

**Nevada**  
**Early Childhood Advisory Council**  
**Minutes**

*“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, April 07, 2015-9:00 AM**

**Video-Conference Meeting Locations**

Las Vegas Nevada Department of Education  
9890 S Maryland Pkwy Board room, Las Vegas NV

Carson City Department of Education  
700 E Fifth St Board Room, Carson City NV

Early Childhood Professional Development Center, Training room,  
240 S. Rock Blvd, Suite 143, Reno, 89502

ECSD Admin Conference Room  
1092 Burn Road Elko, NV 89801

WPC COOP Ext  
995 Campton Street Ely, NV 89301

**1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call:** Chairwoman Tammie Williams Calls the Meeting to Order at 9:15 a.m. Roll call was taken, and attendees were present, as recorded below. After roll call Chairwoman Tammie Williams stated there was a quorum.

**Las Vegas Members Present:**

Steve Schorr, Member at Large  
Carrie Paldi, Local Provider of Early Childhood Education and Developmental Services-  
Creative Kids Learning Center  
Dolores Hauk, Southern Nevada Nonprofit Early Childhood Programs  
Dr. Catherine Lyons, UNLV, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Tammie Williams, Head Start State Collaboration- NDE  
Sherry Halley, Part B Office and state 619 Coordinator-NDE  
Angela Triche, Head Start Programs-Sunrise Children’s Foundation

**Reno Members Present:**

Marty Elquist, Northern Nevada Nonprofit Early Childhood Program-The Children's Cabinet

**Carson Members Present:**

Anna Severens, State PreK- NDE  
Kathleen Bent, Division of Mental health and Developmental Services

**Members Absent:**

Latisha Brown, Health Division  
Linda Young, School District Board of Trustees

**Las Vegas Public Present:**

Patricia Oya, NDE  
Chantel Wakefield, NDE  
Amanda Habush-Deloye, PCA. NV-NICRP  
Jared Busker, Advocacy Alliance  
Michael Maxwell, LVUL

**Reno Public Present:**

Laura Malkovich, Churchill County  
Gregg Malkovich, Churchill County  
Diane Nicolet, TMCC  
Sherry Waugh, UNR  
Crystal Swank, TMCC  
Tina Springmeyer, WCSD  
Cindy Johnson, DOE

**Carson Public Present:**

Brenda Bledsoe, DHHS-IDEA Part C

**Elko Public Present:**

Stacey Zeiszle, ECSD  
Lisa Calder, Local ECAC and ECSD

**2. Public Comment:** Chairwoman Tammie asked if there was any public comment.

- Amanda Havish-Deloye spoke about how April is National Child Abuse Month. She asked that the people of the council look at the events in the community.
- Chairwoman Tammie asked if there was any other public comment. There was none.

**3. Approval of Flexible Agenda:** Chairwoman Tammie Williams asked for approval of a flexible agenda.

**Motion:**

- Sherry Halley moved for a flexible agenda
- Steve Schorr seconded it
- Chairwoman Tammie asked for a vote
- Vote was unanimous and the motion carried at 9:21 am

**4. Approval of Consent Agenda:** Chairwoman Tammie brought to the board the minutes of October 8, 2014 and February 10, 2015 for approval.

- Sherry stated that her name needs to be corrected in the February minutes.
- Anna stated that it should be 7 not 8 board members, on page 1 of the February minutes. She also asked that on page 5 of the February minutes that PreK Partnership be replaced with USDOE PreK Development Grant.

**Motion:**

- Steve Schorr moved for approval of minutes with revisions
- Catherine Lyons seconded the motion
- Chairwoman Tammie asked for a vote
- Vote was unanimous and motion carried at 9:25 am

**5. Open Meeting Law:** Chairwoman Tammie Williams stated that Mr. Ott would be presenting a power point on Open Meeting Law.

- See power point attachment with notes for Greg Ott's presentation.

