



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

“Nevada’s children will be safe, healthy, and thriving during the first eight years of life, and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.”

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(VIDEO CONFERENCED)

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL

Marty Elquist, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair called the meeting to order, 9:04 AM. Quorum is met.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Alberto Quintero, Nevada Department of Education, Family Engagement
- Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
- Daina Loeffler, Nevada Department of Education, Section 619
- Denise Tanata, United Way of Southern Nevada
- Heike Rüdener, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Dept. of Early Childhood, Multilingual & Special Education
- Jocelyn M. Pereira, Aging and Disabilities Services Division
- Latisha Brown, Department of Public & Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing
- Lori Cox, Headstart of Northeastern Nevada
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Megan Schwarzrock, University of Nevada, Reno
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District

Public in Attendance:

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy
- Anna Severens, Nevada Department Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Annette Dawson Owens, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
- Brittnee Gilbert, Discount School Supply
- Crystal Johnson, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Danielle Holmes, The Children’s Cabinet
- Emily Champlin, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Evelyn Knight, Zoo’n Around Preschool
- Janice Lee, University of Nevada Reno, Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership
- Jeanette Belz, J. Belz & Associate
- Jon Bell, Lakeshore Early Learning
- Kaitlin Lewallen, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development



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- Mary Regan, Las Vegas Urban League
- Mia Pace, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Nicole Vairo Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Niesha Tinajero, The Children's Cabinet
- Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Priscilla Acosta, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Rachel Schmidt, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Robin Kincaid, Nevada PEP
- Sherry Waugh, University of Nevada Reno, Child and Family Research Center
- Stacey Joyner, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Sydney Banks, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Tiffany Olivas, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

Motion:

- Daina Loeffler moved for the approval of flexible agenda.
- Lori Cox seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carried. Flexible agenda approved.

4. ITEM A: MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 28, 2020

Motion:

- Correct spelling of Heike's name on page 5.
- Daina Loeffler moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted above.
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to approve minutes with corrections made.

5. ITEM B: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS EARLY CHILDHOOD COHORT

Patti Oya updated the council.

- Dr. Young is moving forward with the planning. The dates are March 4-6, 2021.
- This is the Association for School Administrators. The official name is The Early Learning Institute. It will be held Thursday and Friday, 4-6pm and Saturday 9-12pm. Saturday will be more of a community track.
- They are rearranging what was already planned into a virtual format and working out registration details.
- There might be some spots they will need help with. Patti says she will work with Marty to figure out the details.
- They have a TACSEI presentation, a leadership series presentation, Kindergarten transition presentation. They have 2 short keynotes (about 30 minutes) and 6-7 breakout rooms. Each keynote will have their own breakout room to go more in-depth.



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6. ITEM C: 2022 + STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINE & FUNDING

Council reviewed timeline and potential funding sources. Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair presented.

- Marty Elquist announced that Patti has identified CCDF funding for a facilitator in addition to The Children's Cabinet contribution of \$10,000
 - Patti Oya says the next steps are to work out the details of the approval process and who will officially receive the funds
- Next step to look at the last time they requested a proposal and to look at the past facilitators to invite to submit a proposal. Marty will send out what they sent out last time to use that as a starting point. They will discuss the request for proposal during the February ECAC meeting in hopes to send it out and secure a facilitator after the beginning of the state fiscal year, which is July 1.
- Carrie Paldi thanks Patti Oya for securing the additional funding for the facilitator.

7. ITEM D: 2021 ECAC MEETING SCHEDULE

Council reviewed tentative schedule for 2021 ECAC Meetings: Current schedule is the 4th Wednesday of every other month: February, April, June, August, October, December (3rd Wednesday in December). Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair presented.

- Alberto Quintero says it works for him, but he is flexible with any changes
- Daina Loeffler agrees with Alberto and likes the consistency of the schedule.
- Carry agrees with both Alberto and Daina saying it's been working, so they should stick with it.
- Denise Tanata and Latisha Brown also agree.
- No one is opposed to keeping it the same.
- February meeting will be virtual.
 - Carrie Paldi makes motion to keep the meeting on the fourth Wednesday of every other month with the exception of December.
 - Latisha Brown seconds the motion.
 - All Council member in favor.

8. ITEM E: SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS AND ROSTER UPDATES

Council was updated on subcommittee membership and action step planning. Council was also updated on use of OnStrategy and support needs. Updates from Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair; Alberto Quintero & Lori Cox, Family & Community Subcommittee Chairs; Denise Tanata, Health Subcommittee Co-Chair; Tina Springmeyer & Daina Loeffler, Early Learning Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata, Health: primary update is that they need to update their information in OnStrategy. She took the training, so she will do the updates by the end of 2020. Denise and Lori need to meet to put together their 2021 Meeting Schedule.
- Alberto Quintero, Family & Community: In their last meeting they took the OnStrategy training. They will start scheduling their subcommittee meetings. Alberto will send out an email to all previous subcommittee members and other interested ECAC members.
 - Marty says on the ECAC Subcommittee webpage, there is a Subcommittee Responsibilities & Commitment form that new members will need to fill out and sign.
- Tina Springmeyer & Daina Loeffler, Early Learning: They met and set a schedule for 2021. They will be meeting the 1st Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm. They are in the process of updating their roster.
 - Next steps for strategic plan is to figure out if they have access to the data to measure their plan.



