

# NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

*“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

**Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14, 2016**

**9:00 AM**

## Meeting Location

Las Vegas: Nevada Hand

295 E. Warm Springs Road, Ste. 101

Las Vegas, NV 89119

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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## Minutes

### **1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call**

Marty Elquist called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

#### Council Members

- Brenda Bledsoe, Part C Office
- Jack Zentino, Welfare Division
- Angela Triche, Sunrise Children’s Foundation, Early Head Start
- Dolores Hauck, Consultant
- Sherry Bingham, NDE, Early Childhood Special Education
- Anna Severens, NDE, State PreK
- Marty Elquist, Children’s Cabinet
- Tammie Williams, Head Start State Collaboration
- Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District, Nevada PreK Standards

#### Public

- Jana Martella, Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes
- Chantel Wakefield, NDE
- Diane Hardy, Child Care Licensing

- Amanda Haboush Deloye, Nevada Institute for Childhood Research and Policy
- Monique Liebhard, Office of Head Start Region 10
- Patti Oya, NDE
- Cindy Johnson, NDE
- Nikki Goldstein, NDE
- Lisa Calder, Elko County School District
- Jessica Russel, Vegas PBS Ready to Learn
- Stacey Joyner, NDE
- Teresa Cosgrove, NDE
- Kathy Banak, Clark County School District
- Robin Kincaid, Nevada PEP
- Sayonara Harris, Variety Early Learning Center
- Nya Berry, State Public Charter School Authority
- Sherry Waugh, UNR Child and Family Research Center, UNR Early Head Start
- Melissa Burnham, College of Education, Associate Dean
- Lera Main, Discount School Supply
- Tiffany Alston, Sunrise Children’s Foundation, Early Head Start
- Yah-Yuer Walker, Child Care Licensing
- Shelby Henderson, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
- Angela Rose, United Way of Southern Nevada

**2. Public Comment #1**

Diane Hardy, who was representing Latisha Brown, gave an update from Child Care Licensing.

- Child Care Licensing now has a fully operational online service.
- Back grounds will now be online as well.
- Child Care Licensing will also complete backgrounds.
- Regulations have also been amended by chapter 432A to add federal requirements training and ratios, as well as group size.
- Regulations are being prepared for public workshops and feedback.
- They are fully staffed.

Robin Kinkaid from Nevada PEP asked that the policy statement on PreK Expulsion be tabled until they could a better look at it and make the wording more understandable and specific. She also stated that there are some other things that they want to be more specific about.

**3. Approval of Flexible Agenda**

Motion

- Sherry Bingham moved for approval of a flexible agenda.
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- The motion carried at 9:15 am.

**4. Item A: Minutes from February 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>**

- A. There were no changes for either set of minutes.
- B. Motion
  - Jack Zenteno Motioned to approve the minutes as is.
  - Angela Triche seconded the motion.
  - All were in favor.
  - Motion carried at 9:17 am.

**5. Item B: Lera Main, Regional Sales Manager West/NW, Discount School Supply**

- A. Chairwoman, Marty Elquist thanked Lera Main for sponsoring the lunches for the ECAC.
- B. Lera Main thanked the ECAC. She explained what Discount offers. Lera Main did a raffle of toys for the Council.

**6. Item C: Draft Policy Statement on PreK Expulsion and Suspension in Early Childhood Settings**

- A. Jack Zenteno stated that he was ok to table it.
- B. Jana Martella stated that she can give him more information on the Government document that recently came out on this subject.
- C. Jack Zenteno stated that he wants additional feedback turned into him by the next meeting.
- D. Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that they would revisit this policy statement in the August and October meetings.
- E. Motion
  - Jack Zenteno motioned to table the item until the next meeting.
  - Dolores Hauk seconded the motion.
  - All were in favor.
  - Motion was carried.