**6. Revision of Nevada ECAC By-laws:** Chairwoman Tammie brought to the board the revision of the council by-laws.

- Steve Schorr stated that he does not see changes made to all of the sections. One of his questions was whether or not the Partnership committee is active and whether it should be continued. He stated that the decision should be made before the by-laws are amended.
- Chairwoman Tammie stated that she had been told that the partnership committee had been disbanded but she did not know for sure.
- Steve Schorr asked for official confirmation that it has been disbanded, and if there is not, he would like notification.
- Patti Oya stated that it was disbanded and she is certain that there is proof of it in minutes, but she does not know where the Council could get official paper work showing that they had disbanded.
- Marty Elquist stated that the way the old bylaws were written was that the ECAC was supposed to inform the Head Start State Collaboration, and that the ECAC had really evolved from that.

**Motion:**

- Marty Elquist forwarded motion to form a subcommittee to review and change the bylaws.

- Steve Schorr seconded the motion with the addition to table the by-laws until the next meeting.
- Marty stated that it was ok with her.
- Chair Woman Tammie Williams asked if there were any other comments before voting.
- Anna Severens stated that she wanted to make sure that the Head Start grantees had the opportunity to make their voices be known, and to be a part of the bylaws process.
- Carrie Paldi wanted it known, on the record, that she believes that while the bylaws are being revised we need to stay in alignment with the Head Start Act, because while this Council is in statute it is still required under the Head Start Act, so that we meet the requirements under that Act.
- The council began discussing ECAC's involvement in other committees and how the subcommittee would consider this. Also discussed was whether the Higher Education Professional Development Committee needs to be a part of the ECAC bylaws.
- Chairwoman Tammie asked for a vote on the motion.
- It was unanimous and the motion carried at 10:39 am.

Chairwoman Tammie Williams asked for a recommendation for subcommittee members.

- Marty Elquist, Steve Schorr, Angela Triche, Carrie Paldi, and Tammie Williams all agreed to work on the subcommittee.
- Steve Schorr recommended Marty Elquist to be the chair of the subcommittee.
- Marty Elquist agreed and stated for the record that she would like to know when the Council would like for them to present their set of recommendations.
- Steve Schorr suggested it be completed or they report back by the June 2nd meeting
- Chairwoman Tammie Williams agreed.

## **7. NVECAC Membership:**

Patti Oya stated that with NRS 432A.076 forms the council. She stated that they also follow the Federal Law Act 110-134 and under that law there are vacancies. She stated that Jack the Childcare Administrator and Tina Springmeyer for the local education agency have both applied. She stated that there are the Part C and Part B coordinators and Sherry Halley is the Part B Coordinator, and the Part C Coordinator is being recommended to the Governor. Brenda Bledsoe has put in her application for this seat.

Patti stated that there was some confusion as to whether Dolores is still on the committee as she has left the United Way. Dolores is in fact still on the committee and is welcome to serve on it. She stated that Terry Janeson from United Way would also like to serve, and has already put in her application. Anna Lynne has received all of the applications and is giving them to the Governor for approval.

- Steve Schorr stated that in section 14 under the bylaws it stated that it is decided by the Director of the Committee, which in this case would be the Governor, so he does not believe there is a definitive number that has to be adhered to.
- Carrie Paldi asked if there are term limits and what they are.

- Patti Oya stated that for the original members it is July 31, 2016. She needs to clarify with Anna Lynne what the date is for the new members of the committee and that she will get that information to the subcommittee for the bylaws.
- Carrie Paldi asked if members can reapply.
- Patti Oya stated that she believes that it is up to the Council to say yes or no, and it should be a part of the bylaws.
- Sherry Halley stated that for the record under the current bylaws it stated that as government members based on position no term limits, her Part B 619 Coordinator comes under that bullet. Yet her appointment by the governor has an end date of July 2016 and she still has to reapply. She then said that the committee should take this into account.
- Catherine Lyons asked if on page three of the minutes, “Does it not state that Part C and Part B are required”.
- Patti Oya stated that the way it was written in the NRS is ‘or’ and that is how it had always been read.
- Steve Schorr stated that it is critically important that the Council redo the bylaws.
- Anna Severens stated for the record that adding the additional four members would bring the Council up to 16 so we will need 9 for a quorum. It has been very difficult for the Council to get a quorum and the Council members need to make sure that the ECAC meetings are prioritized on their calendars.

