



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

# NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

## PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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

Denise Tanata, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair called the meeting to order, 9:00 AM. Quorum is met.

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

- Alberto Quintero, Nevada Department of Education
- Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
- Cathleen Rexing, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Inclusive Education
- Denise Tanata, The Children’s Cabinet
- Diane Nicolet, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees
- Emily Champlin, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Nevada System of Higher Education
- Jocelyn M. Pereira, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Julie Houchins, United Way of Southern Nevada
- Latisha Brown, Department of Public & Behavioral Health-Child Care
- Linda E. Young, Other Members as Appointed by the Governor
- Maggie Salas Crespo, Nevada Governor’s Office for New Americans
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Patrice Gardener, Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Rebecca Meyers, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of Pediatrics
- Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early Intervention Services, Aging, and Disabilities Services Division
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District

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

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy
- Annette Dawson Owens, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
- Brianna Cambra, The Children’s Cabinet
- Cynthia Leech, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Crystal Johnson, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Danielle Holmes, The Children’s Cabinet
- Darcy Arias, The Children’s Cabinet



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- Jamelle Nance, Children's Advocacy Alliance Nevada
- Janice Lee, University of Nevada Reno, Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership
- Janna Rightmire, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Jennifer Butler, Las Vegas Urban League
- Jon Ball, Stacey Wedding Group
- John Cregg, NevAEYC
- Kaitlin Lewallen, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Lauren Ryan, The Children's Cabinet
- Lela Arney, The Children's Cabinet
- Mary Buchmann, The Children's Cabinet
- Mia Pace, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Minerva Perez, The Children's Cabinet
- Mychelle Weart, Education and Information Officer, QRIS Southern Nevada
- Nicole Martin, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Nicole Vairo, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Paul Partida,
- Stacey Joyner, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Stacey Wedding, Stacey Wedding Group
- Tiffany Olivas, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Valerie Balen, Children's Advocacy Alliance

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

- No public comment provided.

#### 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 OCTOBER 27, 2021

##### **Motion:**

- Items presented for correction:
  - Patrice Gardner's last name was misspelled
  - Change Department of Public and Behavioral Health to Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
- Marty Elquist moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted above.
- Patrice Gardner seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to approve minutes with corrections made.



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#### 5. ITEM B: MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>-9<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

**Council discussed and approved the Strategic Planning Retreat minutes. Denise Tanata, Council Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata asked the Council if they had any corrections for the Strategic Planning Retreat minutes.

**Motion:**

- Items presented for correction:
  - On page 5 #2. Change federal finding to federal funding.
  - Change Cathleen Rexing affiliation to the Office of Inclusive Education.
- Marty Elquist moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted above.
- Patrice Gardner seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to approve minutes with corrections made.

#### 6. ITEM C: ECAC 2022-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

**The Council discussed the draft 2022-2024 Strategic Plan as recommended by the Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Subcommittee and voted on the Nevada ECAC Strategic Framework. Denise Tanata, Council Chair, and Ad Hoc Committee Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata stated that they will go through the Strategic Plan draft, however, the Council will be voting on the Strategic Plan Framework and final recommendation. Denise Tanata introduced Stacey Wedding to walk them through Strategic Plan draft.
- Stacey Wedding stated that they started back in August 2021 with a review of all of the work they have all done in the last few years, since the last strategic plan, all of the assessment and asset maps, and all of the conversations the Council has had.
- Following that they put out a survey and received roughly 140 respondents, in order to get a check on the strengths, weaknesses, and to get a general feeling on the last strategic plan.
- They followed this with focus groups with 2 subcommittees of the ECAC as well as 20 individual interviews to dive deeper into the data they had collected from survey and focus groups up to that point.
- The Strategic Planning subcommittee had been involved this process from the beginning and they appreciated all of their guidance and direction throughout this process.
- They gathered all the data they received and presented their findings at the 2-day retreat that many Council members attended. There was great discussion during the retreat concerning the goals that were presented. She added the highlight of the retreat was when Marty Elquist's talked about systems level work and made the analogy to a home and a house being built.
- The focus was on how do they move this to a systems level plan that is much more streamlined and consolidated to get a system in place. This may require a restructure of ECAC and the way it is organized.
- They wanted to ensure that everyone sees themselves in this plan and through discussion with strategic planning subcommittee, this will become more realized when they start to do their action and work planning.
- The recurring theme throughout the development of this plan was that people were ready for action and wanted to work with the funding they already had, instead of working from a whole new set of goals and objectives.
- They moved to the strategic planning subcommittee work and received good feedback and made more revisions of the plan from there.
- The result was the Strategic planning framework which they will be reviewing today for feedback on and possible approval on today and the longer, detailed draft of the Strategic Plan.



