



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

“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.”

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(VIDEO CONFERENCED)

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL

Marty Elquist, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair called the meeting to order, 9:02 AM. Quorum is met.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
- Christell Askew, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Daina Loeffler, Nevada Department of Education, Part B Office
- Denise Tanata, J.D., Children’s Advocacy Alliance
- Heike Ruedenauer, Nevada Early Intervention Services, other members as the Governor deems necessary
- Linda Young, Clark County School District Board of Trustees
- LoriAnn Malina-Lovell, IDEA Part C
- Lynda Tache, Collab Center Las Vegas
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Patrice Gardner, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District

Public in Attendance:

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy
- Anna Severens, Nevada Department Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Caitlin Stapley, Boystown
- Connie Flores, Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing
- Crystal Johnson, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Danielle Holmes, The Children’s Cabinet
- Latisha Brown, Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing
- Janice Lee, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada TACSEI
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Jennifer Butler, Las Vegas Urban League
- John Cregg, Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, TEACH Early Childhood
- Jon Bell, Lakeshore
- Julie Houchins, United Way of Southern Nevada



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- Kate McNabney, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Kelly Stevens, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra
- Keri Meranda, Truckee Meadows Community College
- LeAn Shelton, LeAn Shelton Consulting
- Lori Cox, Head Start of Northeastern Nevada
- Mary Regan, Las Vegas Urban League
- Mia Pace, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
- Michelle Grant, Kids R Kids
- Mychelle Weart, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Rachel Schmidt, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
- Ron Duhart, Kaplan Co.
- Tara Phebus, City of Henderson
- Tiffany Olivas, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
- Sherry Waugh, University of Nevada, Reno, Child and Family Research Center

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No comments

3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

Motion:

- Denise Tanata moved for the approval of flexible agenda.
- Daina Loeffler seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carried. Flexible agenda approved.

4. ITEM A: MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2020

Motion:

- Denise Tanata identified that Jared Busker's name was misspelled under item #18.
- Patrice Gardner identified that the date of the minutes needed to be corrected from February 19, 2019 to February 19, 2020.
- Denise Tanata moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted above.
- Patrice seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to approve minutes with corrections made.

5. ITEM B: INCLUSION RATES

Presentation on Nevada's early childhood special education inclusion rates. Daina Loeffler, Nevada Department of Education presented.

- Children with IEPs receiving services in general education classrooms increased from 23% in 2017 to 39% in 2019. Additionally, those receiving services in self-contained classrooms decreased from 57% in 2017 to 47% in 2019.



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- This progress is cause for celebration recognizing that we still have a long way to go. We are heading in the right direction.
- This calendar year, early childhood inclusion rates will not include children in Kindergarten. Kindergarten will be reported separately. This will be the same across all states and territories as required by OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs).
- To make inclusion happen we must view inclusion as a human right and a moral imperative. Must be based in relationships to build trust and with a strength-based approach. There must be collaboration across offices and Location Education Agencies (LEA) and there must be support through professional development and technical assistance.
- Linda Young commended Ms. Loeffler on the progress and asked if the data are being shared and inquired about Clark County School District inclusion data. Ms. Loeffler stated that the data are generally shared during summit, but due to COVID the summit will be different this year and they are still trying to figure out how to best share the data. Ms. Loeffler stated that she will share the slides once the slides are properly labeled so the numbers can be interpreted properly without a presenter.
- Heike asked how districts will account for COVID in this year's inclusion rates. Daina replied that there is not guidance from OSEP yet, but due to the difference in distance, in-person and hybrid schedules, it will vary from district to district.

6. ITEM C: AVAILABILITY OF SPEECH THERAPY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Presentation regarding the availability of and access to speech therapy for children with Autism from Adrienne Williams, Let's Talk Speech Therapy postponed until October meeting.

7. ITEM D: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- LoriAnn and Lynda discussed adding an indicator for accessing and monitoring resilience and building social and emotional developmental competence in families. LoriAnn stated that data might available through their upcoming pyramid model project. Currently there are 3 of 12 programs participating.
- LoriAnn suggested a presentation from her team about their project with the pyramid model to provide coaching and support to early intervention providers. Marty agreed that a presentation would be welcome.
- Denise suggested putting together a special task force committee with Amanda to put together specific recommendations by the next meeting for the council to discuss further. Marty, Tina, Carrie, Daina and Lynda all concurred.
 - Carrie motions for the creation for an ad hoc task force committee to develop indicators.
 - Daina seconds the motion.
 - Denise, Amanda, LoriAnn and Lynda volunteered to be on the committee.
 - All were in favor.
 - Motion carried. Ad hoc committee for indicator approved.

