



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

“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, 9:13 AM. Quorum is met.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Alberto Quintero, Nevada Department of Education, Family Engagement
- Denise Tanata, United Way of Southern Nevada
- Emily Champlin, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Heike Rüdener, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Jocelyn M. Pereira, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Latisha Brown, Department of Public & Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing
- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, Department of Health & Human Services
- Lori Cox, Headstart of Northeastern Nevada
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Megan Schwarzrock, University of Nevada, Reno
- Patrice Gardener, Head Start State Collaboration
- Shatriya Collier, Associate Dean in School of Education, NSC
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District
- Youngae (Young) Choi, Assistant Professor in Early Childhood Education, NSC

Public in Attendance:

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy
- Angela Rose, City of Las Vegas
- Anna Severens, Nevada Department Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Brittnee Scuyler, Discount School Supply
- Emily Champlin, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Jana Nettleton
- Jeanette Belz, J. Belz & Associate
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Nevada System of Higher Education
- Jennifer Butler, Las Vegas Urban League
- Jessica Roew, Nevada early Intervention Services



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- Jocelyn M. Pereira, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Jocelyn Cousins, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
- John Cregg, NevAEYC
- Jon Bell, Lakeshore Early Learning
- Kaitlin Lewallen, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Lauren Ryan, The Children's Cabinet
- Matthew Hoffma, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Nicole Vairo Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Rachel Schmidt, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Scott Jones
- Shannon Sprout, Nevada Early Intervention Services
- Stacey Joyner, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Tara Phebus, City of Henderson
- Teresa Alvarado, AETNA
- Tiffany Olivas, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

Motion:

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

4. ITEM A: MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 16, 2020

Motion:

- Latisha Brown moved to approve the minutes as presented.
- Patrice Gardener seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carried. Minutes approved.

5. ITEM B: INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Joselyn Cousins, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, updated the council.

- Joselyn Cousins: Introduced Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's initiative Investing in the Future of Child Care.
 - Through the Investing in the Future of Child Care initiative the SF Fed and the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) are taking a deep dive into the challenges facing child care businesses, as well as, investments and partnerships needed to support child care providers.
 - Communities will have the opportunity to rebuild the child care system with greater access affordable child care for lower-income families and people of color by addressing challenges with the current model.



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- There is an urgent need to build a sustainable operating model the child care, which will require a collaborative effort of partners across the sector.

6. ITEM C: NEVADA STATE COLLEGE ECE PROGRAM

Council updated on overview of the new early childhood/early childhood special education dual licensure program at Nevada State College. Dr. Shartriya Collier, Associate Dean/Professor and Dr. Yongae (Young) Choi, Assistant Professor, Nevada State College presented.

- Young Choi: ECSE Nevada State College is taking the next steps are to work out the details of the approval process and who will officially receive the funds. The next step to look at the last time they requested a proposal and to look at the past facilitators to invite to submit a proposal. Marty will send out what they sent out last time to use that as a starting point. They will discuss the request for proposal during the February ECAC meeting in hopes to send it out and secure a facilitator after the beginning of the state fiscal year, which is July 1.
- Shatriya Collier: next open house is tomorrow afternoon at 4:00pm. We provide professional development partnership.
- Alberto Quintero – are there any updates on the progress on recruiting process for the first cohort and what have you done communication-wise to promote your program.
- Shatriya Collier: waiting for an update on numbers from Admissions department and will follow up today. It is consistent community outreach., so we have been reaching out to our CTE, the teaching and training partnership schools, our recruitment office has been reaching out to different PK2 contacts. We are still trying to gather a contact information for all these early childhood centers on our list.
- Shatriya Collier: we had a press release on the news with Dr. Choi and Carol William, our director of Early Childhood Center, and are continuing social media outreach as well.
- Shatriya Collier: one of our mantras at State College is transforming family trees and thank you for reiterating that power. Also, it is exciting to have the center and the program in the same location we can build that strong sense of community and best practices in our teacher candidates.

7. ITEM D: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS EARLY CHILDHOOD COHORT

Council was updated on the American Association of School Superintendents Early Childhood Cohort is holding an institute. Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office or Early Learning and Development, presented.