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- The framework contains the 5 over-arching goals and objectives.
- The longer version of the plan puts context to the landscape of early childhood in Nevada right now and adds some additional details on how they arrived at the goals.
- Stacey Wedding asked Denise Tanata if she wanted to put the strategic framework for the plan up on the screen.
- Denise Tanata replied that she has the longer version up on the screen and would like to go through it very quickly and look through the sections and get input on this as far as content.
  - Who We Are
    - This is the first section talks about who they are and explains the early childhood system that they want to improve.
  - The Early Childhood Landscape
    - This section paints a picture of where they are at currently are and what is their starting point in the early childhood system in the state. There are highlighted sections that are sidebars with data points that point to where they are in thinking about everything from access to prenatal care to access to pre-k and early education and access to child care. This starts to make the case for the need to focus on the systems level work in developing the cross-sector in the coordinated system in the state to support the early childhood system. The section includes language surrounding the federal funding that is coming into the state to support the early childhood system. And includes a quote from the Governor focused on the need to support the local infrastructure.
    - Marty Elquist added that the Governor's quote she be included in a pop-out, so that it stands out.
  - Investing in Young Children = A Lifelong Return
    - This section focuses on the years of work and research that have gone into early childhood development and planning early childhood education. It also brings awareness to the need for equitable access to quality early childhood services and the need for investment in an early childhood system that works to support the health and economic vitality of our communities, state, and across the country.
  - A Dynamic Plan by and for Nevadans
    - This section shows all the work that has gone into the Strategic Plan and it has been years of work has gone into its development.
    - The sidebar here focuses on the methodology the strategic plan.
  - Strategic Framework - This section highlights the vision, purpose, values, and principles. It also includes the petal visual that still defines their 5 goals and objectives for the strategic plan.
    - Goal 1: Create a Coordinated Early Childhood Leadership Infrastructure
    - Linda E. Young commented that under Goal 1 and bullet point #3. How is this going to be done and are they defining how they will be doing this restructure so that people can engage in this part of Goal #1.
    - Denise Tanata stated that the "How" in her question will be discussed as they move forward and discuss the restructure of the ECAC and subcommittees and the work plans that are developed within those subcommittees. They have received a HRSA grant that allowed them to bring on a Parent Leadership group that will work on doing a lot of the work surrounding this part of the goal. They will discuss the restructuring of the ECAC on the agenda in upcoming meetings.
    - Linda E. Young thanked Denise Tanata and added that they are holding an online program for the Early Childhood Institute on March 2-5, 2022, and she would like to engage people in discussion regarding these goals and objectives.



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- Denise Tanata replied that she will reach out to Linda E. Young so that they can put this on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Goal 2: Increase Coordination and Alignment Between Systems of Care for Young Children and Families
- Goal 3: Increase Capacity to Equitability Connect Families with the Early Childhood System Continuum of Care and Community at Large
- Goal 4: Identify Budget and Finance Strategies to Drive policy Goals and Objectives
- Goal 5: Execute data collection and integrated systems to increase equity and accountability.
- The Charge Ahead – this section focuses on the purpose of creating the Nevada Early Childhood Strategic Plan to create a more integrated system of early childhood services.
  - It stresses the value and importance of providing accessible quality early childhood services that are equitable to the community.
  - It also recognizes that 95% of funding for early childhood programs in Nevada are coming from the federal government, and the importance of leveraging federal, state, and local government resources in a responsible way, while also building a connection of support beyond public funding sources that is rooted in community ownership and choice for positive changes and outcomes for families and their children. The Parent Leadership Group that has been established will help to support the voices of the parents within our communities so that they are involved in the decision-making process surrounding early childhood education and services.
  - The goals and objectives built into the strategic plan work with the current foundation and works to continue an expansion of the current system while building collaboratively building relationships within the community. It also focuses on growing ongoing initiatives across the state and provides a clear framework for the work ahead.
  - The goals and objectives of the strategic plan were also designed to cover broad topics that allow stakeholders in Nevada the ability to define, implement, and refine strategies that benefit work with the community and respond to the needs of specific groups and populations.
  - As they develop and implement strategies for this systems-level plan, the need for input and active participation across all sectors within the early childhood system will be vital for the Nevada ECAC's commitment to providing equitable access to quality early childhood services and support to children and families across Nevada.
- Denise Tanata presented the Strategic Plan Framework document that outlines the vision, purpose, values, principles, framework graphic, goals and objectives. This is a pullout from the Strategic Planning document that was just reviewed. No additional changes were recommended by the Council.
- **Motion:**
  - **Patrice Gardner motioned to approve the Strategic Plan Framework document as presented.**
  - **Julie Houchins seconded the motion.**
  - **All were in favor.**
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 7. ITEM D: ECAC SUBCOMMITTEE STRUCTURE TO ALIGN WITH 2022-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Council discussed the draft of the new subcommittee structure to align with the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan as recommended by the Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Subcommittee. Any revisions to the current structure of the ECAC will require an amendment to the current Bylaws.



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- Denise Tanata presented the proposed NECAC Subcommittee Structure, recommended by the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Subcommittee. The intent is to setup a subcommittee structure that aligns with the goals and objectives.
  - Executive/Leadership Subcommittee
    - Develop and implement workplan to align with Goal 1 objectives.
    - Support Council membership and recruitment efforts.
    - Support alignment and coordination of subcommittees.
    - Develop agenda and draft/review annual report.
    - Membership: Chair, Vice Chair, Subcommittee Chairs, Parent Representative, Provider Representative
  - System Alignment Subcommittee
    - Develop and implement workplan to align with Goal 2 objectives.
  - Communication and Engagement Subcommittee
    - Develop and implement workplan to align with Goal 3 objectives.
  - Finance and Policy Subcommittee
    - Develop and implement workplan to align with Goal 4 objectives.
  - Data and Evaluation Subcommittee
    - Develop and implement workplan to align with Goal 5 objectives.
- Denise Tanata noted that the restructure would require changes to the NECAC Bylaws. If approved, the Bylaw changes would be presented at the next meeting.
- **Motion:**
  - **Marty Elquist motioned to approve the subcommittee restructure, as presented.**
  - **Dr. Linda Young seconded the motion.**
  - **All were in favor.**
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 8. ITEM E: SELECTION OF CHAIRS/CO-CHAIRS FOR THE ECAC SUBCOMMITTEES