**8. Election of Council Chair:** Chairwoman Tammie Williams stated that there has been a lot of discussion about the Council being very state representative heavy, and that everyone on the Council is there because of an appointment. She suggested that either she step down or that there be a Co-Chair that is not a state employee. She opened the topic up for discussion.

- Patti Oya stated that according to Anna Lynne, as long as it is not written in the NRS or the Head Start Act the governor appoints the Chair and that would be a part of their bylaw revisions. Tammie is designee of the Head Start Collaboration grant, but not necessarily the Chair. She stated that the Council is DOE heavy and is afraid that it will lose the importance of early childhood.
- Steve Schorr stated that under current bylaws there is nothing that discusses having a Chair, a Co-Chair or an election. Without a definition, it is hard to change anything at this time. He stated that in his opinion at this time it is the Governor who should appoint that position.
- Carrie Paldi stated that they should hammer out the revisions in the bylaws for Chair and Co-chair. She also stated that they should make sure that certain things are included in the bylaws. She would also like it made clear about what part Chairwoman Tammie’s position is as the Head Start Collaboration representative.
- Steve Schorr asked if Greg Ott could give them his opinion.
- Greg stated that it was not in the USC, and NRS is silent to it.
- Tammie stated that she was elected.

- Greg Ott stated that it is within the power and discretion of the Council to elect a new Chair, but it can be defined within the bylaws. He stated that where the NRS is silent discretion is usually given to the Council.
- Sherry Halley asked the Council if they should go ahead with the election or wait until it is included in the bylaws.

**Motion:**

- Steve Schorr brought forth a motion to hold the election until the next meeting when hopefully the bylaws will be amended to detail in the election and Chairwoman Tammie continue until such time
- Marty Elquist seconded the motion
- Dolores Hauk stated that the criteria for it should be that the Chair does not benefit financially from the decisions of funding for the State
- All in favor and the motion passed at 11:06 am

**9. NVECAC Responsibilities:** Marty Elquist explained how the ECAC is now mentioned in other areas of the Head Start Act and in other funding sources such as the PreK development grant. The responsibilities of the ECAC are expanding. She stated that she would like the handout to be a reference when they are doing the bylaws revision. The first law in the handout is the reauthorization of the Child Care & Development block grant. According to law the ECAC must now be consulted with the development of professional development and training opportunities for those working with childcare providers. The State plan is how the State will meet the Child Care and Block Grant requirements. The plan is currently being worked on by Jack Zenteno's office. The Contractors for the Child Care Development Fund are the Las Vegas Urban League and The Children's Cabinet. The ECAC has to be consulted on the entire State plan. The Council has to be consulted in the development of the Early Learning and Development guidelines as well as any revisions to those; the payment rates (Subsidy Reimbursement Rates) as well as how the survey or the state sets those rates. There has to be consultation from the Council on those rates. She stated there is a lot of outside subsidy that is stated in the law. She stated that Chairwoman Tammie had brought to her attention specific ECAC responsibilities in regards to the Head Start Act. There is a link to the entire law on the handout. The ECAC is charged with doing a Statewide Needs Assessment concerning quality and availability in child care. She stated that the last one done was two years ago. She stated that these are the items, that when the Council looks at the strategic plan, have to be included in their responsibilities. She asked the Council when they are going to do these activities and how are they going to use the information and how it will inform their strategic plan.

- Chairwoman Tammie explains that the Head Start assessment will also guide collaboration, and the new five year grant that is coming up, and also the ECCCS grant. The information that they get from this assessment will be important for those two grants as well.
- Marty Elquist stated that they had done work around the data collection system and that the council is moving towards achieving this. It is in the Council's strategic plan. She

explained how Higher ED can support early childhood. She referred Chairwoman Tammie to 2A and asked if the One Time Start Up Grant's request was completed.

