



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

# NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

## PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 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
- Carrie Paldi, Learning Care Group
- Christell Askew, Nevada Division of Welfare & Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Denise Tanata, Other members as the Governor deems necessary
- Heike Ruedenauer-Plummer, Other members as the Governor deems necessary
- Jocelyn M. Pereira, Other members as the Governor deems necessary
- Latisha Brown, State of Nevada Child Care Licensing
- Linda Young, Other members as the Governor deems necessary
- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, Part C
- Lori Cox, Head Start of Northeastern Nevada
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Megan Schwarzrock, R.N., University of Nevada Early Head Start, Health Representative
- Patrice Gardener, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development, Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Stephanie Wyatt, Aging and Disabilities Services Division, Nevada Early Intervention
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District

#### **Public in Attendance:**

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy
- Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early learning & Development
- Annette Dawson Owens, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
- Briana Patrick
- Brianna Cambra, The Children’s Cabinet
- Brittnee Gilbert, Discount School Supply
- Danielle Holmes, The Children’s Cabinet
- Emily Champlin, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early learning & Development
- Jacqueline Clark, Washington Resource Information Center (WRIC)



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

- Janice Lee, University of Nevada, Reno
- Jeanette Belz, J.K. Belz & Associates
- Jennifer Butler, Las Vegas Urban League
- Jon Bell, Lakeshore Learning Materials
- Julie Houchins, United Way of Southern Nevada
- Kaitlin Lewallen, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early learning & Development
- Kathy Yoder-Bass, The Hills Preschool, NevAEYC Education Development Chair
- Lauren Ryan – The Children’s Cabinet
- Mary Regan, Las Vegas Urban League
- Mia Pace, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early learning & Development
- Molly Sullivan, First Children’s Finance
- Mychelle Weart, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early learning & Development
- Nicole Martin, Division of Welfare & Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early learning & Development
- Rachel Schmidt, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early learning & Development
- Raynee Clark, The Children’s Cabinet
- Scott Jones, Lakeshore Learning Materials
- Shelly Nye, The Nevada Registry
- Sherry L Waugh, University of Nevada, Reno, Child and Family Research Center
- Stacey Joyner, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Tara Phebus, City of Henderson
- Tiffany Olivas, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Todd Hays, Lakeshore Learning Materials
- Tiffany Olivas, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

## 3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

### **Motion:**

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

## 4. ITEM A: MINUTES FROM APRIL 28, 2021

### **Motion:**

- Denise Tanata identified duplicative sentences on items #14 and #16. Marty noted both duplications for correction.
- Patrice Gardener moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted above.
- Lori Cox seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to approve minutes with corrections made.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

#### 5. ITEM B: INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

**Updates on** Early Childhood Business Ecosystem and Nevada strategies and recommendations to improve Nevada Business.

**Molly Sullivan, Director of National Initiatives, First Children's Finance, presented.**

- Molly Sullivan has led a team from the state of Nevada to investigate Nevada's early childhood business ecosystem and the strategies that Nevada has implemented. She is also working to identify which strategies we really need or are missing and will assist the state in putting needed strategies into place.
- Ms. Sullivan used a powerpoint presentation to update the ECAC. The presentation is available on the ECAC website. Molly welcomed the ECAC to review the Nevada Business Collaboratory map and to send Crystal Johnson or Christell Askew any strategies that might have been overlooked.
- Ms. Sullivan thanked Nevada for applying and commended Nevada on a tremendous map.

#### 6. ITEM C: SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY UPDATE

**Updates on the progress of draft changes to Nevada's Suspension and Expulsion Policy. Janice Lee, Nevada Pyramid Model Implementation State Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno, presented. This item was taken out of order.**