### **Council accepted volunteers and/or nominations of ECAC members to serve as Chair/Co-Chair of the new ECAC Subcommittees. Denise Tanata, Council Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata stated that with the new structure they need some leadership for these and are looking for volunteers and/or nominations to serve as Chairs or Co-Chairs of the new subcommittees. She added that these positions are for ECAC members, however, membership of these subcommittees can be made up of members or non-members of the Council.
- Marty Elquist stated that she would like to serve as Chair of the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata asked Marty Elquist as a point of order and for clarification, whether they need to vote on Chairs and Co-Chairs.
  - Marty Elquist replied that their bylaws indicate that our committee chairs are appointed by the Chair of the ECAC.
  - Denise Tanata thanked and appreciated Marty Elquist for answering her question.
- Denise Tanata reminded Council members that each appointed member must serve on at least one subcommittee. She also stated that subcommittees will have her support and that it is part of her role with the HRSA grant to help support the work of the ECAC.
- Linda E. Young stated that she would like to be involved with the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee to align with the Goal 3 objectives and would be happy to serve with someone who would like to work with that.



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- Denise Tanata thanked Linda E. Young for offering to serve on this committee. She then stated that she would like to nominate Maggie Salas Crespo because of her background.
- Maggie Salas Crespo replied that she knew this was coming and gladly accepted the nomination as Co-Chair.
- Carrie Paldi stated that she would like to serve on the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee as a member.
- Alberto Quintero stated that he can see himself serving as a member on the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee and the Executive/Leadership Subcommittee to align with Goal 1 objectives.
- Denise Tanata asked Alberto Quintero if there was a committee, he would like to be a Chair of.
- Alberto Quintero replied that he would consider serving as a Chair on a committee if there was a need.
- Denise Tanata replied that is always a need and stated that is she is waiting for people to self-nominate before she starts calling picking on people.
- Alberto Quintero replied that he will wait until Denise starts picking on people.
- Julie Houchins stated that she is willing to support the Finance and Policy Subcommittee and the System Alignment Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata thanked Julie Houchins for offering to serve on these committees.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated that she would be willing to be a member of the System Alignment Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata thanked Jenna Weglarz-Ward for serving as a member on this subcommittee
- Cathleen Rexing stated that she would like to serve as a member of the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee.
- Marty Elquist asked Cathleen Rexing if she would like to serve as Co-Chair of the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee.
- Cathleen Rexing accepted the nomination to serve as Co-Chair of the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee with Marty Elquist and added that she expects to learn a lot from her.
- Marty Elquist thanked Cathleen Rexing.
- Denise Tanata added that Marty and Cathleen will be getting additional support from the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy because they have some funding from the HRSA grant to support them in some data work for this.
- Rebecca Meyers stated that she would like to be a member of the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
- Diane Nicolet stated that she would like to serve on the System Alignment Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata thanked Dianne for serving on this committee.
- Latisha Brown stated that she would like to serve on the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee.
- Patrice Gardner stated she would like to serve on the System Alignment Subcommittee and the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
- Tina Springmeyer stated that she would like to serve on the System Alignment Subcommittee and the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata stated that everyone present has agreed to serve on a subcommittee. She then stated that she is nominating herself to serve as the Chair and Patrice Gardner to serve as the CoChair of the Executive Leadership Subcommittee. She added that any member serving as a CoChair should serve on the Executive Leadership Subcommittee as well.
- Denise Tanata asked Julie Houchins and Jenna Weglarz-Ward for confirmation that they have agreed to serve as CoChairs for the System Alignment Subcommittee.
  - Julie Houchins replied yes in agreement to serve as CoChair on the System Alignment Subcommittee.
  - Jenna Weglarz-Ward replied yes in agreement to serve as CoChair on the System Alignment Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata asked Linda E. Young and Maggie Salas Crespo if for confirmation that they have agreed to serve as CoChairs for the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
  - Linda E. Young replied yes in agreement to serve as CoChair on the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
  - Maggie Salas Crespo replied yes in agreement to serve as CoChair on the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.



