



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022 9:00 AM

“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.”

Meeting Location:

This meeting was held via Teams videoconference:

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby noticed that the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council reserves the right to take agenda items out of posted order (except that public hearings will not begin earlier than posted times); items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time; and items may be combined for consideration. A time for public comment is provided at the beginning and at the conclusion of the meeting. A time limit of three minutes may be imposed by the Subcommittee Co-Chairs, for public comments, in order to afford all members of the public who wish to comment, with an opportunity to do so within the timeframe available to the Council. The Subcommittee Co-Chairs reserve the right to call on individuals from the audience or to allow for testimony at any time.

The Subcommittee Co-Chairs reserve the right to call items of the agenda out of order as needed.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting. Please contact Denise Tanata at DTanata@childrencabinet.org, at least five business days in advance so that arrangements can be made.

This public notice has been posted at the offices of the Department of Education in Carson City and Las Vegas; Department of Health and Human Service in Carson City; and at the Nevada State Library and Archive in Carson City. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada ECAC website at <http://nvecac.com>.

The support materials to this agenda are available, at no charge on the Nevada ECAC website at: <http://nvecac.com/> (under the meeting date referenced above) or by contacting Denise Tanata at The Children’s Cabinet, 1771 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 200B or 702.544.9629 or DTanata@childrencabinet.org.

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

- Denise Tanata called the meeting to order at 9:03am and confirmed quorum had been achieved.
- Members in Attendance: Denise Tanata, Cathleen Rexing, Marty Elquist, Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Julie Houchins, Kathy Yoder-Bass
- Public in Attendance: Ashley Dines, Alyson Godfrey, Emily Carrasco, Kamree Stubbs

2. Public Comment #1

- No public comment provided.

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

- Marty Elquist motioned for approval of a flexible agenda and Julie Houchins seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

4. Minutes from January 4, 2022

- Marty Elquist motioned for approval of the January 4, 2022 minutes as presented and Julie Houchins seconded the motion.



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- Discussion: Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward noted that there is discrepancy in using “Dr.” in front of member names and would like to see consistency in the future. Denise Tanata noted that will be reviewed in the future and she will ensure all members with “Dr.” will have that designation noted.
- All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

5. Minutes from March 1, 2022

- Marty Elquist motioned for approval of the March 1, 2022 minutes as presented, noting the discussion above, and Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

6. Discuss Subcommittee Provider and Parent/Family Representatives

Denise Tanata noted we had discussed having both child care provider and parent representatives appointed to the leadership subcommittee. Denise Tanata asked Kathy Yoder-Bass to introduce herself as the child care provider representative appointed from the Child Care Provider Action Committee.

- Kathy Yoder-Bass introduced herself as the Principal and Owner of the Hills Preschool. She also partners with Sunrise Children’s Foundation and serves on the NevAEYC Board.
- Denise Tanata provided a brief overview of the role of the representation on the leadership subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata noted that she asked Ashley Dines to join the meeting as a parent leader representative. She also noted that previous discussions included potential nominations from other groups for the parent/family representative and opened up the discussion for other nominations.
- Marty Elquist recommended nominating Ashley Dines to serve as the Parent/Family representative.
- Julie Houchins asked if there was an interest letter to distribute to recruit additional representatives. Denise Tanata said she did not have one, but could create that.
- Denise Tanata asked if the group would be open to bringing in additional representatives.
- Marty Elquist agreed that additional representatives would be fine, but want to make sure we are truly engaging these representatives in a meaningful way to use their experience to drive what we are doing.
- Denise Tanata noted that Parent Leadership and integration of parent/family leaders into decision-making roles is a priority for our HRSA ECCS grant. There are some resources available through the Center for the Study of Social Policy, one is the Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership, as well as an Assessment tool, that we would like to use as training tools for the NECAC.
- Kathy Yoder-Bass mentioned that Head Start and Early Head Start programs have parent leadership groups that we could tap into as well. Denise Tanata mentioned that Ashley Dines is part of the Acelero parent group.
- Julie Houchins mentioned that UWSN has been partnering with several groups to support FFNs and could assist with outreach to those FFNs to participate.
- Denise Tanata nominated Ashley Dines to serve as the parent/family leader on the Leadership Subcommittee to support training and engagement strategies. Ashley Dines accepted the nomination. Denise Tanata, as Chair, will appoint Ashley Dines to the Leadership Subcommittee.
- Kathy Yoder-Bass commented in the chat that representatives from Meadows and Dawson would be interested in getting involved in state level leadership as well. Denise Tanata mentioned that these meetings are all open to the public and they are welcome to join. She recommended having them sign up for the NDE OELD listserv to receive the meeting notices.
- Denise Tanata also mentioned having space on the Leadership Subcommittee for State Leadership Members as well. She will add that to a future agenda.

