



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

# NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

## PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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, 9:02 AM. Quorum is met.

#### **Council Members in Attendance:**

- Alberto Quintero, Nevada Department of Education
- Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
- Christell Askew, Division of Welfare and Supportive
- Denise Tanata, The Children’s Cabinet
- Heike Ruedenauer-Plummer, Other Members as Appointed by the Governor
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Nevada System of Higher Education
- Jocelyn M. Pereira, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Latisha Brown, Department of Public & Behavioral Health-Child Care
- Linda Young, Other Members as Appointed by the Governor
- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell, Department of Health and Human Services, Part C
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Patrice Gardner, Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early Intervention Services, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District

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

- Allison Godfrey, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education,
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy
- David M. Gardener, Office of the Attorney General
- Diane Nicolet, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees
- Emily Champlin, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education,
- Jamelle Nance, Children’s Advocacy Alliance Nevada
- Janice Lee, University of Nevada Reno, Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership
- Jennifer Butler, Las Vegas Urban League
- John Ball, Professionals in Philanthropy



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- John Cregg, Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children
- Cathleen Rexing, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Lauren Ryan, The Children's Cabinet
- Maria Knight, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Mary Regan, Las Vegas Urban League
- Nicole Vairo, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Nicole Martin, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Rachel Schmidt, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Sherry Waugh, University of Nevada Reno, Child and Family Research Center
- Stacey Joyner, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Stacey Wedding, Professionals in Philanthropy
- Sydney Banks, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Susan Du, Senior Stakeholder for Outreach Resources
- Tiffany Olivas, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Leah Case, Beltz and Case Government Affairs, on behalf of Children's Advocacy Alliance

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

## 3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

### Motion:

- Linda Young moved for the approval of flexible agenda.
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carried. Flexible agenda approved.

## 4. ITEM A: MINUTES FROM JUNE 23, 2021

### Motion:

- No items presented for correction.
- Latisha Brown moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted above.
- Denise Tanata seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to approve minutes with corrections made.

## 5. ITEM C: OPEN MEETING LAW REFRESHER

**Council was updated on the presentation on Open Meeting Law and an overview of the recent changes in AB254. Open Meeting Law may be found under NRS 241. David M. Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Government & Natural Resources Division, Office of the Attorney General presented.**

- David Gardner updated the Council on Open Meeting Law and provided an overview of the recent changes to AB253.



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- Legislative Intent refers to the purpose of public bodies is to openly and transparently conduct people's business and because of that whenever a quorum of any public is meeting to take actions or deliberations, they must be done in public, so that the public knows what is going on.
- The Open meeting Law applies to all meetings of public bodies and includes all government bodies and that includes subcommittees to the public bodies.
- The Legislature, a couple sessions back, decided to put into statute exactly what a public is and includes any government including administrative, advisory, executive, or legislative body of the State or local government, and involves people working outside of government, consisting of 2 or more people is public body. The formula for this is Quorum + (Deliberation or Action) = Meeting and the Open Meeting Law is there, and you must comply with it.
- There is an issue that they run into a lot, called "walking quorums" and it is when less than a majority, less than a quorum meets and you talk about anything, including topics that will be in front of the board, which is fine. The problem issue occurs when those people go and talk to other people about the same issue and now if the total of all those people who talked about it is the majority, a quorum, you have then violated the Open Meeting Law. This is something that you must be very careful about.
- Another issue they run into a lot is "Replying all" to an email, so we tell staff members to BCC or CC your staff, so that if you reply all, you are basically replying, back to that staff member. They have had issues with this because "Reply All" email chains (majority) constitute a meeting and you will violating Open Meeting Law.
- Key Requirements for a Meeting taken from NRS 241 include:
  - Agenda: must provide full notice full disclosure and discussion of topics and any possible action.
  - Decisions: Deliberation and action must be properly noticed and taken openly.
  - Public Comment: at beginning/end or before any action item.
  - Materials: Supporting materials must be available to the public when provided to the public body members.
  - Minutes: Minutes must be approved within 45 days or at the next meeting, whichever occurs later.
  - Facilities: Must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the facilities are large enough to accommodate the anticipated number of attendees.
- Agenda items must be Clear and Complete" refers to the degree of specificity necessary for topics of substantial interest to the public. You must be very clear on what you are discussing, so that if public is interested, they are clear on what will be discussed from the agenda.
- Member reports must be aligned to the agenda.
- Member comments are problematic because they invite discussion, for instance when someone brings up a good point, but it is not on the agenda, you cannot discuss it and you cannot discuss the point until it is agenzized.
- Public comments are very hard to restrict, and the statute has limited drastically, your ability to sensor public comments.
- Public comment restrictions must be reasonable "time, place, and manner" and you cannot:
  - Halt comments based on viewpoint of speaker
  - Halt comment critical of a public official
  - Make unnecessary restrictions such as requiring the public to sign up hours before the meeting.