- Janice Lee reported that a small workgroup consisting of Edie King and Sheri Fyfe, from the Nevada Part C office and Robin Kincaid, Nevada PEP, convened to update the suspension and expulsion policy statement.
  - Under the purpose statement updates were made to update language as well as to strengthen the equity language around children with disabilities, race and ethnicity, and geography.
  - Changes were made to the Key Terms and Definitions. This section was expanded to better match national language and clarify terms in more detail. Definitions were borrowed from the National Center for Pyramid Model Interventions. Hopefully this will help us all use the correct terminology moving forward.
  - The Overview section was shortened to reference other documents instead of going into more detail. The focus was to keep it short and focus on the impact of suspension and expulsion on children's development.
  - Guidelines for Early Childhood Programs areas are the same, but language was changed for clarity.
  - Under Resources, the statement was updated to include language to clarify it the listing is not an endorsement of these resources or agencies and the Council should review to make sure members also feel these are appropriate.
- Marty Elquist thanked Janice, Edie, Sheri and Robyn for their work and suggested that the ECAC review the draft and come prepared to the June meeting to adopt the updated policy.
- Christell Askew also thanked the group for their work and asked if there is a red-line version.
  - Janice stated that there is a document with red-line changes, but it is way too much as the document was almost all red due to moving sentences around. Janice stated that she could create a different version with the comment boxes of what was changed. Christell stated that it would be helpful.
- Denise Tanata asked how this document is being implemented and communicated at the provider level.
  - Janice responded that there is other work going on supporting providers for implemented at the provider level, but there are challenges. One big challenge is terminology and language and we hopefully cleaned that up. Terms like suspension and expulsion historically has not been used in early childhood settings. Another challenge is support to providers.
  - Denise Tanata commented that one of the biggest barriers to enforce this policy is lack of resources for support and it would be great to have a provider focus group to identify the biggest challenges for implementation so we can make sure they have the resources they need before enforcement.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

- Christell Askew agreed and stated that we need to relook at how we have the support set up because if we are going to ask providers to partner reduce suspension and expulsion, we need to make sure we have the resources for a strong support system.
- Marty Elquist stated another challenge we have seen is support to families as well. We need to address this issue systematically and not just on the provider side.
- Carrie Paldi commented that the parent as partners is key and that getting the perspective from providers is critical as well especially during this very difficult time of COVID.
- Janice Lee stated that when we are talking about really being competent about social-emotional skills, to remember these are essentially higher-level skills. When parents and providers are stressed and are in survival mode, it is very difficult to put into practice.
- Stacey Joyner commented that NR!PK programs are required to develop expulsion and suspension policies that are aligned to this document.
- Kathy Bass commented that the family support aspect is important to think about as well.
- Amanda Haboush commented that yes, teachers need more support and what we have heard is that they need to know how to manage challenging behaviors.
- Tiffany Tyler-Garner, PhD commented that there is a lot of work re ending the school to prison pipeline, where the research suggests the pipeline begins early and is thankful to see this commitment!
- Kathy Bass commented that they train and retrain our parents quarterly on how to cope with mental health and educating their children. Maybe asking schools to do consistent trainings with their families could help educate them.

## 7. ITEM D: 2022 + STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE & FACILITATION

**Council was updated on facilitator recruitment status and possible creation of AdHoc committee to review proposals.**

**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: We updated the facilitator criteria with the lens of equity that Alberto suggested in our last ECAC meeting.
  - The Children's Cabinet, with the support of DWSS, has hired Denise Tanata to align and coordinate the strategic plan in conjunction with aligning and planning for early childhood systems ARP funding use. She will help align the work of the AARP and help be an intermediary with DWSS for the use of those funds.
  - Our status in the strategic planning process is that we have sent out the facilitator Criteria to On Strategy and Denise is going to reach out to SCI. She has a couple other potential facilitators that could lead us through ECE Coordinated systems planning.
- Denise Tanata reported that she is in the process of sending out the criteria and putting out the request for potential facilitators to submit proposals to us. Denise asked if there are any facilitators, individuals, groups, organizations that you think might be a good fit. We are looking for someone who is not only a good facilitator, but maybe has been understanding our state and early childhood work to help develop the plan.
  - Please contact Denise or Marty with any thoughts or ideas on referrals.
- Marty Elquist reported that the facilitator proposal deadline is at the end of May, and we are right on target with the plan.
- Marty Elquist suggested the creation of an ad hoc committee to review the proposals, as it was too much to do all the scoring in a full ECAC meeting. Marty requested the thoughts of the Council on coming up with an ad hoc committee



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

to create a similar scoring rubric like we did for the last strategic planning, to create more efficiency and then give recommendations with the scoring of the proposals to the full ECAC to make the final decision.

- Denise Tanata agreed to put together an ad hoc committee and offered to support the subcommittee and do the back-end work.
- Tina Springmeyer agreed and offered to join the Ad Hoc committee.
- Lori Cox agreed and offered to participate.
- Patrice Gardener agreed and offered to participate.
- Marty Elquist called for a motion to create a strategic planning facilitator ad hoc committee.