**7. Item D: ECAC Facebook Page**

- A. Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that they had decided to keep the ECAC Facebook page as an item on the agenda so they would not lose sight of it.
- B. Sherry Bingham stated that if anyone has interest in this work she will happily pass it over. She stated that she does not even have the password.
- C. Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that it will be a part of a bigger communications strategy. She asked for a motion to table the item so that it can be incorporated into their strategic planning.
- D. Motion
  - Sherry Bingham moved to table the ECAC Facebook page.
  - Carrie Paldi seconded the motion.
  - Jana Martella asked if they could move it to the strategic planning session in the next day and a half.
  - All were in favor.
  - Motion carried at 9:34 am.

**8. Item F: Position Statement on School Readiness**

- A. Chairwoman, Marty Elquist explained that the Position Statement on School Readiness document was approved several years ago. She stated that it was on the agenda a long time ago to be revised. She stated that they need to make the revisions and formally adopt a Position Statement on School Readiness. Marty explained that it would not be done today, but she just wanted to bring it back up so that the Council can review it. She asked for feedback by the end of July.

- B. Patti asked if the document Sonya did was the same document. It was not.
- C. Anna Severens believes that both documents were made at the same time.

**9. Item G: NevAEYC Updates – Carrie Paldi**

- A. They held their conference May 19, 20, and 21.
  - She thanked Amanda for her help with that conference.
  - Next meeting is next May 18-20<sup>th</sup>.
- B. The Reno association for the education of young children held their walk and run for their week of the young child.
- C. SNAEYC is having their awards night on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone will be honored and schools can nominate one person for special recommendation. She asked them to talk to Chantel for more information.
- D. Sherry Bingham asked if the conference will be held in Las Vegas next year.
- E. She asked Chantel to send out the awards information to the entire Council.

**10. Item H: Updates on KEA and Read by Three – Patti Oya**

- A. State Board of Education meets on Thursday to choose a read by three assessments.
  - There are three recommendations and she is hoping that they will choose only one.
- B. The Brigrance as the KEA will meet the requirements as the Read by Three screener. That will also be brought before the State Board of Education.
- C. Read by Three will go into effect the 2017-2018 school year.
- D. KEA will be transitioned in the 2016-2017 school year.
- E. They are testing around for giving unique identifiers to children this fall as a test or phase in.
- F. The three assessments that they are looking at for Read by three are I Ready, MAPS, and North West.

**11. Item I: P-20 Council**

- A. Kimberly Regan was not in attendance so there was no update.

**12. Item J: Local ECAC Updates**

- A. **Washoe County** stated that they are continuing their work with PreK - third efforts. The main thing they are working on right now is expanding capacity to use the classroom assessment scoring system in schools. They have many trained observers now within the schools so they can gradually withdraw with the schools being self-supporting.
- B. **Elko County** stated that the Power of K was a huge success. They have requested they return for a follow up visit. They are having STEM training in October.
- C. **Nye County** was not in attendance.
- D. **Southern Nevada** stated that they have decided to take on an initiative called Learning Parties. The idea is to go around to Principles at K-12 schools and do presentations on the importance of connecting early childhood schools to the K-12 system. They hope to pilot it in the fall.
- E. **Churchill County** was not in attendance.
- F. The **Tribal ECAC** was not in attendance.
- G. **Carson** was not in attendance.

**13. ECAC Subcommittee Updates**

- A. Chairwoman Marty Elquist stated that Item 13 would be taken out of order and will be discussed during the revising of the Strategic Plan.

#### **14. Revising NV's Strategic Plan - Silver State Strong**

- A. Jana Martella explained what they would discuss and accomplish.
  - She asked that people that are staying for the full two days please sit at the tables.
- B. Jana Martella asked participants to write timeframes.
  - 11-12 would be Systems Training work. (30,000 ft.)
  - After lunch would be a review of progress from the previous plan. (20,000 ft.) Subcommittees will give updates of work during this time. There will be systems work and exercises.
  - There would be homework to work on that night.
  - The next day they would be getting down to the nitty gritty of the work.
- C. Jana had everyone give more details about their roles and their thoughts on the strategic plan. Some examples are:
  - Chairwoman, Marty Elquist would like to see a multi-agency road map with some really specific activities to make sure that children and families are supported.
  - Co-chair, Tammie Williams stated that with what they do, it is really important that it involves serving the families and children, and that they have the tools that they need to become advocates for their children and knowing what is going on in their programs and schools.
  - Anna Severens would like to look at the work that has been done but be very intentional how it connects with where we are now.