8. ITEM E: MUNICODE AND OTHER LOCAL BARRIERS TO BUILDING CHILD CARE

Overview of potential barriers to child care operations at the local and county level. Kate McNabney, Children's Advocacy Alliance reporting.

- No update due to COVID.
- Marty Elquist indicated that this item will stay on the agenda so we do not lose sight of this item. Addressing these barriers are important in growing our capacity, which is an action item in the ECAC strategic plan.



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9. ITEM F: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS EARLY CHILDHOOD COHORT

Update on ASSA's Early Learning Cohort Meeting March 25-27 in Summerlin, which was postponed due to COVID. Discussion regarding the reconvening of this conference and efforts to encourage Nevada school district superintendents to attend and/or join cohort. Linda Young, Clark County School District Board of Trustees presented.

- Linda Young reported that originally, they were going to reschedule for October, but that is now on hold because of COVID.
- There will be a meeting in the next 2 weeks to determine future steps.
- Dr. Young is working with Nevada State College for the Early Childhood component of their program.
- Marty will keep this item on the agenda to not lose sight of the Cohort. ECAC is also open to a future presentation from Dr. Sherman.

10. ITEM G: SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appointment of one Early Learning Subcommittee Co-chair and two Family and Community Subcommittee Co-chairs Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair presenting

- Ms. Elquist reported that we are still waiting for 6 appointments from Boards and Commissions.
- Given that there are members from the Family and Community subcommittee awaiting appointment, we will wait for these appointments for the October 2020 ECAC meeting.
- Marty requested that Tina Springmeyer email potential co-chair names for the Early Learning Subcommittee for appointment in October.

11. ITEM H: SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS AND ROSTER UPDATES

Update on subcommittee membership and action step planning. Update on use of OnStrategy and support needs. Marty Elquist, Tina Springmeyer, Denise Tanata and LoriAnn Molina-Lovell presenting.

- Marty spoke with Kathleen from OnStrategy. Kathleen pushed out all the dates for unfinished items on the action plans. They are updated on the OnStrategy plan management tool.
- The next item is to appointment chairs.
 - One co-chair needs to join Tina Springmeyer on the Early Learning Subcommittee
 - Family and Community Subcommittee is completely chairless
 - Denise and Lori Ann are the chairs for the Health Subcommittee
- The next step is to review plans and update timelines. If anything needs to be changed or dropped those items need to be documented and brought back to October meeting.
- Kathleen also recommended everyone discuss what works with the OnStrategy tools and what doesn't work and to potential appoint one or two people with the sole responsibility of updating the plan.
- Kathleen is willing to schedule another training for the point data people as necessary.
- There is still the progress report to the governor on December 1st. Marty will follow the same plan of action as the last report by simply providing ECAC meeting dates and the plan as the ECAC report.
- Tina received a summary from SRI and she is recruiting people who want to be part of the next phase with recommendations from SRI and she is reaching out to the people who were on the early learning committee. She will be sending out more emails at the end of this week. She's working with Stacey Joiner and Patrice. They intend to meet in September and will have a report in October. Tina will send all co-chair recommendations to Marty.



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- Marty will post the video and PowerPoint on the ECAC website on how to use OnStrategy.
- Lori Ann reported that NEIS services and support have continued via tele help and tele conference. They saw a dip in number in March and April. They let physicians know that EI was still happening, and numbers rose again in May and June to regular levels. They are looking at a reentry phase in the next 1-2 months when home visits and face-to-face can occur again. The hardest were audio services that were only done in the clinic. Subcommittee didn't have meetings during this time; however, members are ready to schedule a meeting. Denise concurred the scheduling of a new meeting. They will need to relook at their membership in order to get quorum. Marty recommended to identify a member or two as data reporters in OnStrategy.

12. ITEM I: NEW OR UPDATED EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING SOURCES

Discussed any new or updated local, state or federal funding sources that impact or inform the early childhood system.

The funding map is posted on the ECAC website under Reports and Documents. Marty Elquist led discussion.

- Early Head Start Expansion grant
- Christell says we put in proposals for COVID relief funds for Community Health workers for the licensing back log and capacity building. Still waiting for approval. Funds have a deadline to be spent by the end of December 2020.
- Marty stated that Evelyn Dryer mentioned potential increased funding for Home Visiting, but we need to confirm. Denise says it may be connected to the Child Welfare from the Federal Families First Act which authorizes Home Visit as a prevention tool for entry into Child Welfare, but a lot of it was put on hold since COVID. Denise will check on it, and see where they are at in funding and progress.
- Jenna Weglarz stated there is application for ESSER funding for PreK-12. It is a two-year funding cycle. Jenna put in a proposal for early childhood, and will find out about the approval by the end of October, and they will have an update in October or November.
- Amanda is keeping her eye out for any research grants.

