. Patti agreed to send the list.

Tammie asked if she could address agenda items 7 and 8 together. No Objection

7. Update-Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Workgroup – Tammie Williams, Head Start Collaboration & Early Childhood Comprehensive Services office, NDE
 - Update regarding merging the scope of work with other standing committees such as Interagency Coordination Council (ICC), Child Find and learn the Signs Act Early (LTSAE)- The respective groups are working to schedule meeting times together, and join in a common approach to providing like-services.
8. Update – Head Start Collaboration Leadership Team – Tammie Williams for Brenna Malone, President, Nevada Head Start Association.
 - There had been a meeting planned for ICC to discuss merging but was rescheduled for Oct. 16, 2014. The workgroup has been rescheduled also.
 - Tammie reported that the Head Start Collaboration Leadership group met briefly this month, up for discussion was the grant and because of transition the goals will remain the same for the most part. Currently directors are writing summaries as to the needs of their programs. The Nevada Head Start Association and the Lead Team is planned for January. At that meeting they will set up new goals for the collaboration office and develop strategic plans for the next five year cycle.
 - The Head Start Programs are doing well and are participating in the TSG. There is a new state Head Start T&TA provider out of California named Stacey Viera. Sherry asked if she knows about our ECAC meetings and asked Tammie to send her an agenda. Tammie will send meeting agendas moving forward.
9. Update: Children’s Advocacy Alliance- Denise/Tanata-Ashby, Executive Director, Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA).
 - Packets were given to members with descriptions of programs the CAA is working on. First; Child care subsidies is working to increase current rates to reflect 2013 market and seeking additional funds.
 - CCA along with Hobbs, Ong financial consultants developed a matrix that describes the types of child care recipients, how many families are served, who are eligible, benefits paid, average benefit paid per child under 13 and recommendations for improvements for policy makers.
 - Second; CCA will be advocating for more funds for full day quality kindergarten.
 - Third; CAA will be advocating for more resources to expand QRIS to insure that we have high quality care for children. Eventually CAA will be looking at the direct connection between child care subsidies and quality ratings for providers.
 - The Strong Start Program is moving forward, and CAA will be receiving funds from Kellogg Foundation through a large grant awarded to the Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy in which a partnership was established. Also funds will support the Business Guide Book which provides specific ideas on how businesses get involved in quality care for children. Work is continuing with the Strong Start Advisory Council on developing some of the initial ideas from the guide book. There will be a recognition program to honor small and large businesses for their contributions to the ECE community. Ideas on how to do that can be done may be forwarded to CAA.
 - CAA has been participating in community events to engage parents and others with some of the programs and resources they provide.
 - CAA will appeal to state legislation to designate a Week of the Child to coincide with the Day of the Child in September. Each day will highlight an aspect of child development;

School Readiness, Safety, Physical Health, and Mental Health. Resources, sponsorships, and volunteers for this event contact CAA.

- School Readiness and the ECE indicators will be part CAA Report Card, for the first time, which will be available in Jan. 2015
 - There were 149 supporters with a social media reach of 95,758 for the Thunder Clap event. The Strong Start Pledge for children has 378 signatures up 166 from the last report. There are 283 Twitter followers and 205 Facebook likes.
 - CAA is also providing advocacy training for groups. Interested parties may forward information of any group that wants the training to them.
 - CAA has produced a white paper on child care subsidies that will be out soon.
10. Update - Maryland/Ohio Enhanced Assessment Grant Update – Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, Office of Educational Opportunity, NDE
- There has been a move for the committee to an advisory state from a charter state. There is an opportunity to observe the Enhanced Assessment in Maryland it has been suggested that a kindergarten teacher who is involved in the TSG pilot and a member from the Assessment and Program Accountability Curriculum Office but the decision of who will go will be an agenda item at the OELD department meeting.
11. Update – Expanding Opportunities Workshop Update – Sherry Halley, Educational Programs Professional, Office of Special Education, Nevada Department of Education.
- Sherry reported that the ICC and ECCS workgroups have not met since our last meeting. She referred the committee to the copy of the Petal Chart. They looked at programs and initiatives through the lens of inclusion and at the time the NAEYC and CEC statements on inclusion were new and looked at it through access, participation, and support. The Petal Chart is about three years old and in need of updating. Sherry asked the committee think about changes, new information, guidance or other suggestion they may have to update the chart to email them to her. Marty asked when she needed the information, Sherry stated by the end of the year.
 - There is a book, “First Steps to Pre-School Inclusion,” by Megan Min that Sherry would like recommend to programs with inclusion programs or beginning a program. It has very practical applications for those involved in inclusion programs. If the committee knows anyone that may want the book or is interested themselves please contact Sherry.
12. Update – Child Care Licensing – Latisha Brown, Child Care Licensing Program Manager, Health Division, Nevada Department of health and Human Services
- Currently they have hired a new a surveyor, looking to hire a bilingual surveyor, and an administrative assistant.
 - They continue to work with CAA and other collaborative agencies on new nutrition regulations and looking for a fair and equitable way to proceed with these regulations. They also continue to dialog on the best steps to introduce new applications fees without presenting fiscal issues for programs. Marty asked how the increase in fees is going to be used and what is the structure of the fee changes. Latisha shared the increased fees will be used to support growth, training, follow-up visits, inspections, educational resources and there has not been a rate change since the 1990’s. As to structure the agency is still in discussions on the best way to roll out the fee changes that will impose hardship on any programs. Marty suggested that an incremental rate change could be one way to go; Latisha agreed that a gradual increase is something they are looking into.