#### **Ground Rules**

- Jana Martella had everyone make name cards.
- She asked them to stay to a general agenda and that the hard stops are 5:00 pm on Monday and 4:00 PM on Tuesday.
- Lunch is unscheduled time.
- She asked the active participants to leave their work behind and to participate in the meeting.
- Comments are important and welcome so please turn your name cards to the side to speak.
- She stated that they are under the state rules for open meeting.
- Chairwoman, Marty Elquist asked that everyone remember to state their names.

#### **Expectations**

- Walk away with the next steps, goals, and objectives.

#### **First Slide**

- Jana Martella asked everyone to look at the first slide and to give their opinion.
- Everyone thought that it was overwhelming and was missing mental health.
- Jana Martella explained the slide.
  - They used concentric circles to represent levels of proximity to the child.

#### **Petal Graph slide**

- Jana Martella stated that everything on it was important and they may not want to remove anything from it.
- Sherry Bingham stated that they took the time to take it in and make it useful.

- Sherry Waugh said that the beginning part of this was to just get on paper what was out there because a lot of people didn't know about the other programs.
- Jana Martella stated that you have to know how to read the map. (petal graph)
- Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that it was overwhelming and they have issues in early childhood because there are so many players.
- Angela Triche stated that there was so much overlap.

### **Six Key Functions to Improve the Functioning of a Comprehensive Early Childhood System**

They stated that it used to have four petals. They decided that Special Education fits in the other three ovals.

- Jana Martella asked the Council what was on this graph that was not on the Petal Graph.
  - The coordinating piece.
  - Finance strategically.
  - The petal map is a scan of what Nevada looks like and it doesn't address anything strategic.
  - When they try to drill down to one area they get either too specific or general.
- Jana Martella stated that all of the programs and personnel are not on the new map. Silver State Strong and the Petal Map are aligned.
  - Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that all of the strategy pieces around the bubbles are not hit on in the petal map. They are missing a lot of activities in the strategy pieces.
  - Jana Martella stated that when they relook at their strategic planning they would relook at the vision, mission, and objective. Under the objectives are the processes that are going to get them to the objective. The six key strategies are rotating around the system, and the health system should have stake holders and leadership.
  - Jack Zentino asked how transportation and recreation fit in. He was told that they fit within the circles themselves.

### **Systems Exercise**

Jana Martella introduced a systems exercise using mice trying to get through mazes. She used it to show how a change in perspective can help. They also did an exercise standing up with their pens.

### **Habits of Systems Thinkers**

It is ways of going about your work on a daily basis that will help you step back and keep a frame for the work that they do daily. They are researched categories.

1. They understand the big picture.
2. Recognize elements in the system are going to change over time.
3. The structure generates its outcomes.

If you are not getting the outcomes you want then change the system. They also discussed how sometimes the elements need to change over time and how the parts of the system interact together.

1. Identifies the circular nature of complex cause and effect relationships.
2. Makes meaningful connections within and between systems.
3. Changes perspectives to increase understanding.

Jana Martella used the example that rural life and delivery of help to children is different than the big towns.

1. A systems thinker surfaces and tests assumption.

She wants them to exercise the urge to not come into quick conclusions and to challenge their own mental models. They will look at the lever and determine the short and long term consequences. They should also have some short and long term goals. They will also look at the impact of time delays.

### **Build Initiative**

The Build Initiative was funded by multiple philanthropies 13 years ago to create plans for systems for early childhood. They supported the development of the slides. They are the quality relating systems networks now (QRIS).

Jana asked for weaknesses and questions.