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- The presiding officer may halt **comments that are willfully disruptive** by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational, or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers, or that stray from the scope of an agenda topic or which comment is offered.
  - The presiding officer may also halt **conduct that is willfully disruptive**. The OML does not “prevent the removal of any person who willfully disrupts a meeting to the extent that its orderly conduct is made impractical.” NRA 241.030(4)(a).
  - Remotely technology system means any system or other means of communication which uses electronic, digital, or other similar technology to enable a person from a remote location to attend and participate in any action within the meeting, without being physically present. This is like the virtual meeting that is being held now.
  - Typically, with the OML you must have a physical location. Under the changes made last session you no longer must have a physical location and would provide a copy of the supportive materials on your website, because there is no physical location.
  - Exceptions include closed sessions can be held under the statute, if you are going to talk about the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence, or the physical or mental health of a person.
  - Non-Meetings are social functions, to receive information from your attorney employed or retained by the public body regarding potential or existing litigation, training if there is no deliberation or action on any matter, pre-meeting discussions to remove or delay any items from the agenda.
  - Violations – any actions taken in violation of Open Meeting Law are void.
  - The OAG can sue you and your board, subpoena authority to investigate. The OAG typically will not investigate complaints regarding alleged violations of the OML and the ability to decline to investigate the violation if it is determined that the interests of complainant are not affected by the alleged violation with some exceptions. If you violate the OML at the advisement of your board attorney.
  - The Nevada Open Meeting Law Manual is available online for reference and have a DAG on call to answer any questions.
- David Gardner said to contact him with any questions that may come up via phone at (702) 486-5714 or by email at [dgardner@ag.nv.gov](mailto:dgardner@ag.nv.gov)
  - Marty Elquist asked the Council if they had any questions.
  - Patti Oya asked about checking to make sure they are following the proper steps for posting requirements for virtual meetings. She said their steps were to post hard copies at their Las Vegas and 5<sup>th</sup> Street office, they do a posting on the Nevada Public Notice website, put it on their Nevada Department of Education meeting calendar and then they send it out on their ListServ with link to the ECAC website and the support materials.
  - David Gardner replied that it is not a requirement to post the hard copies at their Las Vegas and 5<sup>th</sup> Street Offices.
  - Patti Oya asked what the difference was between a virtual meeting and an in-person meeting for location and materials.
  - David Gardner replied that there must be any support materials at the physical location that members received and just one copy of the material is necessary.
  - Heike Ruedenauer-Plummer asked if the law that was just passed was just during Covid and would they have to go back to in person meetings or is it a law without any specific time requirements.
  - David Gardner replied that the Governor allowed them to do an Emergency Executive Declaration because OML did not allow for online meetings.
  - Marty Elquist thanked David Gardner for all of the information and overdue refresher on Open Meeting Law.



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#### 6. ITEM C: ECAC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

**Council was updated on the ECAC Chair and Vice Chair Nominations and Election. The officers of the Council shall be a Council Chair and Council Vice Chair. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Council. Election of each position is determined by a simple majority vote.**

**Terms of officers may be up to three years and officers may serve more than one term upon election of the Council. Marty Elquist, Council Chair**

- Marty Elquist announced that she would not be returning as Chair and has enjoyed the six years she spent as the Chair. She asked the Council for nominations for a Council Chair and Council CoChair
  - Carrie Paldi nominated Denise Tanata for Chair.  
Carrie Paldi is withdrawing for CoChair.
  - Carrie Paldi would like nominate Patrice Gardener CoChair.
  - Patrice Gardener thanked Carrie.
  - Denise Tanata accepted nomination.
  - Marty Elquist called for a motion for the nomination of Denise Tanata for Chair and the nomination for Patrice Gardener as CoChair.
- **Motion:**
  - Carrie Paldi moved for the approval of the nomination of Denise Tanata for Council Chair and the nomination of Patrice Gardner for CoChair.
  - Alberto Qunitero seconded the motion.
  - All were in favor.
  - Motion carries to approve the nomination of Denise Tanata as the Council Chair and the nomination for Council CoChair.
- Marty Elquist offered her congratulations to Denise Tanata.
- Denise Tanata thanked everyone and said that she looks forward to working with everyone in this capacity.
- Marty Elquist congratulated Patrice Gardener.
- Patrice Gardener thanked Marty and said she looks forward to working with Denise.
- Carrie Paldi congratulated Denise and Patrice and added that she thought they will both be outstanding leadership for our Council.
- Denise Tanata thanked Marty and Carrie for their leadership over the years leading the Council.
- Marty Elquist thanked everyone and said she appreciated everyone's comments and comments in the chat also. She said looks forward to their leadership and working together on all the work there is to be done.

#### 7. ITEM D: 2022 + STRATEGIC PLAN FACILITATOR INTRODUCTION AND NEXT STEPS

**Council was updated on the presentation from the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Facilitator Committee on recommendation for 2022+ Strategic Planning Facilitator. Denise Tanata, ECAC Member and Ad Hoc Committee Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata said that they are very excited about their upcoming Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Facilitator Committee retreat and all the Council members and key stakeholders who have participated in the focus groups and interviews they have had during this process. She also said she wanted to formally introduce the 2022 + Strategic Plan Facilitators to the Council.
- Denise Tanata introduced Stacey Wedding, CEO/Chief Strategist, Professionals in Philanthropy, and her team to update the Council.
- Stacey Wedding thanked Denise and the Council and introduced John Ball and Rose Park, who have been key members in their team and reported



