



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 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.

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Patrice Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:03am

Quorum achieved with 8 out of 9 members in attendance.

Member Roll Call:

- Denise Tanata - Present
- Patrice Gardner - Present
- Julie Houchins - Present
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward - Present
- Dr. Linda Young – Not Present
- Jennifer Butler - Present
- Marty Elquist - Present
- Ashley Dines - Present
- Kathy Yoder Bass – Present

Guests in Attendance:

- Anna Villatoro
- Rachel Stepina
- Rosa Tamayo
- Tami Conn
- Eli Komito

Denise Tanata introduced Anna Villatoro, who will be starting as the ECCS Program Specialist on March 20th. Anna will be supporting the ECAC with taking meeting notes, assisting in developing agendas and other meeting materials and posting items in compliance with Open Meeting Law. Anna will also be supporting Co-Chairs and members with reminders of key action items and deadlines to complete, as well as providing communications assistance and other technical and administrative support. She will serve in this role until the NDE positions through the PDG B5 grant are in place, at which time she will support transition and training of the new staff and will then work with myself and Tiffany Olivas on the HRSA grant and related early childhood systems projects.



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2. Public Comment #1

- No public comment provided.

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

Denise Tanata requested that the committee approve a flexible agenda. The Subcommittee may take agenda items out of order; combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve a flexible agenda.
- Jennifer Butler seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor of the motion, motion passes.

4. Minutes from February 7, 2023

Patrice Gardner asked if members had a chance to review the minutes and if any corrections or edits were needed.

Corrections or edits noted:

- Jennifer Butler, Item #5 – incomplete sentence, needs to be corrected
- Marty Elquist noted that the sentence prior has a technical correction
- Denise Tanata suggested that we hold off on voting until we are able to make the necessary corrections and will bring back to this subcommittee at our next meeting

5. Updates from Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Discuss Workplans, Meeting Dates, Posting Deadlines and Membership

(Discussion, For Possible Action) The Co-Chairs will provide brief updates, as needed, on subcommittee activities.

- Communications – Jennifer Butler
 - Primary focus is updating list of contacts for all organizations including social media. They are trying to confirm contact information for all related groups and organizations.
 - Denise provided additional comments indicating this work will be critical for the work of the Marketing & Outreach as well and thanked Jennifer, Dr. Young and the team for their work/alignment.
- Data & Evaluation – Marty Elquist
 - Reviewed membership and discussed who else needs to be on the subcommittee. They have had two members leave their positions recently. Have identified three other potential members from Maternal and Child Health, DCFS and potentially Part C – looking for representatives that can provide input on data and data systems.
 - Continuing on action plan – the work is very complicated, so taking it in pieces. Workplan document has been updated.
 - Meeting again next month.
 - Marty mentioned that she met with SRI (Workforce Framework contractor), which also has a Data Workgroup. They are ensuring they are aligned.
- Finance & Policy – Julie Houchins
 - Had a meeting on 2/9 – talked through the work plan, but no additional updates to the workplan document.
 - Discussed some of the bills in this session – AB114 (ECAC); AB113 (Governor's Office).
 - Amanda Haboush-Deloye presented on Children's Week at the Legislature.



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- Annette Dawson Owens has joined the subcommittee to provide policy and legislative updates from the Children's Advocacy Alliance.
- Next meeting is March 9th.

- Systems Alignment – Julie Houchins and Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward
 - Co-chairs met on February 22nd – focus is looking at our membership list and discussing priorities moving forward.
 - Next meeting is scheduled for March 22nd at 1:30. We will be focused on membership and aligning systems projects.

- Denise reminded everyone that we are working with OnStrategy to get the workplan document input into the system. If there are any significant updates, particularly to key activities, timelines and metrics, please make the updates and share with her as soon as possible. Since a lot of the metrics are qualitative, we will be using a more subjective measurement of percent completed. Co-chairs will not be asked to update information in the OnStrategy platform – we will be updating information in OnStrategy based on what is in the Workplan document.

6. Discuss and Update Leadership Subcommittee Workplan

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Patrice Gardner and Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Materials: Nevada ECAC Workplans Document

- Denise shared her screen to show the Leadership Subcommittee portion of the ECAC Workplan document.
- Goal 1, Objective 1.1 – Denise referenced AB113 to Establish the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Systems, which was presented on February 23rd. There was general support and no testimony in opposition. Legislators provided some comments on potential recommendations to the bill, which will be discussed in the form of an amendment to the bill. The ECAC work can provide a good framework for what this office can do, if the bill is passed. Denise referenced needing to look at the website to see how we can more appropriately share information and resources that are gathered.
 - Denise asked Marty if the timeline listed for the Guinn Center is still accurate and Marty indicated that it was.
 - Patrice Gardner asked what role, if any, the Governor's Office position would have with the ECAC.
 - Denise responded that there was not initially alignment between AB113 and AB114 (NV ECAC) bill. Some of the amendments proposed for AB113 may address this:
 - Requiring the NV ECAC to submit three candidates for consideration to the Governor for the Director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Systems
 - Marty asked if it would be possible to have this office serve as staff to the NV ECAC?
 - Denise recommended holding off on that request due to NV Department of Education PDG grant, which includes positions to staff the ECAC and then potentially integrate the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Systems with the ECAC as part of the systems work of the Office. We may want to establish a Cabinet that aligns the two.
 - Marty agreed and mentioned that we may want to wait until the Guinn Center report is finalized since it will provide recommendations for an early childhood system structure.
 - Require an annual report from the Office that aligns with reporting of the NV ECAC – December 1st deadline.
 - Inclusion of a requirement for the Office to address development and implementation of an integrated data system.
 - Allowing the ECAC or the Office have one bill draft request.
 - Patrice provided kudos to Denise and Patti for their presentation of the bill – it is great to see this move forward.