- One person liked it because it had the closest person to the child as the family.
- The broken circles are the families, and the next steps are working with the communities.
- All things we want children to have access to but don't necessarily do.
- Redundant to have children's family and community as a part of the pie as well as the circles and a copout to have other influences.
- Should policy be a piece all on its own or should it be a circle around it all.
- They asked if it fits with the petal graphic and determined that the pieces are there.
- One person said that it reminds them of Bronfenbrenner's research theory which is wrong and that it only goes to age five bothers them.
- One person wanted to discuss the change in demographics and whom they are serving.
- One person stated that the arrows are a narrow approach.
- The pie pieces bring them back to silos.
- There are silos funding at the federal and state levels. Nevada is really reliant on federal funds.
- This is a logic model and theory of change.

They went to lunch at 12:00 and returned and 12:45.

### **Update from Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, regarding ESSA**

Patti Oya shared that the ECAC should have received an email about the ESSA work group. She asked them to apply today. There are six different groups they can participate in. She wants them to have good representation since everything in early childhood is "may" not "must." It is the largest of state funds that come to Nevada. DOE staff cannot sign up.

### **Systems Components that are Essential**

1. Leadership
2. Result Mindset
3. Clear Communications

Jana Martella stated that people in leadership roles in early learning seldom get professional development training. She explained that they would be doing some data driven work over the next hour that may not be factual data but things they deal with every day. She stated that a strategic plan should work on improving outcomes for children and they know they have achieved that with data and information. They will learn how one piece of data will affect another piece of data. She stated that they would also learn how to communicate their objectives clearly to different people.

### **Data Exercise**

Jana Martella had the committee look through the Silver State Strong Plan and chose things from it that they feel are the most important. She asked them to plot out sub goals based on these things. They then made charts showing the improvement they wished to happen in the sub goals. The time

period they chose was 2016-2019. She asked them to make sure that they have the data they need or that they can get the data they need.

Jana Martella asked what the group thought of it.

- Carrie Paldi stated that they know where they want to go, but where is the money coming from?
- Jana Martella stated that this is good for things to take to the legislature for children.
- Jana Martella asked for some examples of finished charts.
- Jack Zenteno stated that his charts are about identifying gaps and eliminating redundancies. The second chart was about integrating systems.
- Sherry Waugh stated increase the number of quality PreK programs.
- There were other examples.

### **Sub Committee Updates**

The Professional Development Committee stated that they filled in the information requested for each of the tasks that they are responsible for. She listed the areas which are work force development, home visiting, PreK licensing, etc. She listed the agencies that deal in each area like the Department of Education, Nevada Ready, Nevada Registry, etc. They are trying to get a consultant from Educator Licensure.

They started discussing the funding sources for the different areas.

- As they were listing them off for each area, they added more funding sources.
- For professional associations they added Head Start and the T&TA Network.
- For Recruitment and Retention they added Nevada Department of Education and NSHE.
- For Preservice and In-service they added Head Start.
- They decided that Interdisciplinary was training across all agencies so all agencies are a part of and fund it. Amanda Haboush Deloye added that maybe they should hit all of the areas they need training in not just the agencies.
- For Career Pathways they added Head Start.
- For Leadership and Development Support RAEYC and NevAEYC.

The Family and Community Subcommittee under Comprehensive Health Systems added the Health Districts, Volunteers in Medicine, & Positively Kids.

- For social and emotional health they added the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
- Parenting Education added Family to Family, the Libraries, Strong Start Campaign, Children's Advocacy Alliance, and Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, the Clark County Parenting Project and Faces Program, the Family Resource Centers, and Nevada Early Intervention.
- Economic and parenting support added Nevada Early Intervention.
- Culturally responsive services remained the same.
- Home visiting remained the same.
- Community resources stayed the same.
- Equitable access to social services and assistance agencies added Family to Family.

Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that she did not think that this was the best use of their time and need to find a different way to complete the resource mapping.

Jana Martella stated that they were trying to meet the open meeting requirement with the reporting of the subcommittees and they will return to it later. There is also a tool the Council can use to complete this work.