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- They started the process with a survey and had about 138 respondents out of the 150 they sent it out to, which was a good response rate.
- They held focus groups with ECAC subcommittees, which followed the surveys, to discuss the priorities, top-of-mind issues and strengths, and weaknesses for the plan.
- Then they moved into individual interviews with 20 individuals and dug deeper to flush out some of the things they had heard from the focus groups and from the survey.
- The highlights of some of the key themes were as follows which were not all that surprising and were in alignment as a group:
  - Everyone mentioned the strength of the early childhood network, which is a small, but a close network. Many people serve together on committees, bodies, groups, and advisory bodies and collaborate on their work which everyone voiced as one of their strengths.
  - There was also focus on top-of-mind issues, such as a desire for some greater advocacy and influence in policy, getting more champions for their work in early childhood throughout the state.
  - They also heard that the current strategic plan had been very overwhelming for some people and is very large with more than 240 objectives and they heard loud and clear that there was a need to streamline, focus, and prioritize the process.
- They have taken this feedback and moved into discussions with the strategic planning subcommittee on what this will look for the retreat. They are putting together a different kind of retreat, so that it builds off all the work they have already done and presents a platform of potential goals and objectives to react to and adds to a common shared framework that everyone is familiar with and has worked with before. There will be a lot of opportunity in having a common starting place in working with a tool and framework they are comfortable with but will also be able to think more on a systems level.
  - They heard several people mention the need to get out of the details and program level details and move the focus to the greater system, while ensuring that it is connected so that each person knows the role they play in the larger system.
- They thanked the strategic planning subcommittee for helping guide and shape the direction they will be taking at the retreat.
- The retreat will be 2 full days, November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the UNR Extension and Denise has sent out the invitation on Eventbrite, so that members can join virtually.
- They are excited to present a different approach that will guide everyone toward where they want to be in developing the 2022+ Strategic Plan.
- Denise Tanata thanked Stacey and announced that they are taking registrations for the in-person part of the retreat due to space and following health and safety guidelines, however there is still in-person space available and the virtual option, which does not require pre-registration and is open to anyone who is not able to attend in-person.
  - The link will be available on the agenda when it is sent out, at least a week prior to the meeting.
  - If you want to attend in-person, make certain to complete the registration on Eventbrite for both days, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
  - If anyone needs the link again or if there is anyone that you would like to invite to attend the retreat, please reach out to Denise Tanata and she will provide her email in the chat box.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward asked Denise to verify that if they are a member of the ECAC, they do not have to complete the registration.





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- Denise Tanta replied that this correct and ECAC members were added separately and do not have to register for the retreat. She will be following with any members who were undecided on whether they were attending in-person or virtually and will send an email out to verify this.
- Marty Elquist added that the rsvp list is very close to meeting quorum, so it is important to let them asap if their plans change or if they are tentative, because they have people travelling to attend this meeting and travel costs.
- Marty Elquist thanked Stacey, John, Rose, and Denise for her Ad Hoc leadership. She stated that they are looking forward to this 2-day retreat to refresh, revision and to rebuild a solid foundation for their structure and added that she looks forward to their discussion.

#### 8. ITEM E: UNLV INTERNS TO SUPPORT ECAC

**Council updated on using UNLV interns to support the work of the ECAC. Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ECAC Member and Assistant Professor, Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual and Special Education, UNLV, presented.**

- Jenna Weglarz-Ward asked if they could table this item and start these internships next Fall semester, because their students and faculty are too overwhelmed right now. She stated that the ECAC knows this is important and added that she thought it would be valuable to connect it to the strategic planning outcomes that occur and wanted to open it up for discussion at a future meeting.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward asked Marty what meeting in the future would make sense to finalize this and then start these positions in the Fall semester of 2022.
- Marty Elquist replied that this is certainly understandable and if they are going to start in the Fall of 2022, then she would recommend that it be tabled no later than the April's agenda, 2022. She added that they will have their strategic plan wrapped up and have a clear vision of how the UNLV interns will be able to support the ECAC.
- Marty Elquist asked Jenna if this would work to table it for April's agenda.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward replied in agreement and said this would be perfect.
- Carrie Paldi asked Jenna if there is a number of interns, that will be made available for support.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward replied that they had not discussed this and that they will have a clearer idea of how this works after the strategic planning meeting and finalized in the April meeting and she will touch base with the members for feedback on what would be most helpful.
- Carrie Paldi added that she felt this would be helpful when they think about their tasks the tasks they do, work the through the strategic plan

#### STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

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

**Council was updated on subcommittee membership and action step planning. Update on the use of OnStrategy and support needs. Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair; Alberto Quintero & Lori Cox, Family & Community Subcommittee Chairs; Lori Ann Molina-Lovell & Denise Tanata Health Subcommittee Co-Chairs; Tina Springmeyer & Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Early Learning Subcommittee Co-Chairs presented.**

- Alberto Quintero reported member updates to their subcommittee.
  - They are sad that Heike Ruedenauer-Plummer is leaving and thanked her for all her work and wished her well her work going forward.
  - Angela Rose, Community and Youth Development Officer, City of Las Vegas, is now joining their subcommittee and they are very excited to have her onboard and the insight she will be able to offer.