- Patti Oya: Conference is on March 4th and 5th (4:00pm-6:00pm) and March 6th (9:00am-12:00pm). Registration is open on List Serve, and it is free to attend. If you do not need a CEU or credit, it is \$40 and must attend all three days if you want .5 credit. It is put on by Nevada Association for School Administrators and partners, is a mix of national and local speakers, and is for administrators and teachers to attend.
- Marty Elquist: Patti sent out the registration information on the ListServ and will put this information in the chat.

8. ITEM E: 2022 + STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE & FUNDING - RFP

Council was updated on subcommittee membership and action step planning. Council was also updated on use of On Strategy and support needs. Updates from Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair; Alberto Quintero & Lori Cox, Family & Community Subcommittee Chairs; Denise Tanata, Health Subcommittee Co-Chair; Tina Springmeyer, Early Learning Subcommittee Co-Chairs, presented.

- Marty Elquist: asked the council if they would make any changes to the facilitator criteria.



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- Alberto Quintero: Do we want to add in a facilitation #3 a question surrounding, is there a focus on equity through plan discussion with adding a plan for equity due to the conversations that have been going on nationally as well.
- Marty: excellent recommendation and absolutely agrees. Asked Alberto for a sentence on this.
- Alberto Quintero: Does the current strategic plan have a focus on equity throughout and ensure that the future plan will have a focus on equity throughout as well.
- Marty: We will add Alberto's recommendation and will take the draft and submit it to our facilitators. Are there any facilitators that this group would like to solicit a proposal from?
- Marty: Members of the public, please feel free to put comments in chat box and members of the council, please email me. She suggested Social Entrepreneurs (SEI) and OnStrategy.

9. ITEM F: BUSINESS COLLABORATORY OVERVIEW & MAPPING

Council discussed the overview of the First Children's Finance Business Collaboratory technical assistance project and Nevada's DRAFT Ecosystem. Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair. Materials: Nevada ECE Ecosystem by County-DRAFT Marty Elquist presented.

- Marty Elquist: the intent of ECE Business Collaboratory is an innovative national collaboration to support state efforts, to coordinate local child care systems.
 - It is a program of First Children's Finance (FCF) and was launched in the Fall of 2020.
 - It is built around the State Child Care Business Ecosystem, which identifies the essential elements of a strong, sufficient, and sustainable system of high-quality child care.
- Marty Elquist: 12 states across the country were selected to receive technical assistance and consultation from FCF to strengthen local child care system.
 - Teams will address local current child care issues and share business best practices and ideas, in order to implement effective, locally focused strategies for more sustainable child care system.
 - Molly Sullivan from FCF will present an overview of the Business Ecosystem at our April meeting.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. ITEM G: SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS AND ROSTER UPDATES

Council was updated on subcommittee membership and action step planning. Council was also updated on use of OnStrategy and support needs. Updates from Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair; Alberto Quintero & Lori Cox, Family & Community Subcommittee Chairs; Denise Tanata & Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, Department of Health & Human Services Subcommittee Co-Chairs; Tina Springmeyer, Early Learning Subcommittee Chair presented.

- Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair: Daina Loeffler has moved on to Nye County and is no longer with the Council. We do not have the item on the agenda to identify a subcommittee chair, but our bylaws do dictate that subcommittee chairs are appointed by the ECAC Chair. It is not an item we have to vote on, so if there are recommendations or a volunteer on the chair that would like to join Tina Springmeyer, please identify yourself.
- Marty will follow up with chair via email.
- Alberto Quintero, Family & Community Subcommittee Chair: In last meeting we met February 3rd, the first meeting with Alberto and Lori Cox as the Co-Chairs and have scheduled our next meeting for March 3rd and are scheduled to meet the 1st Wednesday of each month.
Alberto & Lori reviewed the entirety of the Family & Community Engagement Objectives and Strategies.