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- Denise Tanata asked Julie Houchins if she agreed to serve as Chair on the Finance and Policy Subcommittee or just as a member.
  - Julie Houchins replied that she was going to serve as a member, however, will serve as Chair on the Finance and Policy Subcommittee since no one had signed up for this subcommittee.
  - Denise Tanata added that she will serve as CoChair on the Finance and Policy Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata asked Marty Elquist and Cathleen Rexing for confirmation that they have agreed to serve as CoChairs for the Data Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
  - Marty Elquist replied yes in agreement to serve as CoChair on the Data Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
  - Cathleen Rexing replied yes in agreement to serve as CoChair on the Data Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata asked Julie Houchins if she agreed to serve as Chair on the Finance and Policy Subcommittee or just as a member.
  - Julie Houchins replied that she was going to serve as a member, however, will serve as Chair on the Finance and Policy Subcommittee since no one had signed up for this subcommittee.
  - Denise Tanata added that she will serve as CoChair on the Finance and Policy Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata stated that for all of the members present at the meeting everyone present has signed up for a subcommittee. She said they will put together a list of all the members and subcommittees. She added that she will work with everyone as Chairs, CoChairs, and members of these subcommittees to develop a work plan for the year for each of the subcommittees that align with the approved goals and objectives. She added that they will also be looking for recommendations of Community Partners to serve on these subcommittees and if anyone present is interested, she asked that they contact her (Denise Tanata) or the identified Chairs/CoChairs of those committees
- Denise Tanata asked the Council if there were any additional questions or regarding the ECAC Subcommittees and the Chairs/CoChairs of such subcommittees.
  - John Cregg asked Denise Tanata if there was a timeline for signing up for their community members to sign up.
  - Denise Tanata replied that these can be taken on a rolling basis, however, the preference is to sign up as soon as one is able. She added that there will be an official form that will need to be signed as proof of commitment to this to ensure that they have accurate rosters for each of the subcommittees.
  - John Cregg commented that he is asking due to the restructuring, which he would like to share with his board of directors and hopefully encourage them to sign up and asked if there was a deadline.
  - Denise Tanata replied that they will not have a static deadline right now, however, they will discuss this at their next meeting.
  - Marty Elquist stated that they currently have a Subcommittee Role and Commitment form on the ECAC website. She asked if the Council would like to continue to use that Subcommittee Role and Commitment form when recruiting additional members for our subcommittees.
  - Denise Tanata replied yes to continuing the use of the Subcommittee Role and Commitment form and stated that there will be an official structure that will be based upon receipt of those forms.
  - Marty Elquist added that this was great and stated that the current form will need to be updated with the new subcommittee on the intro of the document. She added that she would be happy to assist with this if Denise would like.
  - Denise Tanata thanked Marty Elquist and appreciated her offer to assist with this task.
- Linda E. Young stated that one of the programs she is working with is a high school leadership in the education program at Clark High School in Las Vegas. This group of students in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, who are interested in pursuing careers in education. She added that she would like to promote early childhood education as a possible option. Linda E. Young asked if there is anything in their cadre, within the organizational structure or strategies to reach out to some of these students, even as early as junior high and high school that is focused on early childhood education and early learning that provides some guidance and ways in which they can start to become engaged early.



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- Denise Tanata thanked Linda E. Young for the comments and added that this focus can be added to the work plan as CoChair for the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee. She encouraged Linda E. Young can have this discussion with members at the subcommittee level to gauge whether or not it would be appropriate to add to the plan.
- Linda E. Young thanked Denise Tanata for her input and added that it was such an important topic and the young people she works with are energized and full of great ideas and starting early is always a benefit.
- Denise Tanata added that they agree that “Starting Early is Starting Right On Time”, to use their tagline.

#### 9. ITEM F: ECAC 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**Council presented and discussed ECAC 2021 report to the Governor and Legislative Council Bureau that was submitted on 11/30/21. Denise Tanata, Council Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata reported that she had forgotten to include this in their meeting material. She stated that the NRS requires them to submit an annual report of activities and accomplishments of the Council for the previous year and is due every year on December 1<sup>st</sup>. She apologized that the Council did not have the opportunity to review this, as they were in the midst of their Strategic Planning session.
- Denise Tanta stated that she will make certain that the Council receives a copy of the ECAC 2021 Annual Report and will add reviewing of this report to the agenda for the next meeting. She added that the high-level overview of the report included:
  - Review of accomplishments for the group
  - An overview of the Strategic Planning process and high-level recommendations from Council
- Denise Tanata stated that the Council would table this item for discussion at the next meeting.

#### 10. ITEM G: 2022 ECAC MEETING SCHEDULE

**Council discussed and selected meeting dates for the calendar year 2022 Denise Tanata, Council Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Council Vice-Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata asked Patrice Gardner if she would like to present this item on the agenda.
- Patrice Gardner agreed to present and stated that after discussing the 2022 ECAC meeting schedule with Denise Tanata they agreed not to schedule a meeting for December 2022, because it is too difficult for members to attend due to the holiday and vacations.
- Patrice Gardner stated that they would like to schedule the next ECAC meeting for January instead of February. She asked Denise Tanata if she had missed anything on this.
- Denise Tanata stated that the proposal would be to schedule the ECAC meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning in January 2022.
- Patti Oya another group has scheduled their meeting for the first Wednesday of the month and they get the first choice because they have been established longer. She stated that they have the third Wednesday of the month in the Las Vegas boardroom. She said that she could check, however, because the ECAC does not meet every month.
- Denise Tanata replied in agreement with Patti and said that they meet every other month. She added that that under the current proposal for the 2022 ECAC meeting schedule they would meet in January, March, May, July, September, and November.
- Patti Oya checked the calendar and stated that the space is available in January, but have scheduled the boardroom for March 16, 2022, and April 20<sup>h</sup> 2022.
- Denise Tanata asked Council members for their thoughts and recommendations for the 2022 ECAC meeting schedule. She added that they could meet on the second or fourth Wednesday of the month.