- Chairwoman Tammie stated that it had been completed.
- Marty Elquist brought to the attention of the Council AB 79; the requirements of the ECAC within the revision of chapter 432A.
- Steve Schorr stated that section 2 is a very specific mandate for a report on or before the first of February 2015. He asked if that report was done.
- Marty Elquist stated that she had the same thought. She asked Tammie if it was done.
- Chairwoman Tammie stated that she did not know about the report until that week. She was elected in October and they did not meet quorum in December or February. She stated that she would find out whom it should be made to.
- A Council member stated that it should be a report that states what is across the recommendations in AB 79. She stated that they need to address what was done in AB 79.
- Steve Schorr stated that there was a very specific mandated date and that date started with the start of the Legislative Session and that they should contact LCB, and find out if they can still get that report to the State.
- Angela Triche asked if that would be a formal request for an extension.
- Steve Schorr stated that it would. They should ask if LCB would accept it, and by what date.
- Chairwoman Tammie stated that she would make that request.
- Marty Elquist stated that the most important thing to know was that they are no longer bound by just the Head Start Act.
- Anna Severens stated that for the record going back to the report do we want to identify people to work on that report for the timeline that it needs to be done.
- Catherine Lyons stated that she will work on it.
- Anna Severens also volunteers to help Catherine and Chairwoman Tammie.
- Marty Elquist stated that with the PreK Development grant that the ECAC has to be involved in developing a list of approved assessments. The person responsible is the PreK Grant Program Manager but it is in concert with the ECAC. The Council has to implement a statewide Kindergarten entry assessment. TSG is being piloted. The person responsible is the Deputy Superintendent working with the ECAC.
- Steve Schorr stated that they should not move past this. He told the Council that there are definitive timelines. They are 1.4 and 1.7. 1.4 is quarter 3 to quarter 4 of 2015. 1.7 is third quarter of 2015. He asked the Council how they make sure that they meet the deadlines as mandated by the grant objectives.
- Marty Elquist stated that she will refer to Patti Oya.
- Patti Oya stated that the funding started January one for the grant, but they are still waiting for approval of the Governor's budget because it includes the State match. The federal project officers have stated that while they are sympathetic to each State's process they are not sympathetic to the state not moving forward, but they are giving some leeway in time lines. She submitted a scope of work to them yesterday. Best case is a July 1, 2015 start date. The KEA timelines were rushed anyway, because they won't

have the pilot results until summer. She told the Council that she is happy to present the tasks and scope of work when it is approved by the federal officers.

- Steve Schorr asked if she can make a presentation by the June meeting.
- Patti Oya stated that she can present the scope of work but it may or may not be accepted by the feds as an accepted document. She can talk about it but a copy won't be available until it is accepted.
- Steve Schorr stated that he would like to know where it is.
- Chairwoman Tammie stated that the KEA pilot will be completed by July.
- Catherine Lyons asked if the Council should consider some of these items, if not all, being standard items on the agenda.
- Sherry stated that she believes it should be, and they are on track with time line.
- Marty Elquist stated that she agrees and that the responsibilities under Head Start, CCDBG, and Pre-K Development Grant are specific responsibilities that need to be on the agenda.
- Chairwoman Tammie told the Council that she agrees with it as well.

**Motion:**

- Catherine Lyons motioned to have the items listed in the report of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council responsibilities by statute and funding dated April 7 to 10/2015 listed as standing items on the agenda
- Steve Schorr seconded the motion
- Chairwoman Tammie asked if there was any further discussion and brought it to a vote
- The motion was unanimous and carried at 11:29 am

Marty Elquist stated that the last part of the document, including the formatting, changed because it was not specific ECAC responsibilities. She wanted to ensure that there is coordination with the P20W Council. She stated that Dr. Kimberly Regan is the Early Childhood member on that Council. She asked if the Council wants to formally engage her and if she wants to give updates on the P20W Council. Chairwoman Tammie stated that she will contact her to present at the June meeting.