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- Action Plan is to input the narratives and updates prior to our next subcommittee meeting and then also decide on the percentage of completion once we have input those narratives as a group.
- Lori Ann Molina-Lovell and Denise Tanata, Health: does not have any additional updates.
- Tina Springmeyer, Early Learning: They met twice and cancelled February's meeting. They set a schedule and will be meeting the 1st Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm. They are looking for a new Co-Chair to take Daina's place.
 - Next steps for strategic plan is to update and then review plan as a subcommittee and are moving forward.
- Marty Elquist: We know that multiple agencies across the state are using the strategic plan for guidance and aligning work to the plan, so it still is serving as that guiding light for us and we need to celebrate that. People are using it in grant writing and programming, and it is doing what it should do.

2. ITEM H: NEW OR UPDATED EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING SOURCES

Council identified 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, ECAC Chair presented.

- Marty Elquist: Asked the Council if there are any new sustainable funding sources for the ECE system. None were noted. Reminded the Council to use the Excel Google sheet to identify any new sources.

3. ITEM I: NEW OR UPCOMING EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Council identified 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. Amanda Haboush-Deloye was not in attendance to give update. Jon Cregg, NevAEYC presented.

- Jon Cregg: Amanda is not present on the call but said there are not any additional needs assessment updates.
- Marty: There is a new needs assessment for early maternal child health division that encompasses the home visiting needs assessment. As soon as she gets more information, she will put it up.
- Marty: We have added a new page to our ECAC website, entitled "Nevada Self-Sufficiency Data". Denise and Marty had a call with University of Washington, and they helped put together self-sufficiency data for Nevada by county. This is important because self-sufficiency costs differ greatly by county and by family type.

4. ITEM J: FACEBOOK PAGE

Status of the ECAC Facebook Page. Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, was not in attendance to give an update.

5. ITEM K: CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATES

Council was updated on CCDF subsidy and resource and referral programs including updates on CARES funding. Crystal Johnson, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive ECAC website under Reports and Documents. Amanda Haboush-Deloye was not present. Nicole Vairo Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program presented.

- Nicole Vairo: filling in for Crystal Johnson and Christell Askew, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Child Care Program. In April when go in front of the legislature, we will then have authority over the CRRSA funding, and therefore be able to move forward. We intend to use that money to sustain existing child care businesses in Nevada and to support the work force in capacity efforts. Hoping once we go in front of legislature in April, we will have exciting news that we got the funding and will be able to hand out the money, because child care really needs it.



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6. ITEM L: CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

Council was updated on Child Care Licensing including impact on COVID and Nevada's Child Care Capacity Latisha Brown, Child Care Licensing.

- Latisha Brown: Licenses are still behind through childcare licensing, but we are working to make sure that it does not affect child care licensing businesses. We have been putting them on provisional licenses and are trying to keep up with those as we work everyone toward a get a continued compliance. There was a moment when our complaint investigations went down, because a lot of our facilities had temporarily closed or had chosen to not to serve children and families, but these facilities have opened back up. We are at 90 percent of most of our facilities being open and fully operational, so our complaints have gone up, which means we have a lot more investigations that have opened up. We are working those right now, which is also playing into the delay of licensure inspections as well. Currently our numbers are steady. We had lost or permanently closed 30 or so facilities, however, we have caught up and have 427 facilities with the state of Nevada. We had opened in March of 2020 with 434 facilities, and we had gone all the way down to 419 facilities. We have about 107 prospective facilities that want to open, so we have prioritized those and working collaboratively to open facilities that are ready and pushing toward compliance. We are happy to see a lot of Family Child Care facilities that are choosing to open, because we had many FCC's that chose to retire due to Covid-19. We will have more updates related to Covid-19 and have been working with OFEE to get information on how to address practices & procedures in facilities. We will be sending this information out List Serve for our facilities and the public and will post this on our Facebook page as well. Childcare facilities are in the second tier for vaccinations, which is underway and despite delays, many of our facilities have scheduled appointments and are getting vaccinated.
- Marty Elquist: We hope to gain back the capacity we have lost. There is a lot of focus and initiatives that we want to start up for all childcare, especially for Family Child Care.

7. ITEM M: LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES

Council was updated for the preparation for Nevada's 2021 Legislative Session and issues related to early childhood. The Children's Advocacy will also discuss the importance of and pending legislation regarding the 2020 Census as it relates to children. Jeanette K Bel, J K Belz and Associates on behalf of Children's Advocacy Alliance.