13. ITEM J: NEW OR UPCOMING EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Identify any new or upcoming needs assessments that impact or inform the early childhood system. All needs assessments identified will be posted on the ECAC website under Reports and Documents. Marty Elquist led discussion.

- Amanda says she is assigning staff to look at this quarterly so the next update will happen in September. The spreadsheet of all early childhood-related needs assessments is available on the ECAC website.

14. ITEM K: FACEBOOK UPDATES

Discuss the status of the ECAC Facebook Page. Anna Severens was not available for an update. Marty Elquist stated she would follow-up with Anna regarding Facebook page administration.

15. ITEM L: CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATES

Update on CCDF subsidy and resource and referral programs including updates on CARES funding. Christell Askew, Child Care and Development Fund presenting.

- Christell reported that the Child Care Subsidy Program continued to pay childcare providers for enrolled children while their doors were closed due to COVID.
- The subsidy program extended eligibility for additional 12 months for any families that came up for their redetermination for subsidy as a temporary COVID policy.
- The subsidy program has flexibility for the waitlist and copays on a case-by-case basis.



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- In-person site visits for Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) and Out-of-School Time (OST) providers have been postponed
- Emergency stipends to providers for cleaning supplies are available.
- The Child Care Program expanded their focus to all childcare providers beyond subsidies providers with about 33 million dollars of funding from the CARES Act. The funds were administered through the Las Vegas Urban League and The Children's Cabinet.
- The Children's Cabinet put together a training to help providers with their CARES grant application process, which required a business plan. Only three applications were denied out of the 152 applications received.
- A small portion of CARES funding was put aside for the policy changes made to the subsidy program.
- The focus is now expanded to helping children who are not going to school in Clark County, but still need childcare while parents are at work.
- Crystal Johnson has been working Lori Ann Molina-Lovell to dig in a learn more about the pyramid model and social emotional support.
- The Child Care Program has brought on a new position, Management Analysis 4, in the childhood unit, Cynthia Leach will start on September 8.
- Marty Elquist from The Children's Cabinet, Warren Evans from the Las Vegas Urban League, Patti Oya from the Dept. of Education, Crystal Johnson from the Child Care Program and Latisha Brown from Licensing are all coming together to participate in a business "collaborator" to support providers in Nevada with the business side of child care. They were approved by First Children's Finance to join the "collaboratory."
- Crystal Johnson wants to expand on the Idea Part C office's Pyramid Model implementation. Ms. Johnson reported that there is a grant opportunity to expand pyramid model expansion for social and emotional support.
- The Child Care Program is also looking at revising their policy for suspension and expulsion policy as part of those efforts. They also sent out a Family Friend and Neighbor survey and figure out how they can help provide assistance for those providers and what they need, and develop small coverts like work groups specific for FFN providers. Patrice, Latisha and Warren are also on that team. They will get together next week to review the survey results and put together an action plan.
- Marty requested Crystal reach out to her so they can get a representative for FFN from The Children's Cabinet.
- Marty requested that Janice Lee also present on Pyramid Model projects from Nevada TACSEI so the Council is informed on Pyramid Model implementation through the state.

16. ITEM M: CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

Latisha Brown from Child Care Licensing reporting

- Latisha stated that they are trying to play catch-up since COVID, and they are updating their plan to execute accordingly. Inspectors have been working hard to get out to all facilities to do support visits, routine inspections, and complaint investigations. Most complaints are that people are not wearing their masks. They are educating the parents, public and schools as far as COVID guidelines.
- Inspectors are slowed down because they are going into facilities that have positives cases. When inspectors are exposed, they have to quarantine for 14 days. They are trying to keep providers informed about appropriate PPE.
- FFN providers are putting in applications to care for children. Licensing is working hard to keep FFN providers updated letting them know they can watch up to four children without a license.
- Many larger facilities are putting in licensing amendments to include school-aged children. Providers are adding on classrooms specifically for distant learning and activities for school-aged children.



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- Nevada has lost facilities, but most of the closures were temporary. State child care licensing went down to 100 facilities that stayed open during COVID, and currently there are 337 facilities that are now open with about 100 facilities that are waiting to see when or if it is best to reopen. Prior to COVID there were 443 state-licensed facilities open.
- Due to COVID, many people are choosing to retire and some have relocated out of the state.
- Marty asked how many Washoe County Child Care Licensing providers have closed since COVID. Latisha has state licensing numbers, so she will get back to Marty with the Washoe County licensing numbers.
- Carrie asked Latisha if licensed family child care providers have stopped providing care. Latisha says most of the retirement numbers have come from FCC providers who have been providing for 20 plus years. A couple of larger center providers have closed due to lower enrollments.