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- Alberto Quintero reported they are continuing to review and update the progress the use of OnStrategy and this is continuous. They also were able to participate with Denise Tanata and Stacey Wedding in providing feedback for the strategic plan on August 20, 2021, and they really enjoyed the opportunity to give feedback, while simultaneously working on the strategic plan.
- Denise Tanata reported that the Health Subcommittee is meeting regularly, every other month. The focus has been focused on the strategic planning discussions and their last meeting focused on preparation and providing input for the strategic planning focus and working with Stacey Wedding and her team.
- They also had had a resignation from their board, Megan Schwarzrock, who was the new health representative. They do have this vacancy there if anyone is interested in filling that position and are looking at who may be a good fit.
- They have another meeting coming up on November 2, 2021 and will be focusing on their final input for the current strategic plan and getting that information in OnStrategy. They will also reach out to the subcommittees to make sure that information is up to date so they can submit the annual report to Legislative Council Bureau by December 1, 2021.
- Denise Tanata asked Lori Ann Molina-Lovell if she had anything additional to add.
  - Lori-Ann Molina-Lovell replied that she wanted to add that are they having a presentation during the next meeting on November 2, 2021, regarding the updates, related to Roseman and Head Start.
- Tina Springmeyer reported she and Jenna Weglarz-Ward have not been productive since school started due to not being able to coordinate their schedules. Tina reported that they are meeting this week to update their OnStrategy and to get back on track. She does have their roster and will be refreshing with their members.
  - Jenna Weglarz-Ward did not comment on any updates to report.
- Marty Elquist asked council members if there were any questions regarding their subcommittee progress or roster updates for any of their chairs.

## 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 and Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Systems Director, The Children's Cabinet as Co-Chair presented.**

- Marty Elquist reported that the funding map has not been updated on her end and asked Denise Tanata if she had updated the funding map.
  - Denise Tanata answered that she has not updated the funding map.
- Denise Tanata reported that they are planning to do fiscal mapping for the entire early childhood system and will be revamping and looking at how all these systems align together. This will be a work project activity for next year.
  - Marty Elquist stated they were looking forward to this project as well, stating that funding is critically important and asked Denise if she thought they should revamp this agenda item for December's agenda.
  - Denise Tanata replied yes in agreement.
  - Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated that most of the university programs in Nevada have recently received child care access for parents in school funding to support tuition and other costs for students who are parents on Nevada campuses. Jenna asked Marty how to add this to the funding map.
  - Marty Elquist replied that the link is under Reports and Documents on the right side of the page and under Reports and Needs Assessment, the fifth bullet down is Funding Map. She stated that she believed she added all the ECAC members as editors and suggested that Jenna add a row at the end with information on this funding and said to contact her with any questions.
  - Jenna Weglarz-Ward thanked Marty.





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- Denise Tanata commented that as they complete the fiscal mapping, they will be reaching out to everyone to find out what funding is still available, where the amounts are looking at sources and will also look at a process that will auto-populate new sources as they become available.
- Marty Elquist thanked Denise and asked the council members if anyone had any additional questions regarding the funding map or early childhood funding sources.

### 3. ITEM H: NEW OR UPDATED EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

**Council 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. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy presented.**

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye reported that they updated the needs assessments and added fifteen more that were on general topics and some of the substance use needs assessment that were just completed.
  - She stressed the importance of including the substance needs assessments for families who are struggling with substance use and misuse due to the risk factors surrounding child care and the need to keep them comprehensive, so that any of the data that is needed to for these areas is there.
  - Amanda stated that they are reaching out to some Early Head Starts who will be finalizing their needs assessments in the next month or so for funding renewal in the 3-year mark and will find out if these can be made public as well.
  - She asked that any of the Early Head Start facilities on the call to email her at [Amanda.haboush@unlv.edu](mailto:Amanda.haboush@unlv.edu) as they complete any needs assessments that need posting.
- Marty Elquist thanked Amanda and her team for keeping the inventory needs assessments document up to date. Then, up to date and stated that the link for the Early Childhood Funding Needs Assessments in Nevada is on the ECAC website within the body of this item's page. She said that this is a great resource grant writing and for the ECAC and their work and to inform anyone trying to bring funding to their state.
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye replied, your welcome.
  - Marty Elquist asked if there were any questions for Amanda
  - Patrice Gardener offered to assist Amanda with this task and will reach out to her.
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye thanked Patrice and agreed to email her.

### 4. ITEM I: FACEBOOK PAGE

**Anna Severens was not in attendance to update the Council on the status of the ECAC Facebook page.**

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

**Council was updated on CCDF subsidy and resource referral programs including updates on CARES, CRRSA and ARP funding. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Systems Director, The Children's Cabinet and Christell Askew, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services presented.**

- Denise Tanta stated that she was happy to have Christell speak on this item.
- Christell Askew updated the council on
  - Christell reported that they are working on stabilization grants for child care providers. They opened up applications for Family Friend and Neighbor providers to apply for stabilization grants on September 20, 2021 and have already received 95 applications out of 300 total providers and they will continue to accept applications until December 31, 2021.