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- Marty Elquist asked Denise Tanata for clarification that if they met every other month, the meetings would they would meet in January, March, May, July, September, and November.
- Denise Tanata replied in agreement and said that this is correct.
- Marty Elquist added that she did not think anyone had the ECAC meetings scheduled on their calendars past the current year, so she did not think it would be a big deal to change the day of the week or the Wednesday it is scheduled every other month.
- Denise Tanata asked the Council if they would agree to have the 2022 ECAC meetings on the fourth Wednesday of every other month, beginning in January 2022, and asked if this would present any major conflicts for anyone.
- Carrie Paldi stated that she would not have a conflict with this, however, would like to highlight that the fourth Wednesday of November falls right before Thanksgiving, so they would likely have very poor attendance at that meeting.
- Linda E. Young commented that she would recommend that the 2022 ECAC meetings would be held on the second Wednesday of every other month. She added that typically, the last Wednesday of the month would run into a holiday, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Patti Oya stated that the second Wednesday, March 9, 2022, and the third Wednesday, March 16, 2022, are both booked and not available.
- Denise Tanata replied asked the Council if they could walk through each of these months to figure out a schedule. She stated that meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> is too soon for all of the tasks they need to accomplish before the next meeting. She asked the Council if they would approve scheduling their next meeting on January 25, 2022.
- Diane Nicolet stated she attends the meeting for the Trustees for Washoe County and they meet every other Tuesday, so on January 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25 and therefore she would not be able to attend the ECAC meeting on January 25, 2022. She stated that this was okay with her because she was just one person to consider.
- Denise Tanata added they wanted to try to make this work for everyone.
- Latisha Brown stated that she has a standing meeting on January 25, 2022, that would conflict with the ECAC meeting.
- Denise Tanata stated they will not schedule the ECAC meeting on January 25, 2022, due to members' scheduling conflicts.
- Denise Tanata proposed to schedule the meeting for January 24, 2022, or January 27, 2022. She asked the Council members if either of these days were a conflict for anyone.
- Carrie Paldi replied that she was not available to attend on January 24, 2022, however, January 27, 2022, was wide open for her.
- Latisha Brown replied that she is also not available on January 24, 2022, but January 27, 2022, works for her.
- Denise Tanata asked the Council if they could schedule the next ECAC meeting on January 27, 2022, and if this works for everyone.
- Rebecca Meyers stated that she has a teaching obligation at the medical school on January 27, 2021, and cannot attend.
- Denise Tanata asked if Thursday, January 20, 2022 worked for the Council and asked Rebecca Meyers if she was teaching every Thursday.
- Rebecca Meyers replied that she was teaching at the medical schools on Thursday, however, she was just one person to consider.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated that she has an obligation on Thursday morning until 10:30 AM PST and so she would not be available on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Jenna added that it may be helpful to gather everyone's availability through some kind of poll and Denise Tanata and the Council could work from that to set the 2022 ECAC meeting schedule instead of trying to schedule it right now.



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- Denise Tanata agreed with Jenna Weglarz-Ward and said she had been hopeful they would be able to schedule the ECAC meetings in 2022, however that has not happened. She stated that the Council needs to schedule the next meeting now so that they can put it on their calendars and they can do a poll with all members to schedule the remaining meetings.
- Denise Tanata asked the Council if Monday, January 31, 2022, worked for the next ECAC meeting.
- Marty Elquist stated that this would not work for her.
- Tina Springmeyer asked Denise Tanata and the Council if they could hold the next ECAC meeting on the third Wednesday, January 19, 2022, on Microsoft Teams or must they hold the meeting in person.
- Denise Tanata asked Patti Oya and Marty Elquist if they needed to hold the meeting in person.
- Patti Oya and Marty Elquist agreed that the ECAC meeting did not need to be held in person.
- Denise Tanata asked the Council members if Wednesday, January 19, 2021, via Microsoft Teams worked for everyone and thanked Tina Springmeyer for the great idea.
- Julie Houchins stated that she was not certain that she could attend the online meeting on January 19, 2022.
- Denise Tanata added that she knows there is an FFN event in the afternoon on January 19, 2022, so they will make certain that the ECAC meetings conclude by 11:00 AM or 12:00 PM that day and for future meetings to condense them to a couple of hours.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated that she is traveling on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, and will have to miss the next ECAC meeting.
- Denise Tanata stated that the next ECAC meeting would be held on and if Wednesday, January 19, 2021, via Microsoft Teams and online only. She added they would work with Patti Oya and her team in the meantime to schedule the remaining ECAC meetings through a poll they can send out to find out which dates work best for the members.
- Denise Tanata finalized this item and stated the next ECAC meeting would be held on and if Wednesday, January 19, 2021 at 9:00 AM and it would be held via Microsoft Teams online.

## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. ITEM H: REVISIONS TO STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

**Council discussed revisions to agenda and standing agenda items to summarize information sharing and updates presented to the ECAC. Denise Tanata, Council Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Council Vice-Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata stated that the new agenda will look very different and they worked with the leadership subcommittee for recommendations for how to consolidate all of the items and information because they heard from everyone that the meetings were too long. The ECAC meetings were supposed to be advisory meetings and serve to engage members in discussion on the systems-level work and to make sure everyone can provide updates on what is going on within the early childhood system across those sectors.

### 2. PARTNER UPDATES NEW



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**Council updated on informational items from community partners on programs, services, initiatives, and/or issues relevant to the ECAC. Unless otherwise indicated below, each item is limited to no more than five minutes. Any updates which require additional time will need to be agendaized. Denise Tanata, Council Chair.**