- Latisha reported that now they are back with ACQC because they are a regulation based program as they are regulation based, and it is a better fit than Hesper.
 - Sherry inquired if they use nutritional information by Dr. Rutu in their new regulations. Latisha stated that they had, and that she was in the meeting with the doctor.
13. Update – Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children – Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
- NAEYC had their annual funding meeting and approved the budget for 2015. There was professional development training for the board member on Systems Leadership. They also reviewed goals and benchmarks for 2014 and worked on the ones for 2015. There was discussion on public policy imperatives and revisions needed.
 - The state conference will be held in Reno on April 16-18, 2015 at the Grand Sierra. The theme will be “Engagement and the Brain.” Pending board approval the next two conferences will be held in the north. Marty asked why the change. Carrie stated that attendance is better in the north with a difference of 200. Spring Break also may have played a part and conferences costs in the south where it is more expensive, and can have an effect on revenue. It will rotate back to the south in 2017.
 - Sherry shared that for teachers it is very difficult to attend, but having the conference move from north to south every other year allows teachers to attend every other conference.
 - Carrie will take back to the board the concerns of the committee; one being travel costs for teachers in the south and possible disengagement of providers in the south also. She shared that our alternative dates sometime conflict with California and Arizona’s states conferences and if changes were made it could allow for more collaboration and shared resources.
 - Anna shared that the Mega Conference is in the north this year which could add cost to the participants.
14. Update – Home Visiting – Deborah Aquino, Title V/Maternal and Child Health Program Manager, Health Division, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- As Ms. Aquino was not present no update was given.
15. Update – United States Department of Education Funding Opportunities -
- Preschool Development Grant – Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, Office of Early Learning and Development, NDE
 - Anna reported the Governor’s Symposium was a great start for the grant application as there were eight superintendents. The Key note speaker was Dr. Jerry Weist and there were also other stakeholders present. From that event Governor Sandoval appointed a pre-k grant advisory committee. Along with Marty and the Grant Management office the plan is to submit the application on Friday. The grant’s focus is to provide quality full day Pre-K slots and expand state Pre-K programs.
 - They are reaching out to school districts and the community partners for space for these slots when they become available.
 - The four main goals of the application are: First, provide high quality pre-k; second, provide accessibility and expansion; third, implementation of effective pre-k, and fourth; aligning programs and systems to create a birth to 3rd grade continuum.
 - She is working with Tammie to submit a letter of support and reaching out to local advisory councils within a given district to submit a letter of support.
 - The committee thanks all involved in for their hard work in working on the grant.
16. Updates – Local Early Childhood Advisory councils

- Sherry asked if the fact that Tom is no longer a Part C Coordinator will affect the grant or the committee. According to the Head Start Act there has to be at a Part C member. Tammie will send an email to Tom to ask if he going to remain on the committee or appoint another person.
- Anna stated during the transition the web site link has been disconnected because the process of continue payment was interrupted. She would like to see a continuation of the link so that grant application can be read. Tammie spoke with a contact person and the information is there and can be accessed while cite is rebuilt. Marty asked how long will the information be there. Tammie stated no date was given.
- Carrie asked what is the cost of the and where the funds will come from. Tammie shared that it will cost \$503.00 to get the site up and running and an additional annual cost of \$150.00 and funds can come out of the collaboration grants.
- Sherry asked about Facebook updates and who enters material, Tammie stated she would be willing to do so. Patti shared that Ron has some experience with working on Facebook and that Tammie could asked him for assistance.
- It was noted that we need to make changes to Dolores’s contact information and check on her new schedule. Tammie will make inquiry.

17. Updates – Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils

- We need to make sure all local councils receive the agenda from state ECAC and ask local councils to send written updates if they are unable to attend meetings.
- Tina Springmeyer reported for Washoe ECAC. They are currently reviewing the Logic Model and Patty Falk, Carol Gephardt and Dr. Burnham presented to the leadership team for the school districts because the school districts are encompassing all the work for P-3.
- Marty asked how many of the local ECACs are active; and if their work aligns with the strategic plan. She suggested that we have to be intentional in our support that we need to review their structures that work and are not resource impacted.
- Anna suggested that when ECAC members attend local meetings to maintain connections it helps with communication. Remind members of the Sustainability Retreat November 14th.
- Jarod Busker gave a report for southern ECAC. For the last few months, they have been working on Children’s Day at the Natural History Museum where 300 families attended, focused on Strong Start and reviewed materials that will be sent out to parents and providers to get signatures for the pledge. It will benefit the Southern Nevada Council if we can have an updated copy to the strategic plans to be review at the next meeting.
- Cindy reported on the Carson City ECAC. A Family Fun Day is being planned to bring awareness to families and the community on early childhood education. There will be booth, performers, and many activities for children.
- Tammie will send an email to all the local ECAC Chairs with the Strategic Plan to report back by the end of November. We will start with an ad hock committee and then determine if a standing committee is necessary. Marty will sit on the add hock committee and coordinate the subcommittee. Tammie will work with Marty.

18. Agenda Items for the next meeting

- TSG ongoing agenda item
- Revisit Strategic Plan
- Should the Strategic Plan be a permanent agenda item
- Add onto the agenda what parts of the strategic plan will be on the agenda
- Updates from local ECAC on how the work is going
- Name the workgroups and refer to them by name

- Create a list of the local ECAC's and Chairs, current list is Nye- Linda, So. NV-Amanda
 - Motion to add item to agenda. Sherry makes motion, Latisha seconds, motion carried by unanimous vote.
 - Discuss face to face meeting in February
 - Align face to face meeting with other meeting taking place
19. For possible action – Determine timeline and formats for next year's meetings
- Sherry will contact Dolores on best times for meeting
 - A motion was made to move meeting start times to 9:00 with same format, with one face to face meeting in February by Carrie. The motion was seconded by Sherry. There was a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The motion carried.
20. Public Comments: No comment made.
21. Adjournment: 11:20