

**Nevada
Early Childhood Advisory Council**

“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.”

Public Meeting

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015
9:00 am**

Revised April 7, 2015

Face to Face Meeting

**Las Vegas Urban League Conference Room,
2470 North Decatur, Ste. 150 Las Vegas, Nevada 89108**

MINUTES

Patti Oya welcomed everyone. She announced the absence of Tammie Williams, due to her husband’s passing.

Sherry Halley established a quorum (seven Council members present) and called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

1. Introductions:

ECAC members present:

Latisha Brown, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing Program Manager

Linda Young, President, Clark County School District Board of Trustee; President of the Village Foundation

Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development, State Funded Pre-k

Carrie Paldi, Area Supervisor, Creative Kids Learning Center; Nevada AEYC; Child Care Licensing Advisory Committee

Sherry Halley, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Special Education, Early Childhood Special Ed

Angela Triche, Director of Early Head Start Program for Clark County - Sunrise Children’s Foundation

Marty Elquist, Northern Nevada Nonprofit Early Childhood Program, The Children’s Cabinet

Public:

Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

Ronald Barakat, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

Terri Janison, VP of Community Development - United Way of So. NV, Child Development

Shelly Nye, Program Director, The Nevada Registry

Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District, Nevada Pre-K Standards Coordinator; Washoe ECAC
Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP) – UNLV; Southern Nevada ECAC; NevAEYC
Karen Stephens, Nevada Department of Education, State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children
Linda Fitzgibbon, Nye County School District, PreK Program; Co-Chair for Early Childhood Advisory Council Nye County
Karen Holley, Nye County School District, Reporting Federal and State Programs
Steve Tutunick, McGraw-Hill Education
Lisa Calder, Elko ECAC and ECSD
Lynette Macfarlan, Professor, Great Basin College; Elko ECAC
Angela Rose, United Way of Southern Nevada
Kimberly Regan, SNACS and NevAEYC
Cheryl Brecheisen, Professor, College of Southern Nevada
Shelby Henderson, Children’s Advisory Alliance (CAA)
Tiffany Alston, Family Community Engagement Manager, Sunrise Children’s Foundation - Early Head Start
Mary Eldridge, Director of Ely Head Start Program, Little Peoples Head Start
Tameka Henry, Chairperson for the Board of Directors for Acelero Learning; Nevada Head Start Association & National Head Start Association
Dr. Rory Sipp, Acelero Learning Clark County, Head Start Program Director
Dr. Melissa Burnham, University of Nevada Reno, Director of Teaching Education and Human Development; ECAC Chair with Washoe County
Sherry Waugh, University of Nevada Reno Child & Family Research Center; WC ECAC; UNR Early Start
Danielle Harris, T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Nevada
Cindy Johnson, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
Lynn Houghton, CSA HS
Dr. Michael Maxwell, Las Vegas Urban League; NevAEYC
Brenna Malone, Director, Head Start of North Eastern Nevada; President, Nevada Head Start Association
Jana Martela, Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO)
Vicky Greening, Office of Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Network

2. Welcome and Introduction by Sherry Halley

Sherry announced a revised agenda.

Patti Oya Introduced updates and explains that due to the revised agenda, there will not be as many updates.

3. Updates

Brenna Malone announced that she advocates for Head Start. She explained that Head Start is celebrating 50 years and has the mission is to break the cycle of poverty. Strengths include quality early childhood education with child outcomes, school readiness goals, strong parent engagement, they serve a specific highest risk population. She wants to advocate for intentional collaboration as they move forward. She explains resources including the States

with blended funding. She would like a centralized application system to better serve the needs of the children in NV (Head Start, PreK, and private schools). She would like to invite folks to come to their local centers to show what they offer to the community to support awareness and understanding, as well as eliminate any sense of competition. The 50 years of capacity is truly their parent engagement piece. She wants to make it known that their parents are our leaders – it's the grass roots efforts that were taken 50 years ago. She believes that it is going to be our parents that take us through the next 50 years. Brenna Malone introduced Tamika Henry to give a parent's point of view.