- **Council was updated on CCDF subsidy and resource referral programs including updates on CARES, CRRSA, and ARP funding. Cynthia Leech, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) presented.**
  - Cynthia Leech updated the Council that they are working with their partners to implement a variety of programs established with CRRSA and ARP stabilization funding.
  - They continue to receive provider applications for stabilization grants and to date, they have received a total of 161 Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) applications and 284 Licensed provider applications.
  - 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 in the amount of \$1k dollars.
  - The sub award has been drafted and submitted to the division contract unit and it is currently their number one contract priority.
  - They anticipate the sub award will be executed by mid-January 2022.
  - In addition, they are reviewing proposals for potential projects to be funded by ARP through discretionary funding. Major projects include child care provider rate enhancement and/or expanded eligibility requirements.
  - Their goal is to present all items for consideration to the Interim Finance Committee in April 2022.
  - Last, they are very excited about the Hub project which will align all the early childhood programs and systems and will unite all Nevada, early childhood workers, in providing support to providers and families. She added that Denise may have an update for the Council on the Hub project.
  - Denise Tanata stated that they are very excited about the Hub and just received the keys to the Las Vegas location for what will be called Nevada Child Care Services Center.
  - Denise Tanata added that they are working on finalizing the location for Reno. They have Mary Buchmann present who is their statewide project manager for the Hub. She added that anyone who is interested in additional information can reach out to her or Mary Buchmann.
  - Carrie Paldi asked Cynthia Leech when are the provider payments for the grant recipients likely to occur.
  - Cynthia Leech replied that this would be a question for John Cregg.
  - John Cregg asked Carrie Paldi if her question was regarding the Early Childhood Staff Stipend Program.
  - Carrie Paldi replied yes to John Cregg.
  - John Cregg stated that once they have the sub-award signed, they already have the application ready and they can begin accepting applications. They must submit documentation to the state every two weeks so that they can get the funds out as quickly as possible.
  - Carrie Paldi thanked John Cregg for the clarification on this.
  - Denise Tanata asked Cynthia Leech if she wanted to add anything and the Council if there were any additional questions.
  - Cynthia Leech replied that she had no further updates for the Council.
  - Denise Tanata thanked Cynthia Leech for stepping up into this position in the interim and they appreciate her work.
- **Council updated on Child Care Licensing including impact on COVID and Nevada's Child Care Capacity. Latisha Brown, Department of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Child Care Licensing, presented.**



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- Latisha Brown updated the Council on Child Care Licensing which is currently experiencing an increase in increase exposures and positive Covid child within child care facilities.
  - This has kept them very busy as they work with state and local agencies in an effort to combat this issue and address it accordingly.
  - These efforts have required a lot trainings and meetings with facilities to ensure that centers are incorporating mitigation preventative practices, as far as, sanitation and disinfecting.
  - Latisha Brown was happy to report positive news in that the numbers for open and active child care centers have reached pre-pandemic numbers.
  - Child Care Licensing numbers show that they have 430 active facilities and are close to pre pandemic numbers.
  - Complaints have gone up, which was expected, due to the increase in open, active child care facilities and they are investigating these complaints as they receive them.
  - They are catching up on their semi and annual inspections and are working to get back on-point in the new year.
  - They have also continued with follow up visits as needed due to the increase in Covid child cases. They are reaching out to the community to ensure that offer support where they can.
  - They realize that this is not the time to be punitive and instead want to collaborate as much as they can to ensure the safety of children in these facilities.
  - Denise Tanata added that Council members can spread the word or can share documents regarding mitigation measures, share them with the Council, so that they can collaboratively work together to get this information out to providers.
  - Latisha Brown stated that they are posting a ListServ that will have Covid measures, preventative mitigation measures, and their expectations when they go out into the field. She added that you can join ListServ and share this documentation with the community. This information will also be posted on their website.
  - Denise Tanata asked the Council if there were any questions and thanked Latisha Brown for the update.
  - Denise Tanata stated that WCHSA was not in attendance to update the Council.
- **Council was updated by Nevada Department of Education (NDE) on Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA), PDG: B-5, and other NDE early childhood programs and projects. Patti Oya, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education presented.**
    - Patti Oya stated that on January 25, 2022, their office is hosting three virtual sessions called Envisioning an Early Childhood Assessment System for Nevada.
    - They are offering the same meeting three times on January 25<sup>th</sup> in order to make it as convenient as possible. The sessions will be held at 9:00 AM, 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM.
    - The meeting will focus on their current use of the Brigance Screener in a variety of situations such as Kindergarten entry, as a requirement in the QRIS program, and as a requirement in the Resource and Referral program.
    - The purpose of the meeting will be to hold a discussion on what it means to have an early childhood system, to discuss why they use a screener tool, and look at what is the best system for Nevada.
    - They will look at what they use in early intervention, what they use for children with special needs, and all other areas where they access children.
    - The goal of this meeting will be to find the best developmental screener tool for early childhood assessment in Nevada and a child's school or kindergarten readiness.



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- Following the meeting they will put together their proposal for the best screener tool for early childhood assessment system in Nevada.
- The flyer and registration information went out on ListServ and she will send this information to Denise Tanata to share with the Council.
- Denise Tanata asked the Council if there were questions for Patti Oya. The Council did not have any questions.
  
- **Stephanie Wyatt was not in attendance to update the Council on Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS). Denise Tanata, Council Chair presented on her behalf.**
  - Their early intervention system is currently working in Phase 3.5.
  - Providers may conduct visits with families in the community now and they have expanded from home and clinic visits since September 2021.
  - Visits may occur according to safety protocols in child care centers, libraries, parks, and other outside venues.
  - They have worked collaboratively to reach late Phases of state reentry and to return to face-to-face visits with families, which is a critical aspect of early intervention services.
  - NEIS has planned and created a deadline to ensure programs are moving quickly toward face-to-face service, their primary service delivery method.
  - NEIS states that by 2022 all MDT's and initial assessments must be primarily face-to-face, either in clinic or in home, along with the increase of continued ongoing services.
  - They understand telehealth has been a preferred method of delivery for families and they will continue to provide this service.
  