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- They opened up applications stabilization grants for licensed child care providers and OST providers on October 18, 2021 and will open to apply until February 28, 2022, and they have received approximately 35 applications. These grants would provide 6 months operating costs to all these providers.
- They have partnered with the Nevada Registry and NAEYC and will be using Covid-related funds to provide child care stipends for child care staff that have registered with the Nevada Registry and will provide this in the form of bonus hazard pay in the amount of \$1k dollars.
- They are also creating the Hub, which will align all the early childhood programs and systems and will unite all Nevada state early childhood workers in providing support to providers and families.
- Christell Aksew asked Denise Tanata if she wanted to update the Council on the many projects they are working on under the Hub.
- Denise Tanata added that one of the other major projects was removing the waitlist for child care subsidy programs and open purpose of care rate is open for families.
- Denise Tanata introduced Lela Arney, the ARP Project Manager who was hired to help the spending plan.
- Lela Arney introduced herself to the Council and said it has been great to work with on these projects and seeing all the initiatives working to support that stabilization and the community.
- Christell Askew thanked Lela and Denise for all their work in building a long-term plan for all the short-term funding. She thanked Denise again for everything she has done as project manager for their program.
  - Christell Askew officially announced that she was leaving her position as the Child Care and Fund Development Coordinator of Nevada and would everyone.
  - Denise Tanata added that they wish her the best on her endeavors, and she will be sorely missed. She thanked for the changes and efforts she has made that have been significant in supporting children and families, providers, and stakeholders in the state and for her openness to new thoughts and ideas in their work efforts.
  - Carrie Paldi echoed what Denise said and added that from the provider perspective, she has been amazing in her role. She established great open communication, and has always been fair, honest, and approachable, which has meant a lot to the people in their industry and in the state. She added that she was sad and that she would be greatly missed.
  - Christell Askew thanked Carrie for her comments.
  - Marty Elquist agreed with Denise and Carrie's comments and thanked her for taking on the role as administrator. She added that Christell took on her role wanting to achieve what was best for all. She was humble, asked many questions and sought insight from her parents, providers, and community partners. partners in wanting to what was best. She said that she very humble, a pleasure to work with, will be missed, and wished her the best.
  - Christell Askew thanked Marty for her comments and thanked everyone for their welcoming support throughout the years.
  - Denise Tanata asked Christell to reach out with her contacts, so they can identify a Council replacement moving forward.
  - Christell Askew agreed to share her contacts with the Council.

## 6. ITEM K: CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

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

- Latisha Brown echoed the sentiments of everyone regarding Christell Askew leaving her position and reported updates for Child Care Licensing.



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- Stated that have been understaffed and faced challenges in filling positions, which has escalated their back log, however, are slowly filling positions.
- They have new surveyors starting in the north and are very excited about this.
- Child Care Licensing numbers show that they have 429 active facilities and close to pre pandemic numbers.
- There is an increased interest in emergency child care facilities that want to transition to fully licensed child care facilities, which is positive.
- There has been an increase exposures and positive cases in child care facilities which was expected and has led to weekly meetings with bi-weekly meetings OPHIE, the State Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services to create a plan of action for to provide more educational resources to facilities and to ensure that they are taking proper precautions.
- I addition, Latisha attends meetings with OPHIE, child care providers, and her office when there has been an exposure to bridge the communication gap and ensure everyone is on the same page.
- Complaints have gone up, which was expected, due to reopening and the loosening of Covid-19 restrictions and many complaints that involve multiple agencies, and a few involving Child Protective Services and Law Enforcement.
- They are monitoring and reaching out to municipalities to support this resume this process and are catching up on their semi and annual inspections.
- Marty Elquist asked Latisha if the Council had any questions.

## 7. ITEM L: LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**Council received legislative updates on the preparation for Nevada's 2022 Legislative Session and issues related to early childhood. The Children's Advocacy Alliance will discuss the Interim Session items as it relates to children. Leah Case, Beltz and Case Government Affairs, on behalf of Children's Advocacy Alliance, presented.**

- Leah Case updated the Council on Interim Session in preparation for Nevad's 2022 Legislative Session.
- Marty Elquist thanked Leah for all the information. said she would update the Standing Item description that is more specific to the interim session.
- Leah Case commented
- Denise Tanata agreed with Marty's comments and noted that while working on the Child Development Funds and ARP Funds noticed the major gap between having the funds and being able to purchase space for high quality child care settings.
- Marty Elquist added the CRSA and ARP funding cannot be used for facilities and capital expenditures, which is imperative to note because there is a shortage facilities across the state and with existing capacity issues and staffing shortages, they will not be prepared to utilize funding from the Build Back Better plan, if it passes.
- Leah Case commented that they types of issues of perfect for the Interim Session committee, and said to send your representatives an email to have these brought forward for discussion.

## 8. ITEM M: PRITZKER PRENATAL TO AGE THREE UPDATES

**Council was updated on the Pritzker implementation plan and alignment with the ECAC strategic plan. Jamelle Nance and Tiffany Tyler-Gardner, Children's Advocacy Alliance presented.**

- Jamelle Nance updated the Council on the Pritzker Initiative Grant focused on the Prenatal to Age Three population and said they are meeting monthly in their three key workgroups that include:
  - Maternal and Children's Health
  - Community Health Workers and Home Visiting