#### **Motion**

- Denise Tanata made the motion to establish the strategic planning facilitator ad hoc committee.
- Christell Askew seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to establish the strategic planning facilitator ad hoc committee.
- Marty Elquist asked what additional members would like to participate.
- Denise Tanata asked if non-ECAC members were welcome to join the Ad Hoc committee.
- Marty Elquist replied that our bylaws state that committees must be chaired by a member of the ECAC, but that member of public can join ECAC committees, so it is open.
- Denise Tanata thanked Emily Champlin, Kathy Bass, Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Jocelyn Pereira, Stacey Joyner, Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, and Julie Houchins who agreed to participate as well.

## 8. ITEM E: HEALTH RESOURCE SERVICES AGENCY (HRSA) EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM GRANT

**Council was updated on Nevada's HRSA grant application. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive System Director, The Children's Cabinet, presented.**

- Denise Tanata reported that the HRSA grant was due on March 15th.
- The Children's Cabinet is serving as the lead with support. This grant addresses ongoing access and service delivery needs in the context of an evolving health care system and sets forth four mission-critical goals:
  - Goal 1: Increase the state level infrastructure and capacity in the data to strengthen our statewide maternal and early childhood systems of care.
    - Creation of ECCS Director Position
    - Creation of ECCS Parent Engagement Coordinator Position
    - Establishment of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood
    - Establishment of an Early Childhood Cabinet
  - Goal 2: Increase coordination and alignment between maternal coordination alignment and child health and other statewide systems that impact young children & families to advance a common vision for early developmental health and family well-being in Nevada.
    - NV Cross Sector Needs Assessment Analysis
    - NV Cross Sector Fiscal Mapping Analysis
    - NV Unified P-3 Strategic plan
  - Goal 3: Increase the capacity of health in early childhood systems in NV to deliver and effectively connect families to a continuum of services that promote early developmental health and family well-being, beginning prenatally.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

- Coordinated Intake & Referral System (CIRS)
- Expansion of Community Health Workers (CHWS)
- Goal 4: Identify and implement policy and financing strategies that support the funding and sustainability of multigenerational, preventive services and systems for the P-3 population Nevada.
  - P-3 Fiscal Analysis & Assessment
  - P-3 Policy Analysis & Assessment
  - Incorporation of Strategies in P-3 Strategic Plan
- Goal 5: Increase the state-level capacity to advance equitable and improved access to services for underserved P-3 populations.
  - Health Equity Data Analysis
  - Enhanced Collection & Utilization of Cross Sector Data (disaggregated)
  - Parent Leadership Integration
- Denise stated that when we get the HRSA grant we will need to request support for the following:
  - MCHAB Representation & Coordination
  - Integration of MCHAB Priorities in P-3 Strategic Plan
  - Communications and Outreach
  - Data Collection & Analysis
  - Policy & Fiscal Alignment
- Marty Elquist asked Denise to discuss the parallel strategic planning process and how the HRSA grant and the ECAC Strategic Planning process related.
  - Denise Tanata replied that the plan is to have our ECAC strategic plan in place by the end of this year. We are hopeful with the facilitator process that we will hopefully have a plan in place by the end of this year. We are looking at the Unified Prenatal to Three State Plan that we are talking about in this HRSA grant would be integrated with ECAC Strategic Plan, would not replace it. It would be a part of it. We will looking at some of the strategies and objectives that we have included around data collection, equity, focus on health integration piece, and parent leadership so that we will be working concurrently on both of those plans.
  - Marty Elquist commented that it is important for us to have specific focus on our infants and toddlers and alignment between all plans.

## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. ITEM F: SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS AND ROSTER UPDATES

**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; Lori Ann Molina-Lovell & Denise Tanata Health Subcommittee Co-Chairs; Tina Springmeyer, Early Learning Subcommittee Chairs, presented.**

- Marty Elquist announced that Jenna Welgarz-Ward has agreed to co-chair the Early Learning Subcommittee with Tina Springmeyer and will start providing this support in June.
- Alberto Quintero and Lori Cox reported that the Family & Community Committee will begin to meet again in May and are planning on the third Monday of every month thereafter.
- Marty Elquist noted that with Denise's new role, she has agreed to sit on every committee to inform DWSS with recommendations for the use of ARP funding, as well as the facilitation of the ECAC's new strategic plan, She will





## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

help support consistency in the use of OnStrategy and will give the committees a little more support with moving forward.

- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell reported that the Child & Family Health Committee met April 13 and reviewed outstanding objectives and action steps. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 4 when the committee plans to focus on potential changes for the next strategic plan. Denise added that the committee's charge is really to improve access to health care and welcomed anyone who is interested in serving on the subcommittee to contact her or Lori Ann.
- Tina Springmeyer provided an update for the Early Learning Committee who met on April 7, 2021. The committee reviewed the minutes from the previous meetings. The committee reviewed the strategies and the large number of indicators and reported that the committee is feeling overwhelmed with the amount of work that is represented. The committee focused on the critical need to stabilize the child care industry and programs across the state. Tina reported that she is busy updating the indicators and thanked Anna Severens for her support and is very excited for Denise's support.

## 2. ITEM G: 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 reviewed the funding map on the ECAC website reminding the Council that the map is meant to illustrate the sustained funding sources that support our early childhood system.
- Marty asked Christell Askew if ARP funds should be added given that they are multi-year. Christell agreed that the funds should be represented.
- Denise Tanata offered to update the funding map to reflect the ARP funds and the activities that the funds will support.
- Carrie Paldi commented that we should add a column on the funding map to indicate if the funds are ongoing or for a specific number of years. Marty and Christell agreed.

## 3. ITEM H: 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, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy, presented.**

- Marty Elquist reminded the Council of the location of the needs assessments and the workbook that Amanda Haboush-Deloye and her team created to inventory all needs assessments that focus on children and families. NICRP continues to maintain this inventory which is a critical tool for anyone doing grant writing or program planning.
- Amanda reminded attendees and Council members that if there are brand new needs assessments to let her know.

## 4. ITEM I.: FACEBOOK PAGE

**Discussed the status of the ECAC Facebook Page. Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, presented.**

- Anna Severens reported that we have 320 followers.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

#### 5. ITEM J: CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATES

**Council was updated on CCDF subsidy and resource and referral programs including updates on CARES, CRRSA and ARP funding. Christell Askew, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services presented.**

- Christell Askew reported that CCDP is currently drafting the state plan for fiscal year 2023-2025, which is due in June to the Office of Child Care. CCDP is in the collaboration phase of the plan and is having all sub-recipients review the draft and provide input. CCDP will also be engaging in consultation on the plan with other early childhood stakeholders. Once all feedback is received, the plan will be available on the Nevadachildcare.org website for public review and feedback.
  - CCDP will be conducting a public hearing and the date is currently being determined.
- Christell reported that the first round of CARES funding brought about \$32M to Nevada with which operating grants were offered to providers. With the COVID Response and Relief funds (CRRSA), Nevada received about \$92M. We just received IFC authority over those funds on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are working with The Children's Cabinet to use the majority of these fund for child care provider operation stabilization stipends.
- Christell announced that the state now has approximately \$360M in ARP dollars, but still do not have a lot of guidance on the use of the funds. We know that approximately 65% of the funds must be used for provider stabilization operating grants. CCDP is busy planning for the use of ARP funds as we do not want to wait to plan. One area of focus will be supporting and recruiting the workforce and removing administrative burden from providers and try to help with cost savings through shared services. Regardless, alignment is happening with the Business Collaboratory work that Molly discussed early, the ECAC strategic plan, the CCDF plan, and of course Pritzker.
- Christell stated that CCDP is developing a COVID database and dashboard so the public can see everything we are doing with these funds and to hopefully show outcomes of the funding.
- Denise Tantata stated that there will be listening and input sessions for parents and providers to get more information on current needs.

#### 6. ITEM K: 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 presented.**

- Latisha Brown reported that licenses are still behind through child care licensing, but licensing is working to make sure that it does not affect child care licensing businesses. Provisional licenses are being used at this time and Licensing is trying to work with providers to achieve continued compliance.
- Latisha stated that 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.
- Latisha continued 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 up 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 up 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 a large number of FCC's that chose to retire due to Covid-19.
  - Marty Elquist asked how many applicants are Family Child Care. Latisha responded about 30.





## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

- Latisha stated that they have been working with OFEE to get information on how to address practices & procedures in facilities. Licensing will be sending this information out via List Serv for our facilities and the public and will post this on our Facebook page as well. Child care 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.
- Latisha continued that a big concern of providers is finding staff.
  - Carrie Paldi asked about TB tests and the difficulty of getting a TB test to meet the licensing requirement.
  - Latisha responded that there is more than one way to get a TB test that is acceptable to licensing and it is just about educating our providers so they know their options.
  - Carrie suggested putting the information back out on the List Serv.