- **Lori Ann Molina-Lovell was not in attendance to update the Council on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Part C.**
  
- **Updates from the Nevada Pyramid Model Innovations (NVPMI). Janice Lee, NVPMI Statewide Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno presented.**
  - Janice Lee updated that they have continued with Pyramid Model expansion and excited to be bringing on one of the Alcelero Learning sites in the Las Vegas area.
  - Their expansion in the Las Vegas area has been challenging over the years, so this is a positive step forward in their continuation to support social and emotional development for young children in early childhood.
  - They are working collaboratively to create greater alignment between QRIS and Pyramid Model.
  - Janice Lee asked the Denise Tanata and the Council if they can finalize the draft copy of the Suspension and Expulsion Policy that is currently on the website, so that they begin to distribution of the policy.
  - Denise Tanata asked Marty Elquist for her feedback on the draft of the Suspension and Expulsion Policy.
  - Marty Elquist stated that she thought she had put the updated version of the Suspension and Expulsion Policy under Documents and Reports, not under Meeting Minutes.
  - Marty Elquist confirmed that the draft version of the Suspension and Expulsion Policy is still listed under Reports and Documents on the website. She will post the final version of the Suspension and Expulsion Policy.
  - Denise Tanata asked Janice Lee if she had any additional updates and asked the Council if they had any questions.
  - Janice Lee replied that she did not have any additional updates. The Council did not have any questions.
  - Denise Tanata thanked Marty for posting the final policy document.



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- **Updates from Local ECACs. Local ECAC Chairs presented.**
  - Denise Tanata stated that through the Child Development Group ARP funds through DWSS, they were able to get funds to support small grants for all of the Local ECACs to support their local work and to align with the ECAC's Strategic Plan. The applications went out and are due Friday, December 17, 2021 and she has only received an application from Washoe County ECAC, so encouraged all of the Local ECACs to submit their applications.
  - Denise Tanata asked for updates from Washoe County ECAC. There were no updates for the Council.
  - Updates from the Southern Nevada ECAC (SNECAC). Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy presented.
    - The Southern Nevada Advisory Council had their last meeting in October 2021.
    - They reviewed the success of their Step Up 2021 event held at the beginning of October 2021 and discussed potential events for 2022 that would align with the goals and objectives of the new Strategic Plan.
    - The SNECAC will meet again in January 2022 to discuss their plans for the year.
  - Denise Tanata thanked Amanda Haboush-Deloye for her updates.
  - Denise Tanata asked for updates from Carson City, Douglas County ECAC. There were no updates for the Council.
  - Denise Tanata asked for updates from Churchill County ECAC and added that she did not think they were active at this time. There were no updates for the Council.
  - Denise Tanata asked for updates from Lyon, Storey, Mineral Counties ECAC. There were no updates for the Council.
  - Denise Tanata asked for updates from the Northeastern Nevada ECAC. There were no updates for the Council.
  - Denise Tanata asked for updates from Nye County ECAC. There were no updates for the Council.
  - Denise Tanata asked for updates from the Tribal ECAC. There were updates for the Council.
  - Denise Tanata reminded the Local ECACs to get their applications in which were due on Friday, December 17, 2021, and to contact her if they are not able to meet this deadline. The goal of these grants is to help solidify



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which local ECAC councils are active, because there have been a few local ECAC councils that have disbanded, so they will know the areas that need representation.

- **Updates from the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC). Carrie Paldi, Creative Learning Center presented.**
  - They held their annual election in November 2021 and would like to thank Amanda Haboush-Deloye and Brandy Timmsen for their dedication and service to NevAEYC. Their term on the Board of Directors will conclude at the end of December 2021.
  - Danielle Holmes will continue in her second term as their VP of Membership.
  - They also would like to welcome Michael Maxwell, Lela Arney, and Amanda Mowry to the NevAEYC Board of Directors and their terms will begin in January 2022.
  - The NevAEYC's Annual Conference will be held April 21-23, 2022 at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, NV and the theme for 2022 is "Be Brave, Be Bold: Igniting the Joy in ECE".
  - Dr. Arianna Howard, Author at Radical Learning Spaces, will be their keynote speaker.
  - They are accepting workshop proposals until January 15, 2022 and additionally, businesses and organizations can be exhibitors at the 2022 Annual Conference.
  - For more information on submitting workshop proposals or on being exhibitors please visit [nevaeyc.org](http://nevaeyc.org) or contact John Cregg at (775) 327-0680 or email [john@nevaeyc.org](mailto:john@nevaeyc.org).
  - The NevAEYC Public Policy Firm is scheduled as a virtual event for February 27-March 1, 2022, and as they have done in previous years, NevAEYC will sponsor a contest for a member to attend the forum and applications will be sent to members at the end of December 2021.
  - On Saturday, January 22, 2022, Suzanne Hoyt from the Children's Cabinet will conduct a training on Helping Children with Nutrition at 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM and will be held at Scheels in Sparks, NV.
  - On Saturday, January 29, 2022 the Southern Nevada Chapter will be holding a Winter Mixer at Desert Shores Community Clubhouse.
  - T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nevada scholarships are being accepted for early childhood educators who are pursuing or interested in pursuing an AS degree in Early Childhood Education. For more information on applying for a scholarship, please visit the T.E.A.C.H. Nevada website.
  - Carrie Paldi asked the Council if they had any questions. There were no questions from the Council.
  
- **Council was updated on Pritzker Prenatal to Age Three (PN3) and Strong Start. Jamelle Nance, Children's Advocacy Alliance presented.**
  - Jamelle Nance stated that she would update the Council on both Pritzker and Strong Start, as they overlap.
  - They are holding two major events this coming year. During the first quarter of 2022, they will be hosting their Winter Policy Summit, and attending this summit, will be Dr. Cynthia Osbourne, Director of the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center, who created the PN3 Policy Roadmap that guides their work and directs the alignment of their policy priorities. She has sent emails asking for feedback on how they shape the policies for the upcoming legislative session. They will be sending out the dates for the Winter Policy Summit and are looking at the end of January or early February 2022.
  - They will also be hosting an event with ACCE to gain the interest of their Chambers and to bridge the gap between the community and early education and early learning to push the message of early investments in



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making family-friendly work environments. They are planning on holding this event end of January or early February 2022 as well and will update the Council.