### **Data Exercises**

Jana Martella wanted the ECAC to map out and cross hatch across some of the data graphing against the objectives that have already been accomplished. She asked them to go through Silver

State Strong and mark the successes from year 1, 2, 3, and 4. She asked them to put an X next to the ones that have moved along successfully.

### **Silver State Stars**

- They agreed that a lot was accomplished because they had funding for it.
- They agreed that most of the goals in that area had been accomplished.
  - The Zero to Three guidelines is still being worked on but is out of draft.
- They discussed what could be considered measured progress in this area and what parts of it they are most proud of.
  - One example is the fact that they have used QRIS as a driver as to where the funding goes.
  - The plan to have 100% of all centers that accept subsidy be QRIS may happen by October.
- They decided that definitions are important and including the definitions in the plan.
- Chairwoman, Marty Elquist asked Melissa to share the state definition for B-3 at the next ECAC meeting.
- They stated that they need to set some new goals as they have moved past a lot of the current goals.
- Jack Zenteno asked about the Early Learning Guidelines piece.
  - Tina Springmeyer stated that it is a continuum about constantly training the superintendents. They are also training the Kindergarten teachers.
  - They are missing having one assessment for all early childhood providers.
- Cindy Johnson stated that they need to change the language for the bottom three lines in Silver State Stars.
- Dolores Hauk asked if once everything is under the Nevada Board of Education if they can demand a KEA.
  - The State Board only has so much control but the districts are starting to show a willingness to align together.

### **KEA**

- The Council decided that they had learned a lot from the pilot because it did work just not the way they wanted it or intended it to.
- They learned that they need to be respectful of teacher's time.
- The KEA was to meet a requirement in a grant, but they do need to know if children are where they need to be.
- The ECAC discussed that it is a screener not an assessment and that makes the teachers more willing to use it.
- They need to be careful that it is not used to keep children out of Kindergarten and not used as a primary program evaluation.
- They are working on communication pieces to discuss it with the parents and they are working on unique identifiers from birth.
- The Council discussed where Maryland is in their KEA program and how states are going back to a portfolio system.
- They discussed how people want to know what is being done with the information from TSG and that information needs to get back to the teachers.
- They now have full-day Kindergarten but they also need PreK in all schools.
- Center teachers need support and training on conducting formal assessments vs a screener.

### **Silver State Skills**

- There were some questions as to what the training calendars area meant and they were talking about the individual programs and how they need a calendar showing all of the trainings.
- Some successes were expanded opportunities to engage in P3, the symposium that was held, and the crosswalk that is done.
- They discussed the calendars more and put a pin in it to represent setting objectives for next steps.
- They stated that they need to have someone from the Registry in order to have discussions about it. There was discussion as to inviting Shelly Nye to the next meeting.
- Brenda Bledsoe asked if the core competencies had been completed and it had.
  - Core competencies are what teachers should know and be able to do but there is no common alignment between PreK teachers across programs.
  - They discussed the wage differences and you can't pretend that there is not a major difference between the programs.
  - ARL is also a major concern because they may not have the core competencies.
  - They continued discussing the core competencies and stated that it was only for community based teachers.
- They discussed wages and the biases that go along with it.

### **Supports**

- Strong Start Nevada has started.
- The milestone booklets have been done and are being printed and are being handed out to all parents in the subsidy program.
- All parents on the subsidy program are also receiving ASQ-SE and ASQ3 screening tools.
- They are working on a parent portal with the Brookes' website for every parent in the state.
- The Council is thinking about, in the next steps, writing a transition between ASQ and Brigance.
- They decided that family supports are missing a lot.

### **Strategic Planning**

- The original reason for developing the Silver State Strong plan was to build a better ECE system so we are more competitive in grants like the Early Learning Challenge; so that is a success story.
- Many of the goals and objectives were accomplished.
- They will go over some that need to be revised and changed tomorrow. The Council discussed the fact that putting children at the center of their work is something they need to regroup around.