- Tamika Henry explained that Head Start involves parents from day one; they partner with parents to close the achievement gap
 - Advocates learning and goal setting
 - Encouraged her to continue her education
 - She stated that they pushed for self-sufficiency as well
- Tamika thanked CAA for the report card because it shows how many children need services and how we can collaborate. She said that all need a quality program. We need to work together and collaborate together
- Tamika is happy that the Governor has decided to invest early instead of building prisons which would be how it would end
- Tamika explained how great her children are doing because of Head Start
 - Her second grader is reading at a sixth grade level
- Tamika explained how they encouraged her to read to her children for fifteen minutes a night
 - It helped her and her family bond
- Tamika stated that it allowed her children to be ready for school
- Tamika thanked everyone for listening and having her share her story

Patti stated that Carrie brought to her attention that if council members have to leave at 10am, would we still have quorum? Patti explained that the membership list is on the agenda. Discussion followed about identifying accurate membership, as well as following the order of the agenda.

It was discussed whether agenda items can go out of order. It was decided that the agenda has to be followed according to the posted agenda, but that the order can be modified. It was also decided that if we can't report on something it will be taken up at the next meeting, as well as if/when an ECAC member leaves, a quorum will no longer be valid.

Patti stated that she tried to match the agency/position to meet the Head Start application, matching the Governor's list (by the law) to the member list.

Patti then identified who is officially appointed as a current member: Kathleen, Latisha, Tammie, Marty, Dolores, Katherine, Carrie, Steve, Anna, Angela, and Linda are all members.

There was discussion as to whether or not Thomas Kapp is an official member. Anna explained that he was not on the Governor's list and that the position has been on in the past, but it's not officially on the Governor's list at this time.

- Sherry said she believes that law states that a representative of either Part B 619 office or Part C office or a representative for those serving young children with disabilities
- Sherry stated that Thomas is no longer the Part C Coordinator. Brenda Bledsoe is the current Part C Coordinator.

- Sherry then inquired whether or not Tom should be on, or if the council even needs that representation
- Anna stated that according to the governors list it is not on there
- Patti said that Jack Zenteno is not officially on either, unsure whether he applied or was awaiting approval
- Patti stated that Tina applied and was told the council was full so she is not officially on at this time
- Patti stated that there are officially 12 members
- Sherry the identified that there are only seven of 12 present, which does constitute a quorum, but that includes Linda who is leaving at 10:15am; so after Linda leaves, there will no longer be a quorum
- Patti explained that there are some folks on the membership who are no longer representative of their specific area/offices. Therefore, the membership will be reviewed and appropriately identified/realigned. Additional discussion followed regarding a few folks who were not in attendance and whether they would wish to remain on or can stay on
 - Sherry communicated whether or not Dolores should continue because she was no longer a representative of the United Way. She asked whether she should reapply under Hands vs. United Way.
 - Marty shared for the record that there is a position at the Governor's office that does the committee's works. She stated that Janie Lowe had a hard time getting the Head Start members on the committee because of what is written in AB 79. She stated that the governor himself has to deem it necessary.
 - Patti recommended they try to realign again with the positions in the law and make sure it is written clearly and line up the agencies under that.
 - Patti asked to table this discussion until the next meeting.
 - Sherry stated that potential members waiting for their appointments should let Tammie know when their appointments come through
 - Patti will work with Tammie to identify membership gaps and identify next steps for fulfillment
 - The council then decided to address items that may need action first

4. Possible Action

Patti informed the group that there were no minutes to be discussed from the October meeting. She also stated that the membership will not be voted on due to Tammie's absence. Patti wants to identify the specific agency/individuals required to be represented on the council.

- Jana inquired whether we should continue with updates from the participants, since we are no moving away from the formal portion of the meeting
- Sherry then inquired as to how or whether we should continue the meeting without a quorum
- Terri stated that you have to have a quorum for any action taken but not to hear information
 - Carrie then shared that in the by-laws, the majority of the lead team or the ECAC constitutes a transaction of business and with the majority of the quorum

present this meeting is sufficient for any advisory action made by the partnership committee.