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- Early Education
- They are focused on, following, and advocating for the endorsement for community health workers with the early learning endorsement to changes in the number of families utilizing these services.
- They are in the process of planning for a mini grant and working with leadership to look at where we can place more emphasis on equity in the work they do and are using opportunities to find resources and services that support undeserved families.
- They are continuing to use every opportunity to spread the message and opportunities that are available to family childcare centers, especially those that care for the 0-3 population, as well as opportunities available to parents to receive funding to afford quality childcare.
- Marty Elquist reported an update for the Community Health Workers in ECE Settings project and
- Pritzker Prenatal to Age Three Initiative has a policy agenda item regarding CHW's in early childhood settings and they have been working with the Community Health Worker Association in Nevada to create an early childhood community endorsement for our CHW and create a Community Health Worker II. The training and the endorsement have been submitted to Certemy and they are currently accepting applications to hire a Community Health Worker in ECE Project Manager, and they are currently accepting applications.
  - Marty asked that anyone interested in this position to please contact her and do not have enough applicants for this position.
- Denise Tanata asked Jamelle if she had more information on the mini grants and said that there will be more grants available under the ARP funds for community-based organizations to help support outreach and engagement and said there may be opportunities for alignment there.
- Jamelle Nance agreed with Denise and stated that this is a new opportunity with Pritzker and they are in beginning stages figuring out how to align their efforts, and agreed to share this information with Denise.

## 9. ITEM O: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATES

**Council was updated 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 update the Council. Jamelle Nance, Children's Advocacy Alliance presented.**

- Jamelle Nance reported that are preparing to start the new court of parent ambassadors and currently are trying to expand the program in a way that will be sustainable.
- They plan to plan to work alongside their partners to look at their facilitators and revamp the model of parent ambassadors and as a leadership team, look the current structure and build on what they currently have in place.
- They would like to incorporate their tribal Community, as one of the ways to make sure that they have equity in their parent community moving forward.
- They also would like to have parents as key contributors to their collaborative meetings, to ensure that they have parent voice and representation in the agenda and activities moving forward.
- They are also revamping their Strong Start website so that the message of advocacy is transparent and provide information on how parents and community members can receive advocacy training
- They continuously are in the process of looking for champions for early learning and continue to work diligently to build relationships with their legislators in this Interim Session and strategize for the 2023 legislative Session.



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#### 10. ITEM O: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATES

**Council was updated by NDE on KEA, Read by Three, CCDF quality, PDG: B-5, and other NDE early childhood programs and projects. October 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 stated they are planning an Early Childhood Fair to build a teacher pipeline and a job fair to connect people. They were thinking about doing this at 3 locations. They brought this up at the Higher Education Committee that NevAEYC runs, and they were on board.
- They were thinking about the teacher pipeline, getting people to the campuses, and interested in early childhood education. They were also considering Week of the Young Child in April 2022.
- NDE is finalizing the ARP spending plan and the use of the 10%. NDE received an extension through August and have submitted 3 Early Childhood proposals:
  - Social Emotional trainings
  - B-3 Leadership
  - Aligning datasytems.

#### 11. ITEM P: QRIS UPDATE

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

- QRIS team worked collaboratively with their partnerships to launch a reimagined center model as of mid-September 2021.
- There 15 programs that have increased their star ratings using the new program standards as of October 2021 and more are submitting additional documentation or submitting to be rerated based on the updated model and is effort is ongoing.
- The updated reimagined model has also incorporated an emphasis on the suspension and expulsion policy, which has been a collaborative effort with this Council.
- They have also built in a requirement for 4 and 5 Star rated programs to have a robust, well thought and implemented out suspension and expulsion policy and have been working closely with the Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership to introduce policies and build foundations at all program levels. The goal is to lead them to the highest levels and no suspension and expulsion in early childhood programs.
- They have built specialized programs into the reimagined model and currently have one finalized specialization, which is the infant and toddler specialization program. They currently are working with center to include infant and toddler specialized programs in addition to their star rating and they can submit documentation for this.
- They are working toward adding additional specialized programs, which will be ongoing.
- They are working with the Nevada Ready team on a reimagined models for their LEA/District model and they have shared their ideas with directors for input and will be developed through a series of work groups.
- The family child care model work groups have completed their work for this reimagined model and it is currently being drafted.
- Patrice Gardener, Tiffany Olivas, and Emily Champlin visited some programs in northeastern Nevada during the last week in September 2021 to connect the providers, celebrate some of their Star ratings during the pandemic, and check in with them.
- They have collaborated with the national DOD and Child Care Aware of America to launch the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood (MCCYN+) program, a national program that provides subsidized care for children with a parent in





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the military. The MCCYN+ program was launched in Nevada on September 13, 2021 and replaced a smaller scale waiver program that had been in place. The MCCYN+ program utilizes a grandfathered system to ensure that no parent loses continuity of care and center programs must be nationally accredited or participating in QRIS and must be a 3, 4 or 5 Star rated program to ensure that military families have options for high quality child care in Nevada.

- In 2016, QRIS participation became mandatory for any programs that were serving families on the child care subsidy program, however due to capacity they were not able to onboard everyone. It has been a slow-going progress, but they have been working to get everyone enrolled and on a on a waitlist and have been working with the Urban League and the Children's Cabinet to get more coaching staff and have been doing collaborative onboarding process for the final providers who have not had the opportunity to enroll yet.