### **Next Day Plans and theory of aligned contributions exercise**

- The next day they are going to use the National Academy's chart to do some community mapping. She asked them to fill out the Theory of aligned contributions to develop their own asset map with the children in the middle.
- Jana Martella stated that they should be doing this at their subcommittee meetings and they should be informing their colleagues with information that they don't have. She stated that the asset map is a tool towards alignment. All of the concentric circles work together just like we should be working together. She stated that you have to be able to communicate this clearly so people understand.

## Homework

Jana Martella asked them to look at Silver State Strong at the goals and objectives and look for changes and additions. She stated that tomorrow they will drive towards objectives for the next four years and a road map for the next several months. She continued stating what they would be working on the next day.

- The Council asked to also work on next steps for the subcommittee groups.
- They asked for a clear plan, next steps and how to manage the plan/create benchmarks.
- They asked to also know who will be renewing on the Council.
- Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that this is the plan of the ECAC, not just these people. She also stated that Catheryne Lyons has retired.

**They recessed at 4:47 PM.**

## **DAY 2 -JUNE 17, 2016**

### Strategic Planning Continued...

- The meeting resumed at 9:01 AM.
- Jana Martella began the meeting with a check in. She stated that they would walk away from the day with agreed objectives. She also stated that they would be going over the Governor's strategic plan. She asked for thoughts around yesterday's meeting. There were none. She stated that she would post all of the slides on the Council website.
- Chairwoman, Marty Elquist discussed how asset mapping will be done in the subcommittees with a new programming map and financials map.
- Jana Martella gave examples of the systems within the system. The first one showed the complex system that affects children ages birth to 8. It is from the National Academy of Science. They are working on developing tools for states to use to dig in deeper. There are 12 diagrams. The one for teachers is called the tree diagram. She explained it.
- The next slide was the comprehensive and aligned B-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Assessment System. It shows the complexity of the work and the activities and projects that along the way. Jana Martella explained the slide.
- Nikki Goldstein offered to share what Nevada Ready was working on in workforce development using the Tree Graph.
  - Chairwoman Marty Elquist asked that it be put on the agenda for the August meeting.
- Chairwoman Marty Elquist explained that a strategic plan has to help the ECAC fulfill their mission. She stated that when she looks at the 6 key strategies in that slide, shouldn't their strategic plan be developed in each of those areas? She stated that the current strategic plan is not building a system; it completing projects.
  - Sherry Waugh agreed with her
- Jana Martella stated that they would be working on doing goal setting in each of the three categories. She stated at the end of the day she hopes that they have a new structure for their strategic plan that looks like the slide they were looking at. She stated that coming up with the wording on it was heavily debated as it needed to make sense.
- The ECAC agreed and stated that they need to be clear with their language as well as having common definitions. They also discussed omitting useless words.
- Jana Martella advised on keeping the strategic plan short and to remember that words you use with parents may be different than the ones other early educators use.
- Dolores Hauk asked, for the people on the outside looking in, how they show an end in sight and that they also need a belief system.