Motion:

- Angela put forth a motion to move from the formal ECAC meeting to an informational session
- Marty then asked whether they will be discussing the strategic plan moving forward and if they are going to address that. She wanted to know how we would be moving forward as an ECAC.
 - Marty then stated that the ECAC is written into CCDBG and that it has to approve the state plans regarding the decisions that are made here for our children. It is written in the USDOE PreK Development Grant as well. Therefore, if there is anyone that can't come to the meetings and/or can't commit to the ECAC, to please reconsider your appointment on this committee; we have too much work to do!
 - Marty simply wants this on the record so everyone understands the importance and significance of the shared ECAC work
- Sherry stated they can't move forward with the strategic plan at this time
- Marty then stated that we are moving ourselves back again and that she is very disappointed with that
- Carrie stated that she agrees with Marty and it is extremely frustrating that we made arrangements for a face to face meeting (to have everyone here today) and we can't even constitute a quorum
- Marty identified all the passion in the room and stated that we are ready to roll. We've got committee's meeting all over the place on different work. This would be a perfect opportunity to align that work within the ECAC. We are all unified, we're marching to the same beat of the drum, and again we drop the trunk. Marty exclaimed, "We need to commit and I'm committed".
- Patti stated we had/have a lot of work planned. Beside the membership, we have the by-laws review, whether we are revising Silver State Strong or calling it something new; lining it up with the Governor's goals and with our goals. All of this was planned and now it seems we will be unable to move forward with this today...
- Marty expressed that she would like to establish that we are going to meet and form committees and sub-committees for ECAC to start moving our plan forward. She asks if they can vote on that and commit to the next steps so that they are ready and can move forward
- Sherry stated that there is another motion on the floor. She explains that all this discussion will have to go back to the motion
- Carrie shared that sub-committees can be formed and also be representative of outside representation for the purpose of providing expertise in specific areas. Sub-committees must also comply with the open meeting laws. So if we have a sub-committee, we have to follow open meeting laws. It doesn't state that we have to form that within a meeting; however, Carrie was unsure of whether we could do this or not
- Marty stated that bringing it back to the motion, we are not ready to go to the informational meeting yet, as there is some additional business that needs to be

addressed ; she further explained that she simply wants us to have next steps identified with our strategic plan. What are our next steps?

- The motion to move to an informational session was not addressed (or placed on hold at this time) and Patti moved into a discussion about Silver State Strong

5. Silver State Strong

Patti then addressed Marty's question and shared that it has to do with coming from the Race to The Top application. We weren't successful and it is highly educationally focused, but that the council should be looking at the bigger picture. Patti further explained that that is why the petal graphic was developed and shared. She, Tammie and Steve discussed forming committees around each petal, aligning all of our work so that we can reach our all children reading by third grade goal (as discussed at the last retreat we did and based on information from the Governor's Symposium). She stated that they would like everything wrapped around the petal graphic instead of Silver State Strong alone. She stated that while Silver State Strong has a lot of great information, it is not comprehensive and does not have a lot of measurable objectives. So instead of having all the small groups report back, it would be each of the petals reporting back and lining up with all of the work. For example, Head Start and licensing and all of those people/groups would be a part of a petal and reporting back from their respective petal. The idea was to take the various committee members and have them identify where they fall on the petal graphic and work from there.

Patti continued to share that the vision is that each petal will have a respective committee. The other vision is that another committee can be the liaison to the local ECACs and an overall strategic plan committee; totaling of seven committees.

Patti shared that Steve had planned to be on the agenda today as well, but due to the legislative session he could not make it. His message to the council members was to really focus on leadership, coordination, and advocacy. This is really about taking a stronger role to collaborate and coordinate. The council really needs to take a more active role than they have in the past.