- Anna Severens stated that, for the record, she thinks it is a great idea as well; however Dr. Kimberly Regan may have more to report, but she just wants the Council to know that the P20W Council has kind of been absent a little bit so the Governor's office has recently brought somebody else on board to help lead the effort for putting that together. Also since they met two years ago Kim was appointed as the Early Childhood representative, which was an ECAC recommendation because of that repetition with the Head Start Act having involvement with the State Longitudinal Data System, as well as the P20W. She thinks that is where the ECAC leading the efforts on how the KEA connects with that is where some of the confusion came about, but she thought that the Governor's office appointing somebody is going to ramp it up, and take the role of getting the Council back on board. The State Administration Office is working on the new State Longitudinal Data System Grant that is due in June with the focus on early learning. She stated that she has been one of the contacts, along with Glen, of the IT



department putting it together. She thinks it will be very important to continue those conversations, and make sure Kim is a part of the ECAC meetings as well so they can coordinate the efforts of the two Councils.

**Motion:**

- Steve Schorr made a motion to make a place on the agenda for all of the meetings for a P20W update
- Marty Elquist seconded the motion
- Tammie asked for further discussion
- The vote was unanimous and the motion carried at 11:33 am

Carrie Paldi thanked Marty Elquist for putting the information all together.

- Steve Schorr stated that he also would like to thank her, and it is critical for everyone to understand what their roles and the roll of ECAC are in the state. He asked the Chair to reiterate the importance of attendance and meeting quorum.
- Sherry Halley agreed with Mr. Schorr.
- Chairwoman Tammie stated that she will send out an email to the members stating how important Early Childhood Advocacy is as well as their attendance at Council meetings.
- Catherine Lyons stated that the October meeting coincides with the DEC conference.
- The public in Elko asked Marty to get a copy of the document emailed to them.
- Marty Elquist stated it is on the website.
- Sherry Halley asked if they have a known conflict should they alert the chair person immediately.
- Chairwoman Tammie said yes so the date can be changed in case of a lack of quorum.
- Angela Triche stated that chairwoman Tammie had had them RSVP before and she thinks that is a good idea.
- Patti Oya asked to confirm the dates on the website for 2015.
- The Council stated that the days are June second, August fourth, October sixth, and December first.
- Catherine Lyons asked if they can have a call in in the October meeting.
- Patti Oya stated that if you do a call in it should be for members only, because when you include the public it becomes too much static.
- Carrie Paldi stated that she believes it should be called in for board members only as well because of technical problems.
- Chairwoman Tammie stated that she has a call in number already.
- Patti Oya asked Greg Ott if it is ok to have 5 locations for the public and the call in for Council members only.
- Greg Ott stated that it is fine. He told the Council that it was not easy for participation. Legally its ok, but in his experience it is hard.
- Anna Severens said she would prefer for no call ins to be involved.
- Carrie Paldi advocates for call ins for times when it is necessary.

- Steve Schorr stated that he believes it will limit the discussion, but they would still have quorum.
- Angela Triche stated that she believes that the Elko room should be maintained and she advocates member only call ins.
- Chairwoman Tammie thanked Marty Elquist. She called a ten minute break at 11:50.

### **The meeting resumed at 12:00**

**10. Revision of the Silver State Strong Plan:** Chairwoman stated that she believes that this needs sub committees as well since there is so much to do. She opened the item for discussion

- Marty Elquist stated that it is huge and the bylaws should be completed first as well as the incorporation of the ECAC responsibilities. She stated that they don't have the framework right now.
- Carrie Paldi stated that in the last meeting it was discussed to use the Petal Graphic to realign their Strategic Plan. She believed that the direction they were going was to complete the petal graphic and align the Strategic Plan with it.
- Steve Schorr recommended that the Council coordinate with the First Lady.
- Chairwoman Tammie stated that it should be tabled until the bylaws are formed.