17. ITEM N: LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES AND 2020 CENSUS

Update on Nevada's 2021 Legislative Session and issues related to early childhood. The Children's Advocacy was not available to present and Marty Elquist asked Denise Tanata if she could provide an update.

- Denise reported that United Way of Southern Nevada is having conversations about policy changes and are starting to track the bill draft requests, which started coming in last month. Their focus is going to be trying to maintain in all areas. There will be cuts and are looking at new revenue sources.
- Amanda Haboush reported that Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy is working with Strong Start parents to put together testimony to keep reaching out to policy makers. They are exploring how to do Children's Week at the Legislature given the COVID restraints.
- Carrie stated that Nevada AEYC is working to revise their policy priority and will consider these discussions.

18. ITEM O: STRONG START UPDATES

No Strong Start Update

19. ITEM P: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATES

Update on NDE, KEA, Read by Three, CCDF Quality, PDG-5 and other NDE early childhood programs and projects. Patti Oya presented.

- Patti says during the first special session:
 - Lyon County decided not to offer state PreK this school year, which was a big hit because Lyon County was serving 263 four year olds.
 - State PreK program was cut 6.2 million dollars, but because of the CARES Act, NDE was able to back fill 4.8 million dollars. Because Lyon County didn't participate, all the other PreK sub-grantees received the same amount of money this year as last.
 - \$31 million was cut from Read by Grade 3. There will still be MAP testing for kindergarten through 3rd grade, which is required.
 - Moving forward they will make it a priority to include Lyon County in their PreK or figure out some kind of way to get some seats into Lyon County. They are still working with the superintendent.
 - The Brigance early childhood screener tool is being used across many programs and as the kindergarten entry assessment. NDE must undergo a request for proposal process to possibility find a new screener, as it is a purchasing requirement. NDE will be sending out a survey link prior to the RFP process, hopefully at the beginning of September, for purpose of finding out what is important in finding a new screener.



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- The screens must be conducted in-person, so NDE will not have kindergarten screening results in Clark County.
- There are two Kellogg Foundation grants through The Children's Cabinet. The first grant ended, and the remaining funds were going to be spent on the PDG-B5 rollout and organization. Since Nevada did not have a successful PDG application, MetrixQ will do a data refresh of the previous Economic Impact Report with comparisons throughout the last 8-10 years. The second grant was scheduled to end September 30, 2020, but because Kellogg is flexible, the new deadline is June 30, 2021. This enables us to do another Zero to Three Infant Toddler Critical Competencies training cohort and mindfulness in early childhood trainings. The first one is a virtual 90-minute intro on a Saturday open to 50 providers statewide. The second one is a 3 hour course is open to about 30 providers. There will be an application process.
- TNTP has designed a leadership training course for language and literacy, math, and social emotional. As the Kellogg grant ends they are developing a SEAM module specific to science and technology. A small amount of Title II funding for professional development is being secured and TNTP is applying for a federal grant to hopefully continue this work.
- CCDF Quality currently has grants to resolve licensing issues. Infant/toddler expansion grants will be available in fiscal year 2021. The grants focus is on building infant toddler capacity in high quality childcare settings. The grants will provide room setup for infant toddler care.
- Working to expand previous work with Head Start programs aimed at assessing children's oral health and dental care needs to childcare centers in rural areas.
- Stacey, Ana and Patrice are reviewing the SRI report funded by the PDG planning grant, which ended June 2020. She thanks Rachel for leading the PDG planning process. The final PDG-B5 report should be completed by September 30 and will be posted on the ECAC website.
- Denise asked about the timeline for the economic impact report. Marty stated that the target is January 2021.

20. ITEM Q: QRIS UPDATES

Update on the progress of Silver State Stars QRIS. Tiffany Olivas presented

- NDE QRIS team sent out a rating date adjustment survey to all providers that were due April-December 2020. They received about a 30 percent response rate from programs. The purpose was to give them more time and to distribute the assessment work load. QRIS receives about one request per week to change their original date. Providers who thought they could make their date are having a harder time than they thought.
- The due date was extend to January of 2021 for those who did not respond.
- We had a QRIS call on May 20 to check in with all QRIS providers. Jennifer Kalas shared how CDC, COVID guidelines, ERS scales and licensing were all compatible. New ideas were shared and there was an opportunity for Q&A with providers.
- Last month, Lakeshore Learning donated gifts to childcare providers in Nevada who remained open as a thank you for their dedication to children and families. QRIS coaches distributed the materials.
- Emily Chaplin created an annual report giving the general public a snapshot of what's happening with QRIS which you can find on nvsilverstatestars.org
- Currently onboarding new LEA coaches. There are two in north and two in south. LEA classroom Fall assessments have been waived because of the inconsistency across the board with the programs being virtual, hybrid or in-person.
- Carrie Paldi thanked the QRIS program and coaches for their flexibility and support during this time.