## 12. ITEM Q: PART C UPDATE

### **Council was updated on Part C IDEA. Lori Ann Molina-Lovell, Part C presented.**

- Lori Ann Molina-Lovell reported updates on Part C IDEA early intervention services system, stating that they received ARP funds just recently and are applying to allocate their funding for a systems study for continuous improvement and for professional development and a data system.
  - One of their projects surrounding their State Systemic Improvement Plan, a federal requirement, is to improve the social emotional developmental progress of children in Nevada and receiving early intervention services. They are looking at providing emodules to keep the project sustainable over time and are partnering with the state of Montana who are interested in joining their ARP funds with Nevada to do this. They project that by 2022 they will have these emodules developed for available their staff.
  - Nevada is prepared to move forward with purchasing these modules as they wait to hear from Montana.
  - They have developed the formation on of the Interagency Coordinating Council Equity subcommittee, which was approved by the ICC in July 2021. They had their first meeting in early October 2021 and they are organizing, gaining membership, and getting CoChairs. The goal of this subcommittee is to ensure that all parents voices are heard, and their children have equitable access to early intervention services.
  - They continue to face challenges with the current service delivery system and have faced critical shortages in early intervention which has been occurring with Part C states across the country.
  - They continue to provide hybrid services in Nevada, which include face-to-face services in the home and clinic, as well as via telehealth or telephone conference. Parents are still being offered the telehealth services, although not all parents are able to take advantage virtual services, so early intervention programs must be able provide the in-person services. Programs are being advised by their office to ensure they communicate clearly with families and provide them with their procedural safeguards. They must also inform families of the compensatory service options, including remedies, such as reimbursement for any payments made in the community for services listed on the IFSP.
  - They continue to acknowledge and address these shortages their system continues to make efforts for recruitment and retention, including supporting individuals in the process of obtaining their Department of Education licensure or alternative certification their office.
  - They continue to promote DEC recommended practices for leadership, especially in the way of cultivating a culture where employees feel engaged to promote and achieve organization goals. A few of the ways they are incorporating these practices for this season are in holding a pumpkin decorating contest with one of the prizes, will be able to select the charity of their choice for their December 2021 Annual Holiday Drive when they hold their Gingerbread Decorating contest.





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#### 13. ITEM R: NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (NEIS) UPDATE

##### **Updates on NEIS, current caseload and status of phased re-entry plan. Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early intervention Services presented.**

- Stephanie Wyatt reported updates on Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) on their current caseload and status of phased re-entry plan.
  - They are still working in the Phase 3 protocols in the state at NEIS and have been consulting with their physicians to analyze their numbers and are working to create next phase.
  - They have continued to provide services to families through a hybrid model of home visits and telehealth and are looking at providing more in person services in the next phases.
  - They have been doing more statewide collaboration and training in all the NEIS programs in the state to meet the needs of children and families during this time, with the shortage of providers. This has allowed all the offices the ability to communicate, learn from each other, and work together as a statewide system for Nevada.
  - They have been hiring and have been able to bring new staff and training to their programs and continue to busy with referrals.

#### 14. ITEM S: LOCAL ECAC UPDATES

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

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye the Southern Nevada Local Council stated that they had their last meeting on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and provided the following updates:
  - They are planning Step Up 2021 for Fall and looking to secure a venue, so they can settle on a date at the beginning of October. They will be reaching out to other local ECAC members to host Step Up events as well.
- Maria Knight Southern Nevada Local Council stated that they had their last meeting on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and provided the following updates:
  - They provided updates on the Southern Nevada Local ECAC Council and held their last meeting on October 20, 2021, and provided the following updates:
    - They provided a general overview on the how the Step Up event for children went on October 9, 2021 and they over 230 people in attendance. It was held at a new location, the Vegas Roots Community Garden, which worked well for the petting zoo and farmer's market and brought all sorts of fruits and vegetables for families that may not have normally have access to.
    - They also held the Clark County Kid Mayor elections to align with the focus of the Step Up program.
      - The Kid Mayor Election will run separately from the Strong Start Governor and Cabinet, so they can keep a statewide presence and have some more virtual meetings.
      - Then any of the local Step Up events that happen would also be able to have their own local Kid Mayor election.
  - One of the agenda items for the SNECAC meeting is focused on looking at after school and out-of-school time programming and they are working with the Nevada Afterschool Network.
    - The Nevada Afterschool Network has completed a revision of out-of-school time program quality standards with a program self-assessment tool and improvement action plan that they are currently pilot testing and getting feedback on from school-age, out-of-school time programs.
    - They had members of the Children's Cabinet on the team that developed these standards to ensure that they aligned with QRIS standards, so that there is some continuity throughout the state for early



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childhood to school-age. It is not nearly as robust and comprehensive as the QRIS standards but hope to get there in the future with some guidance.

- They have confirmed their meeting dates for 2022 and they will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month starting in January 2022. The meetings are set from 12:00 to 2:00PM and will happen virtually for now, but they are looking at hosting one or possible two in person meetings in 2022, just to help promote some networking and facilitation, once they have this date, they will let everyone know.
- Marty Elquist reported that Washoe County ECAC is not meeting formally and still doing work with Kacie Eddington at Washoe County School District doing Pre-K to K transitions.
- Marty Elquist asked if Denise Tanata would give an update on the Tribal ECAC, since she has been doing some work with them.
- Denise Tanata reported on the Local Tribal ECAC group and stated that they had disbanded for a while due to staffing issues, so there was some discussion about having the Tribal ECAC run out of the Nevada Indian Commission or education subcommittee. Then there was a determination that it would run out the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, however they have not decided or scheduled meetings yet but are in conversations with them on this and hope to have it started again soon.