## Governors Strategic Plan

- Jana Martella showed the Council how the Governor organized the frame work of his plan and how the ECAC can use it to help assist them. She stated that they should use the three ovals as their strategic priorities and a few goals within each one. She showed them his four goals in the education workforce and that the Governor cannot achieve them without the ECAC's work.
- Sherry Bingham explained how the Superintendent of Public Instruction's goals align with the Governor's.
- Jack Zenteno stated that it is the most clearly defined of any of the plans that he has ever seen.
- Jana Martella recommended that read by three be a goal in the early learning section of our strategic plan.
- When Chairwoman, Marty Elquist looked at the slide, she stated that 5.1.1 should be green because subsidy helps parents go to work as well as 5.2.3.
- Jana Martella went over the State Support Services and stated that we want the circles around the ovals to align with the Governor's plan.
- Jana Martella showed them a video on where good ideas come from. She showed them another one on children ages birth to 8 and what they need.
  - The Council discussed the video and how simple is good and it was easily relatable.
  - Jana Martella stated that it is a visual depiction tool and would not work for some offices.
  - Sherry Bingham referred to the initiative, No Wrong Door.
  - Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that the reason why she had forwarded that video to Jana is because it is the crux of what the ECAC has to do. The ECAC's job is to build a better system with coordination and collaboration.
  - Latisha stated that they have a hard time getting their providers and prospective providers in to the trainings and the fact that they are not just babysitting, they are educators.
  - Diane asked if the family resource centers are one stop shops in Nevada.
  - Latisha stated that the biggest issue with them is that the case managers have a hard time getting the information themselves and getting the parents the help they need.
  - Shelby Henderson stated that the process and the lack of resources is a problem.
- Jana Martella stated that in terms of the Governors strategic plan they have created cohesiveness amongst the systems so that parents, families, and service providers don't have to navigate a really detailed confusing map. She stated that if there are challenges then the Council needs to be able to navigate them.
  - They discussed how sometimes the systems are too rigid.
- Jana Martella stated that there are some decisions that the ECAC has to make in terms with their asset map and strategic plan. The three categories that they decided on are Health and Mental Health, Family supports and Engagement, Early Learning and Development. The around categories they will work on further down the stream.
- Chairwoman, Marty Elquist asked if the subcommittees should match the new asset map.
- They decided that they could discuss it but they couldn't make a decision on it until the August meeting.
- They agreed on using this for the new subcommittees.
- They also decided that they need to leave the Bylaws more broad instead of naming specific subcommittees in it.
- They discussed not alarming the members of the subcommittees until they make an official decision in August.

- Sherry Waugh stated that they need more flexibility in order to meet Open Meeting Law.
- Brenda Bledsoe stated that they should reconvene them to share what happened at this meeting.
- Chantel Wakefield asked the subcommittees to get their agendas to her at least a week to a week and a half ahead of time, because she is having problems getting people to post them.
- There was a discussion on how difficult it is to get people in health engaged with the ECAC. Most of the people in the ECAC work in the other two categories.

### **Exercises**

- Jana Martella stated that she wanted them to make 3 goals for early learning and development that are 6 words or less. She asked them to make 5 measurable indicators for the goals.
- For practice they went back to the Governor's objectives and looked at them. She asked them to think about health and to name the most important goal to them.
- Some examples were that every child has a medical home and every child receives screenings, every child has access to supportive health services, access to supports for healthy development.
- They discussed how they need to make information known to doctors so they can make it known to their patients. One of the things they think will help is targeting the nurses and CNA's.
- For public health they had all children will have access to health screenings.
- For mental health they had every adult caring for children has mental health supports.
- They added children have access to quality and safe environments.
- Chairwoman Marty Elquist added access to safe housing and environments.
- Jana Martella divided the group into two groups. One was family engagement and supports. The other was early learning and development. Each group was tasked with creating three to five goals.

### **The Council broke for lunch.**

#### **Debriefing the Subgroups**

- Jana Martella stated that they have the core subgroups which are the three ovals. They came up with high level goals for two of them. She stated that they are going to work on indicators for just Early Learning and Development. Jana described what indicators are.

#### **Family Engagement and Support**

- Sherry Waugh explained the three big goals which are:
  1. Families have the supports they need to thrive.
  2. Families are engaged in their child's development.
  3. Early Childhood workforces partners and effectively engage with families.
- Jana Martella asked for advice and things that could be missing. Some examples are:
  - There is overlap with Health and Early Learning.
  - Family empowerment for advocacy.
  - Community should be under family engagement.
  - The family needs to be functional to deal with the child's needs.
  - Every single family regardless of economic level needs help.

#### **Early Learning and Development**

- Melissa Burnham explained the four areas which are:

- Every child has access to high quality early care and education.
- Every child is reading by grade level by third grade.
- Every child has access to high quality early care and education professionals.
- Nevada has a fully aligned birth to third grade system.
- Jana Martella asked for objections and opinions. Some examples are:
  - Number 2 is a goal and 1, 3, and 4 are objectives.
  - Just focusing on reading is not broad enough and math needs to be added.
  - The Governor's plan does include STEM and its main goal is all children are ready for college.
  - B-3 needs to be outside of just the education piece because if not, they will lose all of the outside influences that directly affect that system.
  - You can't have high quality care without high quality professionals so 1 and 3 should be merged and just called high quality.
  - Community access for children whose parents chose not to put them in child care.
  - They reordered the plan so that:
    - Every child reads at grade level by level three.