- Jeanette Belz: We are deeply rooted in the legislative session and are in week 4.
 - All participation is virtual and there several ways to participate virtually, including the opportunity to register/testify on a bill orally and you can pick that budget item on a list. You then go through the process of confirming your identity and it allows you to testify, once the last three digits of your phone number are mentioned.
 - There was a bill draft deadline on the 15th of February and so another 119 bill drafts have been submitted to the legislature on a variety of general topics, which we will not know the specifics on until March. There are two deadlines coming up. There is one on March 15th, which is the point in time when all the bills introduced by individual legislators need to be introduced, with all language available, all bill numbers assigned, and referred to committee. The second date is March 22nd, which is the same process for committee bills. These would be, for example by the Senate Committee on Education or the Assembly Committee on Health. At that point, we will know 95 percent of what will be discussed, unless there are some last-minute topics that could always be introduced by leadership.
 - Want to emphasize the importance of tracking the budgets, and important for legislators to hear from you regarding the importance of the programs you support.



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8. ITEM N: STRONG START UPDATES

Update on the progress of the Strong Start and be asked for guidance in moving the Strong Start agenda and activities forward. Annette Dawson Owens, Children's Advocacy Alliance was not in attendance to give update. There was no other representative from Children's Advocacy Alliance present to update the council.

9. ITEM O: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATES

Council was updated from NDE on KEA, Read by Three, CCDF quality, PDG: B-5, and other NDE early childhood programs and projects. August meeting to include updates on PreK-12 Reopening and the status of PDG: B-5 planning projects. Patti Oya & Stacey Joyner, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education, presented.

- Patti Oya: Read by Grade 3 had a screening requirement and Curriculum Associates /Brigance III Screen was selected as our screening tool. Due to purchasing rules, NDE must now conduct an RFP for the selection of the Kindergarten entry assessment.

10. ITEM P: QRIS UPDATES

Updates on the progress of Silver State Stars QRIS. Emily Champlin, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education, was not in attendance to give update. There was no other representative from the Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education, present to update the council.

11. ITEM Q: PART C & NEIS UPDATE

The council will receive updates on Nevada Early Intervention Services caseload and status of the phased re-entry plan. Lori Ann Molina Lovell, Part C identified. Lori Ann Molina Lovell & Shannon Sprout, presented.

- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell: Our Early Intervention System is comprised of our Part C office, which provides oversight for the system. The system's operations are conducted by the ADSD and by the twelve EI programs throughout the state. Our ADSD colleagues, community partners, and our team have been working tirelessly to establish a gradual phase reentry plan to resume limited face-to-face early intervention services now allowed within a clinic setting.
- We have moved from Phase One and as expected, have moved to Phase Two, as of today, February 24, 2021. These services for Phase Two now include the following services, which can be conducted virtually:
 - Evaluation and Eligibility or what we call "Multi- Disciplinary Team."
 - Functional Vision Assessments
 - Limited Therapy Services
 - Expanded Audiology Testing
- Safety measures are in place for these clinics.
- There is no set date for when home and community services will resume, but planning continues for this to eventually resume. We are also closely monitoring the Covid task force monitor the information, as well as, learning from the previous phases of our system.
- Shannon Sprout: Did not have any additional comments.
- Lori Ann Molina-Lovell: Our Annual Family Survey is going out across the state to families who have been receiving services for at least 6 months. The data that we gather from those surveys is entered into our federal reporting.
- Lori Ann Molina-Lovell: We also have had continued positive feedback regarding our Pyramid Model planning, which is through NCPMI technical assistance. This includes social-emotional supports for families implemented through practitioners and practitioner coaches. We are scaling up to include a Third Cohort soon.



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12. ITEM R: LOCAL ECAC UPDATES

Updates from the local ECACs Local ECAC Chairs presented – no locals in attendance.

13. ITEM S: NEVAEYC UPDATES

Updates from NevAEYC Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center, was not in attendance to give an update.

14. ITEM T: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council discussed what they would like on the upcoming agendas. Council will discuss what they would like on the upcoming agendas. Marty Elquist, Council Chair Council

15. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control, or advisory power. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Council Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Council identified any new or upcoming needs assessments that impact or inform the early childhood system. All needs
11:18am