- Sherry shared that when the flower was created, it was done through the Expanding Opportunities group. This group tried to improve inclusion opportunities for small children with disabilities. So when you look at the petal, there is access, participation and support. Those are the three main characteristics of providing quality inclusion opportunities for young children with disabilities. So consider the fact that it is for ALL kids and to think about the access, participation, and the support that is necessary to make sure that each child is supported. She asks the committee not forget why this was aligned in this way.
- Marty expressed that she does not know if there would be enough time to digest what our plan should look like just yet and inform ourselves enough to be able to vote on it. She advises the council to really think about this and what they want the strategic plan to look like. She would also like everyone to think about whatever model is decided upon, that all the committee work is aligned with that model. We need one vision for Nevada's children and everyone working collaboratively and not within individual silos.

- Sherry stated that we are finally being supported at the national level; we are seeing collaborative work more and more.
- Marty stated that we have to bring together all of the funding streams and all of that committee work and get it aligned and strategic. She asks, “what does that house look like, what do our two by fours look like to provide us that framework”. We, as a committee, need to make sure it is all under the same plan. We can pull out work that we’ve accomplished and bring it into our work here.
- Anna shared that this is exactly why the ECAC was developed!
 - Marty agreed and said, sometimes we forget that because we get so very busy within our individual work.
- Sherry expressed that within the next few minutes decisions on what the next few hours are going to look like need to be made. She stated that the work Patti did was done without the council’s knowledge and wondered if this is the direction they would like to go. Can folks leave today and think about what they want to do, what they are most interested in and meet together outside of ECAC and bring it back to the next meeting? Then when we get back, we have a number of petals moving forward and we can also identify where gaps are, address them and forge ahead.
 - Amanda shared that this would be a violation of open meeting law and could not be done. However, we could decide on those petal groups/committees today/now.

Motion:

- Marty liked the suggestion from Sherry regarding forming those committees today and puts forth the motion to establish the Petal committees and identifying leaders of the committees
- Angela seconds the motion
- There was no opposition
- There were no abstentions
- Motion carried

6. Establishing the Committees

Carrie announced that at least one ECAC member must serve on the committee. The ECAC member does not have to be the Chair.

- Patti suggested that the leads are identified first while everyone is still present and a quorum, still in place
- Sherry volunteered to be on the committee for Early Care & Education committee
 - Sherry suggested that a TACSEI member take the Social & Emotional committee
- Marty volunteered to go on a petal that does not have an ECAC member
- Angela stated that they are all intertwined and asked if they can serve on more than one petal
- Patti stated that she believed so. She asks the council to look at the member list and to see where everyone would best fit. She suggests Kathleen who does mental health

would best fit with the Medical Home Care committee. She stated she does not want to speak for her, but she asks for them to consider those that are not at the meeting

- Sherry suggested that Tammie goes on the Family Support committee
- Patti brought up Jana's point to email all of the members to get their commitment so that assumptions would not be made of which committees ECAC members wish to join.
- Marty stated that she believes that membership does not have to be voted on, but that we can establish the committees
- Sherry stated that you would have to establish who the memberships are so you can decide if you do or do not have quorum. She stated that you have to follow open meeting laws to form the committee
- Patti suggested that they determine the leads while everyone is in session today
- Carrie believed that you should not have to have quorum because open committee work comes back to the ECAC counsel. She also stated that they have to follow open meeting laws there
 - Carrie further identified that the interpretation is that you have to establish quorum for sub-committees
- Sherry suggested that the lead of each petal should be an ECAC member. She advised that all people that are not on ECAC decide which subcommittee they wish to help with and email the lead
- Jana suggested that we go to AG for advisement on the laws surrounding the sub-committees before deciding what and how to proceed with sub-committee meetings
- Sherry suggested that we hang the petal graphic on the wall and everyone write their name on the petal they would like to work, as well as circle your name if you'd like to lead that specific petal's subcommittee – this was done

Motion:

- Marty motioned to end the formal session and begin the informational meeting
- Angela seconded the motion
- There was no opposition
- There were no abstentions
- The formal session ended and the informal session began after the break

Formal meeting ends at 10:40am