### **Discussion**

- There is no budget aligned to the strategic plan. The strategic plan is to have a vision for the ECAC and a vision for the state.
- Brenda Bledsoe stated that it should be all children should be able to participate in early learning programs including children with special needs.
- Chairwoman Marty Elquist stated that all of their old goals are in early learning and development.
- Early Care and Education was changed to Early Learning and Development.
- They condensed three of the goals into one which is: Every child has access to a high quality, aligned, early learning and development system (0-8).

### **Indicators**

- The Council discussed different indicators for Early Learning and Development.
- Every child is reading at grade level by third grade.
  - The assessment tool will narrow it down. High quality and alignment indicators.
- QRIS Measures high quality as well as accreditation.
  - Need for K-3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - CLASS observation measure is good for high quality.
  - HOVRS is a quality assessment for home centers.
  - Jana Martella stated that these are measures not indicators.
- Look for tools to fit the indicators.
- Driving the standards through third grade.
- For professionals they have the Registry ladder, but they are hesitant to use it because they don't have the data on it.
- Chairwoman Marty Elquist stated that they should have aligned standards for birth through 8.
- Developmentally appropriate teaching practices.
- Effective programs and environments.
- They discussed objectives within the B-3<sup>rd</sup> grade standards and came up with:
  - A continuum of standards through third grade (A single document).
  - Standards across all domains.
  - Read by third grade.

- Meeting all of the developmental stages.
- Proficiency and attainment of developmental milestones birth through third grade.
- They discussed how they were going to do the objectives and how they were going to measure them. They stated that they already have the tools and they just need to use them. They asked if they need an indicator to show how people are measuring and assessing. The Council decided that it was a good next step.
- The next steps were:
  - Increase proficiency and attainment of developmental milestones.
  - Assess children’s attainment.
  - Assess children’s domains.

**Professional Indicators**

They thought of professional standards to begin with objectives. Some of the objectives were:

- Professionals need to be prepared so we need some kind of in-service and pre-service.
- Early Learning and development professionals are prepared to serve the children and are supported through out their careers.
  - Coaching, mentoring, and TLC’s are some ways to support and prepare them.
- Professional standards and competencies.
- Appropriate and aligned system of standards and competencies for the profession.
- Provide community outreach for family and friends who work with children.
- Understand that the private versus public are trained differently and need to be differentiated.
- They need an evaluation indicator.
- They removed a livable wage from the strategic planning.

Chairwoman, Marty Elquist stated that they would lose quorum in 25 minutes so they need to move on to the next steps.

**15. Next Steps**

Jana Martella stated that the ECAC had agreed that “Six Key Strategies” will be the frame work for the council’s strategic plan. They will vote on The State Systems Framework being their framework.

**Motion**

- Carrie Paldi made a motion that they will use the state systems framework as the model for their strategic plan.
- Tammie Williams seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- The motion carried at 2:09 PM.

**16. Item I: Future Agenda Items**

These are the things that they added to the agenda:

- The Bylaws need to be modified in the section about subcommittees.
- They decided to let the subcommittees know that they will be changing them and that work is on hold before the next meeting.
- Jana Martella stated that she and Chairwoman, Marty Elquist will come up with a rewrite so they have three or four graduated goals and some straw indicators that the Council can have as a framework by August second.
- In the next meeting they will finish Early Learning and Development, and in October they will work on Health, and the one after that will be done in December.

- They decided that the beginning of the meeting will be normal and the last part of the meeting will be a work session.
- It was decided that Jana will come back in December.

**17. Public Comment #2**

The Public asked for a picture of the whole group.

**18. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.