- She asked that the Council contact her with any topics of interest or concern for these summits and welcome feedback.
  - Denise Tanata asked the Council if there were any questions for Jamelle Nance and thanked her for the updates. There were no questions from the Council.
- **Updates of the Health Resource & Services Administration (HRSA) Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant. Denise Tanata, Council Chair presented.**
    - Denise Tanata stated that a lot of the work they have included in HRSA Grant is incorporated into the Early Childhood Advisory Council and the purpose of which is to utilize the Early Childhood Advisory Council with the purpose of using this Council as the backbone of the early childhood systems work in the state of Nevada.
    - She stated that part of her role on the Council and of the subcommittees is to be able to do the some of the systems level work and help the Council members who have signed up to Chair and CoChair on the subcommittees. She will also try to attend all of the subcommittee meetings so that she can help with the back-end work.
    - They want to welcome the new Parent Leadership Coordinator, Ashley Dines, who will be helping them to better incorporate parent voice into leadership and decision making.
    - They also welcome Lela Arney, ARP Project Manager, who will be working on putting together an early childhood provider group to help serve an advisory role and integrated into the work as well.
    - Denise Tanata asked the Council if they had any questions on the HRSA Grant. There were no questions from the Council.
  - **Council identified any new or potential childhood funding sources. Denise Tanata, Council Chair presented.**
    - Denise Tanata stated that the Governor has allocated approximately 30 million dollars in ARP grants for nonprofits under the Nevada Recovers Plan to provide a wide array of services and supports for families, specifically child care. The deadline for these grants is January 3, 2022.
    - Denise Tanata asked the Council if any members are planning to apply for these funds.
    - Julie Houchins, United Way, replied that they are putting some proposals together for these grants.
    - Linda E. Young stated that she works with the Village Foundation and would like to get information on funding for this foundation.
    - John Cregg, NevAEYC, stated that there have been a few ideas proposed for funding, so he is waiting for NevAEYC to get back to him, so they may be interested in funding as well.
    - Denise Tanata stated that she will send out information to Council on this funding. She asked the Council if they had any new or potential funding sources to share.
    - Denise Tanata added that she had one additional funding source to share and stated that they are working with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco for the group Nevada Investing for the Future of Child Care and are working on a proposal in collaboration with local organizations called Access Community Capital Fund to



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create a child care facilities fund. The idea being that through existing ARP funds through DWSS they can use those funds for building and infrastructure and space.

- **Council updated on Research and Needs Assessment. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy presented.**
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye stated that have received a couple of need's assessments from some the Head Start groups. She has not posted these yet, however has contacted them to make sure they can share these assessments in a public format.
  - She will make sure that she sends updates on individual plans are sent to Denise Tanata to share with the Council.
- Denise Tanata asked the Council if there were any additional updates to share with the group.
- Linda E. Young asked Denise Tanata how to follow with up with members on any of the updates provided at this meeting.
- Denise Tanata replied to Linda E. Young and stated that if anyone needs contact information for questions and/or follow-up, they contact her directly and she can connect them. Her email is [dtanata@childrencabinet.org](mailto:dtanata@childrencabinet.org).

### 3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

#### **Council discussed what they would like on the upcoming agendas. Denise Tanata, Council Chair presented.**

- Denise Tanata stated that with the new changes to the agenda they will be adding updates from the new subcommittees.
- Denise Tanata asked the Council if the Council wanted to add any additional agenda items for the next council meetings.
- Tina Springmeyer and Diane Nicolet replied that that needed to add the Bylaw Changes.
- Denise Tanata added that they needed to add the meeting schedule per Patrice Gardner's request. She also stated that there was a public comment from the retreat from a rural group that needed to be added to the upcoming meeting agenda. She asked Marty Elquist if could recall who that was for.
- Marty Elquist responded that she will have to refer to her notes and let her know.
- Patti Oya added that they needed to add the Public Report to the next agenda.
- Denise Tanata asked Linda E. Young if she would like to add an item for the Early Learning Institute event in March 2022.
- Linda E. Young replied in agreement and stated it is being held March 2-4, 2022, and they would like to include the information and updates that are provided from ECAC meetings to many of the educators. They will be working in



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partnership with the Nevada Association of School Administrators so that would be an opportune time to share this information from the Council. She would like to add this to the agenda, she would be happy to prepare for this topic.

- Marty Elquist stated that the public comment was from Maurica Barron representing the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care.
- Denise Tanata thanked Marty Elquist for the information.
- Carrie Paldi stated that has been asked to attend the Strong Start Provider Action Committee and to report back to Council on the things that are taking place there. She wanted to add this to the agenda.
- Linda E. Young asked Denise Tanata regarding early education programs for Nevada Indian reservations.
- Denise Tanata stated that the Inner tribal Council of Nevada will be leading this and she will reach out them.
- Linda E. Young added that she would like for the Council to keep updated on what is occurring in early childhood education on the reservations, so that work together collaboratively and inclusively on goals for early childhood.
- Denise Tanata agreed with Linda E. Young to add this topic to the agenda. She added the that the Executive and leadership Subcommittee will review these agenda items to ensure that they make the most of their time in these meetings and provide and are still informative on these topics.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

- Denise Tanata stated asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.
- Denise Tanata thanked the Council for welcoming herself and Patrice Gardner as Chair and CoChair and appreciated their patience as they become more comfortable in their positions.

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT

11:49 AM