### **Motion:**

- Marty Elquist motioned that they table revision of the Silver State Smart Plan until the bylaws are revised and approved by the Council
- Steve Schorr seconded the motion
- Sherry Halley stated that it should be on the agenda every time
- Chairwoman Tammie called the motion to vote
- The vote was unanimous and carried at 12:07 PM

Chairwoman Tammie stated that Dolores Hauck needed to leave and asked for a comment from her.

- Dolores Hauk stated that she would like to update the Council on Nevada HAND, because there has been discussion on how Early Childhood Education and Care can be incorporated into the household. Nevada HAND is building a campus that will have social services, affordable housing, and Nevada's first K-8 charter school. She also stated that they are looking to incorporate early care and education on the campus. It will be on Boulder Highway and Desert Inn which is in a highly distressed area. The campus is the first of its kind in the country and will also have housing, education and educational choices. It will have a Boys & Girls Club standalone facility. There will be a co-location of the first four nonprofits, including UNLV, Lutheran Social Services, a counseling center for mental health, and A Homeless Alliance. She stated that the home environment should be a petal on the petal graph that the Council is making. She stated that building awareness in the home is a door that they have to open throughout Southern Nevada. Home Matters is a public awareness campaign that is at a national

level, and under education it states that “Children with stable homes learn and achieve more in school. Home helps level the playing field.”

- Chairwoman Tammie thanked Dolores.

**11. Subcommittees Based on the ECCS Asset Map:** Chairwoman Tammie explained that it is her understanding that the subcommittees were discussed at the last meeting.

- Patti Oya explained that at the last meeting, before quorum was lost, they did decide to form subcommittees around the petals, and some people did sign up.
- Carrie Paldi asked Patti to remind the Council what they had signed up for.
- Patti Oya explained to the Council who had signed up for which petal.
- Marty Elquist did not feel they could move forward without the ECAC responsibilities and bylaws.
- Chairwoman Tammie agreed.

### **Motion**

- Marty Elquist motioned to table subcommittee work
- Angela Triche seconded the motion
- Chairwoman Tammie asked if there was any other discussion
- Carrie Paldi agreed with Marty, but believes that it would be good for Council members to commit to a petal
- Marty Elquist stated that those areas may change
- Carrie Paldi agreed with Marty
- Angela Triche wanted to make sure that their efforts are coordinated
- Chairwoman Tammie called the motion to a vote
- The vote was unanimous and the motion carried at 12:18

### **12. Public Comment:**

Chairwoman Tammie asked if there was any public comment.

- Carrie Paldi updated the Council on NevAEYC and its affiliates. She stated that the conference is April 16-18 at the Grand Sierra in Reno. Pre conference is April 16<sup>th</sup>. The NevAEYC is in the process of redoing their website. They adopted NAEYC’s strategic direction. It is posted on the NevAEYC website. The Reno Association for the Education of Young Children is having a walk for Reno’s family day which is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Southern Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children is having their family fun day on Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> and is doing a presentation of Click Clack Moo. The Early Childhood Education Awards are going to be in May and they are looking for committee members. Contact Keana Sullivan for more information. The Childcare Advisory Council is forming committees to make recommendations to licensing in preparation of the upcoming regulation review in 2016.
- Sherry Halley stated that there will be a conference July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. They are collaborating with UNLV and Part C. She stated a Save the Date will be out soon.
- The public in Elko thanked the Council for letting their Early Childhood Advisory Council be a part of the meeting.

### **13. Future Agenda Items:**

Chairwoman Tammie asked the Council what their future Agenda Items are.

- The Council stated that the future agenda items are the Bylaws, Nevada Strong, NAEYC update, the local ECAC update, the standing items from the PreK Development grant, and the petal graphic.
- The Council asked Jared Busker to speak on any legislative updates.
- Jared Busker stated that he could give a brief update. He stated that there are 5-7 Early Childhood Education bills. One is AB152 which revises child care licensing requirements concerning health and childhood obesity. There is also another bill that establishes a fiscal- cliff of the early childcare subsidy requirements. There was no action on that bill. He stated that the Children's Advocacy Alliance website has updates of the bills that relate to Early Childhood Education.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.**