#### 7. ITEM L: 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, presented.**

- Jeanette Belz reported that April 9<sup>th</sup> was the deadline at which all bills had to get out of the first committee, but some were exempted from the deadline. April 20<sup>th</sup> was the deadline to get out of the 1st house. We had some bills die and are watching AB189 very closely, which is the presumptive eligibility for pregnant women. Another bill in its entirety was actually amended into that bill. So even though it looks like AB193 failed to meet the deadline, technically it did because the bill number is no longer alive, but the entire contents of that bill, which expands Medicaid coverage of postpartum and other services for pregnant women was amended into AB189.
- Another bill that Belz is watching is AB191, which is Medicaid coverage of community health workers under certain circumstances.
- Session is to be concluded no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### 8. ITEM M: 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, presented.**

- Annette Dawson reported that CAA is working with John Cregg on the Parent Ambassador program and they have been meeting monthly. At a recent Town Hall that CAA hosted, we had a parent talk about what access to quality child care meant for her and her daughter.
- Annette Dawson reported that CAA hosted an event with Congresswoman Susie Lee who highlighted the importance of access to child care and importance of keeping our child care programs running.
- Annette Dawson stated CAA is also utilizing parents in the Constituent Council. Parents were also a part of Children's Week at the Legislature.
- CAA continues to hold calls every second Monday. Last was on financial literacy and the next will be on mental health.
- CAA has a new coordinator for the Strong Start Prenatal to Three initiative, Jamelle Nance and they are very excited to get her on board.
- Additional activities include: Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium presentation, National Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, child care press releases, child care story collection and dissemination, signing onto childcare recovery letter, coffee chat with Senator Donder Loop regarding children's mental health, Medicaid and CHIP, maternal mortality review committee network meeting to discuss birthing inequities, and child care essentials tool kit.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

- Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Gardner stated that CAA is very interested in other partners joining CAA in leveraging the communication.
  - Marty Elquist asked where the child care essential tool kit could be located and Dr. Tyler-Gardner replied that the kit is on their website.

#### 9. ITEM N: 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. Patrice Gardner, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education, presented.**

- Patrice Gardner reported that the NDE budget was approved by the Joint Committee yesterday. They approved to restore PreK, which had been cut by 6.2 million during the special session, back to 19.7M. The seat cost is based on \$8410/student and we will be able to serve 2342 children down from 3094 in 2019-2020.
- Denise Tanata asked about the additional \$5M and if the 594 seats that go with that are for just one year or per? Stacey Joyner responded that they will get further clarification on the funds.
- Patrice Gardner stated that West Ed put together an excellent communications document that very clearly outlines the funding issues and will sent out soon. The document will help laying out the funding and importance for our legislature, which the communication has been somewhat complicated over the years.
  - Marty Elquist commented that we can put the information on the ECAC website when it is available along with the Child Care Toolkit that Dr. Tyler-Gardner mentioned previously. Ms. Elquist recommended a separate ECAC webpage just for communications. Dr. Tyler-Gardner responded that she liked the idea and will add links or share resources as needed.

#### 10. ITEM O: QRIS UPDATES

**Updates on the progress of Silver State Stars QRIS. Emily Champlin, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education, presented.**

- Emily Champlin reported that in-person coaching has resumed for programs that are open and allowing visitors. QRIS has also resumed assessments and have worked with providers to schedule times that best meet their circumstances. QRIS continues to be flexible and adjusts based on provider needs and survey responses, but are doing their best to keep providers on schedule. Still working on a case-by-case basis as we are not out of the woods yet.
- There have been 39 programs rated from April 2020 through April 2021. That is a pretty low number, but we had limited assessments conducted due to the pandemic. There is nothing definitive yet regarding the impact of COVID affecting star ratings. 16 of the 39 programs received their first star rating. 23 of the programs received their re-rating. Only two of the re-rated programs had a decrease in star rating.
- QRIS is hosting a QRIS “reception” at 5pm tonight in conjunction with the NevAEYC conference.
- Emily reported that over the last year, QRIS and licensing have bi-monthly calls, which have been very successful in making sure messaging is consistent from all ends. They are working on a cross walk between licensing standards/item and QRIS/ERS indicators to ensure we are not sending a conflicting message.
- Emily reported that they are also working on streamlining the FCC and Center-based model using data of what indicators are most important for quality.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

### 11. ITEM P: PART C & NEIS UPDATE

**Council was updated on Nevada Early Intervention Services caseload and status of the phased re-entry plan. Lori Ann Molina Lovell, Part C, presented.**

- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell reported that the 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 occur in the next few months. We are also closely monitoring the COVID task force monitor the information, as well as, learning from the previous phases of our system.
- Lori Ann Molina-Lovell reported that they have seen a decrease in early intervention enrollment statewide to 9.5% in December 2020 with 2956 enrolled compared to December 2019 when 3265 children were enrolled. We need to increase enrollment.
- 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. Now have 5 programs out of 12 statewide participating in Pyramid Model and are scaling up to include a Third Cohort soon.
- 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.
- The Council for Exceptional Children Early Childhood international conference will be in September and it will remain virtual this year. A proposal has been submitted to present.
- Shannon Sprout: Did not have any additional comments.

### 12. ITEM Q: LOCAL ECAC UPDATES

Updates from the local ECACs Local ECAC Chairs **presented.**

(Information/Discussion) Updates from the local ECACs Local ECAC Chairs

- Marty Elquist reported that she received an email update from Tiffany Olivas on the Carson Douglas ECAC. They have not met in 2021.
- Stephanie Wyatt reported that Indian Education Advisory Committee held a meeting last month and it was the first since August of last year. The Tribal ECAC is now a part of the Advisory Committee and Denise Tanata agreed to reach out to the Advisory Council with Stephanie's assistance to get an update on the status of the Tribal ECAC and help draw the connection between the ECAC strategic plan and the work of the locals.
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye reported for the Southern Nevada ECAC. The last meeting was in March and focused on Children's Week, which was virtual this year. Amanda reported great participation from parents. Planning is beginning



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

for Step Up for Kids that usually takes place in September and will hopefully be in person. Amanda reported that it was challenging to do online last year. They will be reaching out to other community partners statewide for participation. The group also discussed that the Early Childhood Obesity Committee is working on their 5-year strategic plan and that plan and activities should be incorporated into the larger ECAC strategic plan. The plan will hopefully be finalized in October.

- Marty Elquist asked that if Amanda would like to present the plan to the ECAC when finalized, to please email Marty and we will put the item on the agenda.
- Anna Severens reported that Laura Malkovich is no longer with Churchill County. Anna stated that she has talked to Gerald, the PreK Administrator for Churchill, and the focus has been on the PreK program but is interested in starting up the local ECAC with support.
  - Denise Tantata stated that she can work with Anna offline to connect with Gerald and offer support to refresh the Churchill County ECAC.
- Anna Severens reported that the Washoe County ECAC has remained focus on moving the B-3 work forward. Melissa Burnham is leading a cohort of principals for a national P3 certificate that is aligned to the work that was conducted under the B-3 planning grant. They are sending out a flyer to recruit 20 principals for the cohort. Scholarships are available for principals to participate, which is a \$2000 value. Additionally, Kasey Edgington has been leading a developmentally appropriate kindergarten group and just completed a four-month virtual learning series. They hope to continue the work.

### 13. ITEM R: NEVAEYC UPDATES

#### **Updates from NevAEYC Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center, presented.**

- Carrie Paldi reported that the focus is the statewide conference which is in full swing. The conference is virtual and will take place through this Saturday. Carrie stated that even though the conference is virtual, there are some great ways to engage and participate. The keynote speaker for the conference is Joelle Hood, Co-Found and Chief Empowerment Office for Thriving YOUiversity. DEC Day is also being held tomorrow with a focus on the impact of trauma in young children and how they can help their relationships. Carrie commented that this is very timely topic given the pandemic and the associated trauma on children's lives.

### 14. ITEM S: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

#### **Council discussed what they would like on the upcoming agendas.**

- Suspension & Expulsion Policy Adoption
- UNLV Interns
- Any additional items, please email Marty
- Denise Tanata asked if we could have an update on Pritzker. Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garder agreed but questioned the difference between Strong Start update and Pritker and asked if the update could happen under Strong Start.
  - Denise and Tiffany agreed to clarify the items offline.
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye reported that the Strong Start update was originally on the agenda for the parent group and related work.

### 15. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

- Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Gardner asked if we can have an update on the American Family Plan and integration with other federal funding and policy. Denise agreed that she would present on that item.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

- Dr. Linda Young stated that she would like to share information about the Early Learning Institute scheduled for March 3-5, 2022 either virtually or at College of Southern Nevada for the ECAC June agenda to get Council recommendations and presentation suggestions.

### 16. ADJOURNMENT

- 12:23pm