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- Denise stated that we may need to make some changes to this section of the workplan, but we may want to wait to see what happens with the bill.
- Rachel Stepina asked how this progress would be shown in OnStrategy, for work that has already been completed.
 - Denise responded that all prior work on the workplan activities would be included in the platform, showing progress on activities dating back to last year to reflect the entire Strategic Plan period.
- Goal 1, Objective 1.2 – AB114 includes recommendations for changes in membership of the ECAC. Other items in this section may be put on hold based on recommendations from the Guinn Center report.
 - Denise asked Marty if it would be appropriate to have the Guinn Center provide an update.
 - Marty responded that they probably need a little more time, but we can share the Scope of Work with the group so they are familiar with what they are working on.
 - Denise responded that we would share that Scope of Work at the next meeting. It will be important to identify what they are working on and how the ECAC can support that work or fill in gaps.
 - Marty will reach out to Michael at the Guinn Center to let him know that we are going to discuss the Scope of Work for the project and will invite him to attend these meetings to discuss details, as needed.
- Goal 1, Objective 1.3 – Supports and Resources to ensure equitable engagement of parents and families
 - Denise invited Rosa and Ashley, Parent Leadership Coordinators, to share any thoughts with the group prior to their presentation to the full ECAC tomorrow.
 - Ashley responded that one of the primary recommendations is to add an agenda item to meetings for representatives from the Parent Leadership groups to talk about issues that are important to them. They would also provide coaching and support to the parents before presenting. Ashley mentioned potentially having ECAC members serve as mentors to parents engaging with the ECAC as well.
 - Patrice commented that she loved that idea. She asked if that would be a space for sharing information, but also to train or educate parents on resources as well?
 - Ashley responded yes, this is a space to educate parents as well as providing a platform for them to discuss issues.
 - Subcommittee discussed several topics, such as navigating NEIS, IEPs and other resources that may be helpful for parents and families.
 - Jenna mentioned that sharing stories is powerful, but want to ensure they are sharing stories or issues that are within our power or authority to address. We want to make sure that the issues they present are something that we impact or do something with.
 - Denise mentioned that having the mentors in place would be a good way to ensure that issues are aligned, but it is more than sharing stories. We want to ensure that parents and families who are engaged are given a space to be leaders and share in decision-making processes. We eventually need to get to a place where it is not just an agenda item, but this is integrated into the work we are doing.
 - Jennifer mentioned in the chat that it would be good to have at least one parent on each of the committees as well as the ECAC as a whole.
 - Denise responded that the plan with the NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (the groups that Ashley and Rosa facilitate) is to have representatives on each subcommittee, as well as the ECAC.
 - Kathy mentioned in the chat that it would be helpful to train parents so they could easily transition to SOT (School Organizational Teams) once their children are in the PreK-12 school system.
 - Denise agreed and mentioned this is part of creating transitional leadership.
 - Rachel mentioned the parent that participated in our last ECAC meeting, who ended up testifying on a bill that he was able to learn about through the ECAC meeting. It is about empowering parents with information so they can engage in advocacy and decision-making.



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- Denise also mentioned that a teacher in a rural district reached out about wanting to participate in the NV ECAC, but realized she could not due to the meeting schedule being during work hours. We need to consider how we can make the ECAC more accessible for individuals who may be working during traditional work hours, when meetings take place. This may include establishing mechanisms for individuals to share written information outside of meeting times and/or having some meetings in evenings or weekends to accommodate schedules.
 - Marty referenced that the ECAC previously had an advisory group to address this issue, but it fell apart because we didn't know how to actively engage them. We need to ensure that we identify what we are asking them to do or how to engage. If we have meetings on evening or weekends, it will be hard for current members to participate. We should consider looking at how other states address this issue.
 - Patrice agreed. We need to start making it happen instead of just talking about it.
 - Eli Komito recommended potentially alternating schedules of meetings to accommodate schedules.
 - Denise provided that we are not going to finalize this issue today, but we do need to continue to discuss how we can better accommodate individuals who are not currently able to attend. We need to get input from a larger group of key stakeholders and present some recommendations for what changes we can make.
 - Jenna mentioned that she was at a conference last week and this was discussed – it seems like no one has this totally figured out. We need to remember that we are all getting paid to be here, as part of our jobs. As such, compensation for others is something we need to consider. Jenna recommended setting up a separate meeting to discuss this issue in more detail.
 - Rachel emphasized the importance of compensation to both parents and providers. This is also a priority in the PDG B-5. They will be receiving technical assistance on this topic and will share that information as it becomes available.
- Denise thanked the group for the robust conversation, as well as Ashley and Rosa for the discussion and for providing the detailed presentation to the full ECAC tomorrow.
- Denise mentioned that we should add this to the agenda for our next meeting with specific ideas or recommendations on how to move forward.

7. Public comment #2

- No public comment provided.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:09am.