## 15. ITEM T: NEVAEYC UPDATES

**Updates on from NevAEYC. Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center presented. NEIS, current caseload and status of phased re-entry plan. Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early intervention Services presented.**

- Carrie Paldi reported updates on the NevAEYC.
  - The NevAEYC is currently working with the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services to finalize a budget and scope of work for a new project to support early childhood educators.
  - The new project is called the Early Childhood Staff Stipends Incentive and is a 2-year grant for the first year and all eligible early childhood educators will be able to apply to receive a stipend in the amount of \$1k dollars.
  - NevAEYC is partnering with the Nevada Registry to have the application embedded into the portal educator's use with their registry account.
  - Applications will be accepted beginning in November 2021 however an exact date has not yet been determined.
  - Eligibility requirements and announcements about the project will be available within the week and will be shared with the childhood programs and partners throughout Nevada.
  - For more information, please contact John Cregg at (775) 327-0680 or [nvecestipends@gmail.com](mailto:nvecestipends@gmail.com)
- NevAEYC will be accepting nominations for individuals to join their board of directors beginning in January 2022 and open positions will include, available positions are for President elect, Membership, Treasurer, and Communication and Technology Vice Presidents. The due date to submit nominations is Friday, November 5, 2021.
  - If you are interested in joining the NevAEYC board, please reach out to Patrice Gardener, John Cregg, or Carrie Paldi with any questions.

## 16. ITEM U: NEVADA PYRAMID MODEL UPDATES

**Updates from NVPMI Janice Lee, NVPMI Statewide Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno presented.**

- Janice Lee thanked the Council for feedback on and approval of the updated Suspension and Expulsion policy statement, thanked Marty for making it accessible to everyone on the website, and thanked everyone for their teamwork on this project document.
- Janice Lee updated the Council on the Suspension and Expulsion Policy Statement.
  - was so important for the state, not only



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#### 17. ITEM V: HEALTH RESOURCE & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA) EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM GRANT UPDATE

**Updates from implementation of HRSA ECCS Grant. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Director presented.**

- Denise Tanata reported on HRSA ECCS Grant and stated that the purpose is around building maternal and early childhood systems of care that are equitable, sustainable, comprehensive, and inclusive of the health system and promote early developmental and family wellbeing and increased family centered access to care and engagement of the prenatal to three old populations.
- She said they are in the process of moving forward and the grant officially started on August 1, 2021.
- They have hired their parent Leadership Coordinator, Ashley Dines, in the Las Vegas office, and she is out there connecting with other groups that are connecting with parent leaders, trying to put together some leadership training. She is also looking at some potential models that they can bring into the state, and her focus and the primary goal is looking at how they integrate parents into the decision-making processes in the early childhood system.
- This is a 5-year grant focused on systems level changes and improvements. They are not planning to set up a separate advisory council for this HRSA grant and wants to make that clear.
- They would like to integrate this work into the work of the ECAC, because it is focused on comprehensive and coordinated systems. This would align with their systems level work in the strategic plan and how they can integrate the public health issues.
- Linda Young thanked Marty Elquist for her years of service and said she has really enjoyed these meetings and appreciates all of activities, programs, and resources that they are engaging not only the community and various educational institutions, but the strong outreach to the parents, which is huge and one of the biggest factors. She asked Denise Tanata for her Item B information regarding the grant update and comprehensive information on this and would love to get this from her. She is working with a group of people on an early learning institute focused on how they can support the program work they are doing at the Nevada Early Childhood conference, April 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. She would like to do more outreach for urban issues and appreciate their message and work.
- Marty Elquist thanked Dr. Young for her kind words.

#### 18. ITEM W: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**Council discussed what they would like on the upcoming agendas. Marty Elquist, Council Chair presented.**

- Dr. Linda Young wants to coordinate with what happening in the professional world in early childhood with the ground roots. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, they are having an online program for Early Learning Institute, and she would love to connect the conference April 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 and coordinate on these items and topics.
- Marty Elquist confirmed with Dr. Young to add an agenda item for the Early Learning Institute for an update on the institute progress and to tie in with the NevAEYC conference in April 2022.
- Dr. Linda Young replied that this was correct.
- Marty Elquist agreed to add this item and asked if there any other future agenda items.
- Denise Tanata asked Marty if they agenda item planned to review the draft of the NECAC strategic plan and vote on that at the December meeting, because they will not be doing any voting at the retreat. She would also like to request the review of NECAC structure to ensure it aligns with the new strategic plan.
- Marty Elquist agreed and stated that if they discuss the structure, it will require a revision to their bylaws and can reenact the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to do this modification.



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- Marty Elquist stated the future agenda item as officially review the ECAC strategic plan and vote with the discussion of the ECAC structure.
- Marty Elquist asked if there any other future agenda items and if there are any, email Marty or Denise.

#### 19. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

- Denise Tanata commented that Marty seemed very excited about passing the torch to Denise.
- Marty Elquist replied that yes, she was happy.

#### 20. ADJOURNMENT

12:49 PM