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21. ITEM R: LOCAL ECAC UPDATES

- Tiffany Olivas – Carson/Douglas – School district have given parents the option for a hybrid model, which is 2 days in the classrooms and 3 days virtual learning or they could choose to do 100% virtual learning. The CD ECAC has organized roundtable discussions with key stakeholders in the community. They discussed challenges. It was an interesting opportunity to give people the reality of childcare. They used those opportunities to discuss and create ideas and solutions.
 - In response, the CD ECAC created a website as a tool for parents to find childcare on days when the child is not in school. Part of the website includes the mission and vision, a tab for licensed childcare providers in Carson City, and a community-based program tab that includes information on the Boys and Girls Club as well as Parks and Rec. They have a bulletin board for parents to find each other and create partnerships. A resource page is still under construction, which will include developmental appropriate practice by age group, COVID cleaning guidelines, and fingerprinting information and reimbursement. The website is cdecac.com.
 - Many providers are not accepting children who are virtual learning because of limited or no wifi, or they want to avoid exposing other children in their care to COVID from children who are hybrid learning.
- Danielle Holmes – Southern Nevada – Last meeting was August 19 and primarily discussed Step Up for Kids event. They decided to make it virtual this year. They want to create a sort of digital kit that will help parents with distance learning. There will be some pick up locations, as well as a parent raffle. The parent ambassador program is still meeting virtually.
 - Amanda reported that the next Parent Ambassador meeting is in September. They are trying to keep them engaged but the parents are also overwhelmed. They trying to get them to meet with some legislators soon. It is a great group.
 - Amanda stated that the Step for Kids is statewide, so let her know if you're interested.
 - Amanda reported that the Strong Start Governor's elections are coming up in October with Step Up for Kids. There are eleven or twelve candidates including some from Washoe and Winnemucca. Amanda will email out more information.
- Sherry Waugh – Washoe County – They are working with the Nevada Department of Education on developmental appropriate kindergarten. Stay tuned.

22. ITEM S: NEVAEYC UPDATES

The Council received updates from NevAEYC. Carrie Paldi presented.

- Teach scholarship application are being accepted for the Spring 2021 semester for individuals are getting their associate degree in early childhood or need to complete ECE credits to advance on the NV Registry career ladder. Individuals can begin the application process on NVTeach.org.
- NevAEYC has applied to participate in an initiative to address issues related to education compensation and retention in recruiting of early childhood educators. This opportunity is through TEACH Early Education National Center. It is a one-year grant with a possible extension for two additional years. If awarded, a team of ten will develop an action plan with deliverables. The initial thought is to review the ECAC strategies plan with the recent workforce report from SRI to determine if there are applicable deliverables. Notification to organizations will occur today Wednesday, August 26.
- NevAEYC will be accepting applications for the following four positions for their Board of Directors: Education Development, Public Policy, Board Development and Representative to oversee the northwest community. The application requirements and position descriptions will be available next week.
- The annual conference for 2021 is scheduled for Las Vegas. The planning committee will be meeting in September, and one topic will be to discuss an in-person versus virtual conference for 2021. The days are April 29-May1.



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23. ITEM T: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council discussed what they would like on the upcoming agenda.

- 2021 Strategic Planning Timeline & Facilitation
- NEIS and Nevada TACSEI Pyramid Model Implementation
- Key Performance Indicators
- NEIS & ADSD Presentation on ensuring equitable access and role of private services

24. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

- LeAn Shelton asked the Council if providers like NEIS cannot see children, how can families get private services when those private services are blocked as they are enrolled in NEIS? LeAn voiced concern that the service needs of many children and families are not being met.
 - Lori Ann Molina-Lovell responded that there is a reentry plan that is underway for in-person and home visits. Families who wish to have those types visit are allowed to access private therapy with community programs. However, those types of services are usually covered through private insurance. Lori Ann recommended that perhaps we could have a representative from ADSD present at the ECAC October meeting to discuss equitable access and the role of private services.

25. ADJOURNMENT

12:09PM