7. Updates from Subcommittee Co-Chairs



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- System Alignment Subcommittee – Julie Houchins and Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Co-Chairs presented. The last meeting scheduled did not meet quorum. An email was sent out with a Google folder with documents. The next meeting is June 29th.
- Communications and Engagement – Dr. Linda Young and Maggie Salas Crespo, Co-Chairs were not present, so no update was provided.
- Finance and Policy – Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Co-Chairs presented. Partnering with the Children’s Advocacy Alliance to contract with the Children’s Funding Project to conduct a comprehensive Fiscal Mapping Project, which will be a multi-year project. They will help us develop a tool and data dashboard, as well as training our team on how to conduct the fiscal mapping so we can sustain this work long term. This will help inform the work of the subcommittee. Also looking for feedback from the other subcommittees on what policy priorities – barriers at the systems level – that we need to address. Denise Tanata requested that all co-chairs keep this in mind when discussing issues so you can bring those ideas back to the Finance and Policy Subcommittee.
- Data and Evaluation – Marty Elquist and Cathleen Rexing, Co-Chairs presented. Cathleen Rexing said the last meeting was in March 29th and an update was provided at the last ECAC meeting. The subcommittee discussed our key activities, goals and objectives. The next meeting will be May 19th.
- Denise Tanata noted that all subcommittees are working on their workplans and noted that she’d like to make sure we can review those at our next meeting.
- Denise Tanata also recommended that we create a report template for the subcommittees, so the information can be submitted ahead of time and we can focus on opportunities for alignment among the various subcommittees and address any identified barriers to completing the subcommittee workplan.
- Marty Elquist agreed that would be helpful to have prompts to help guide discussions and one of those needs to be interdependency. She also mentioned that we need to align timing, particularly for items that cross over various subcommittees.
- Denise Tanata will put together a template for everyone to review. She will ask everyone to present their workplans at the next meeting so we can begin to identify where those interdependencies may exist.

8. Leadership Subcommittee Workplan

- Denise Tanata shared the Leadership Subcommittee Workplan document. Denise Tanata started adding some of the key activities to include items that were already being worked on through the HRSA ECCS grant.
- Marty Elquist noted that the activities seem very doable and appreciates that we are not trying to do too much.
- Denise Tanata asked if there were any other items that needed to be added to workplan. No additional recommendations were provided. Denise Tanata will continue to fill out the workplan and will present the updates at the next meeting.
- Marty Elquist also informed the group that The Children’s Cabinet will be partnering with the Guinn Center to conduct some assessment of sustaining projects, ARP funds and what structure our state needs to sustain and improve the early childhood sector. This will include some town hall type meetings and a series of white papers. A lot of the work under these goals and objectives will be completed through existing resources.
- Denise Tanata also encouraged everyone to share any data, research, projects or other related resources that might be aligned with the work of the ECAC.

9. Discuss NECAC Meeting Agenda Items for May 18, 2022 Meeting

- Denise Tanata shared a copy of the draft meeting minutes from the last ECAC meeting to review any items that might be pending for the upcoming meeting.
- Denise Tanata requested 30 minutes for a presentation from the Jeremiah Program. There were no objections.
- Denise Tanata then provided an overview of the items included from the last meeting under Future Agenda Items.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward also suggested we look at who is providing updates and identify ways to consolidate or limit updates. Denise Tanata mentioned that she is working with the Communications Subcommittee to put together a newsletter



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or similar way to provide updates so we can use the meeting time to focus on our advisory role versus spending so much time on updates.

- Ashley Dines also recommended updating the website and having all of that information on the website so we can refer people there for updates.
- Denise Tanata confirmed with Marty Elquist that we are working on updates to the website. Marty Elquist indicated she is working with Matthew Hoffman on updates, but it will not be a complete overhaul. We can definitely add pages if needed.
- Discussion among members regarding a reporting/update template for partners so they provide updates ahead of time which will help us structure the meeting discussions.
- Cathleen Rexing suggested showing the goals during updates to align and recommended using sentence stem questions to be prepared to ask systems questions.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward reinforced the concepts presented to streamline conversations to ensure everything aligns to the goals and objectives, with a system focus. This would help the advisory capacity of the ECAC. Need to make it easy for partners to provide updates and find a good way to tie everything to our goals.
- Denise Tanata said we will work on developing a framework for them to respond to. She asked Cathleen Rexing to share some sample sentence stem questions that could be used.
- Julie Houchins mentioned that we could use similar forms for the subcommittees and partner updates.
- Denise Tanata mentioned the Civil Rights Principles for Early Care and Education. She will send this out with the meeting materials for individuals to review.

10. Public comment #2

- No public comment provided.

11. Adjournment

- Denise Tanata adjourned the meeting at 10:21am.