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- Marty: It is up to subcommittees if they will need to build up their capacity to complete certain tasks while looking at their strategic plan sections. Contributors do not necessarily have to be members of the subcommittee and can serve in an advisor role and give updates on action steps to the committees.
- Marty: Kathleen Colombo from OnStrategy put together a report from all the subcommittee work and information in OnStrategy which was used to send ECAC progress to LCB and the Governor's office to make the ECAC December 1st reporting deadline. Marty put a cover letter on the report to explain the impact of COVID. She explained on the cover letter that they didn't have meeting until August, but there was work done in some of the action steps; they are just behind in updating OnStrategy. She explained that the subcommittees are starting to reconvene, and she can give additional updates in late winter or early spring if needed.

9. ITEM F: NEW OR UPDATED EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING SOURCES

Council identified any new or updated local, state or federal funding sources that impact or inform the early childhood system, The [funding map](#) is posted on the ECAC website under Reports and Documents. Marty Elquist presented.

- Marty Elquist doesn't know of any funding sources outside of CARES, and to let her know if you know of any other funding sources.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward suggested ECAC gets undergrad or grad students as interns to help with the extra work.
- Daina Loeffler agrees with getting that help once the meetings are not virtual.
- Alberto Quintero agrees and loves the idea of getting interns.
- Marty asked Jenna to be the contact to create the ECAC pool for interns.
 - Jenna agrees and will discuss any rules with Marty and then get it approved by the Council.
- Heike Rudenauer says they should wait to figure out what they can and cannot implement in order to figure out where the funding goes. Daina Loeffler agrees with Heike.
 - Marty says the subcommittees can figure out what they need help with and can bring that into the April meeting to get interns started with work.
- Carrie suggests interns help with local councils and Heike suggests getting to figure out what interns would want to do.
- Jenna will come up with what interns will want to do. Subcommittee will come up with what they need help with. Marty will meet with Jenna, and then the ECAC Council will reconvene in the February meeting.

10. ITEM G: NEW OR UPCOMING EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Council identified any new or upcoming needs assessments that impact or inform the early childhood system. All needs assessments identified will be posted on the ECAC website under Reports and Documents. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy presented.

- Amanda doesn't have any additional needs assessment updates.
 - There is a new needs assessment for the entire early maternal child health division that encompasses the home visiting needs assessment. As soon as she gets more information she will put it up. They will do a larger search in January.
 - Marty reminds the Council that the Needs Assessment spreadsheet is under Reports & Documents and thanked Amanda and NICRP team for creating. All needs assessments listed are related to children and families.

11. ITEM H: FACEBOOK PAGE

Council Discussed the status of the ECAC Facebook Page. Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education presented.

- Marty reads Anna Severens email update: We currently have 359 followers with each posts reaching 30-80 followers.



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- Highest post was with 83 – “Good to know: FREE kids building kits”
- Second was 73 – “Unpacking the Pyramid Model: A Practical Guide to Social Emotional”
- If anyone has additional posting ideas, please let Anna Severens know.
- She will stick to a regular posting schedule after the new year.
- Alberto asked if there is a specific audience. Marty says anything related to children B-8, early childhood professional, parents, administrators, public official figures, etc.

12. ITEM I: CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATES

Updated on CCDF subsidy and resource and referral programs including updates on CARES funding. Crystal Johnson presented.

- Crystal Johnson: Working on 2022-2024 state plan
- Preparing for virtual program review from Feds for their program in June.

13. ITEM J: NEW OR UPDATED EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING SOURCES

Identify any new or updated local, state or federal funding sources that impact or inform the early childhood system. The funding map is posted on the ECAC website under Reports and Documents. Marty Elquist presented.

- Latisha: 428 to 430 facilities about 5 pending to open in the next month or so. 14 to 17 permanent closures.
- Directive 35 addressing gyms in child cares
 - These child care facilities received a COVID checklist with an integration with child care and CDC guidelines with NAC regulations. Their inspectors will do onsite visits to observe set-up as they prepare to open up. These facilities will submit their Covid-19 open plan and protocol that shows implementation of CDC guidelines.
- They had an up kick of COVID exposure cases including people coming in contact or living with persons with COVID
- Working with OSHA to figure out what products people can use to disinfectant
- Child care licensing is behind. They are trying to work hard to get everyone off of provisional licenses.
 - Limiting their visits to just complaint and investigations for a limit of two weeks.
- They will not be caught up by the end of 2020. It will be January and February at the latest.
- Carri Paldi: Will centers have to stay on their provisional licenses until their annual renewal? Latisha answers yes.
 - Provisional licenses will stand due to COVID-19
- Marty: Is Washoe County Child Care Licensing following the same provisional licenses if they can't do inspections? Latisha isn't exactly sure. She knows they didn't want to do the provisional licenses. She will find out exactly what they chose to do.

14. ITEM K: LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES

Council prepared for Nevada's 2021 Legislative Session and issues related to early childhood. The Children's Advocacy discuss the importance of and pending legislation regarding the 2020 Census as it relates to children. J K Belz and Associates presented on behalf of Children's Advocacy Alliance

- Janet Belz: Some of the bill draft requests have been incorporated into the legislation committee on health care's final report. Those will be moving to the legislature under bill draft request no. 452 and 449. That includes the 12-month continuous eligibility for children on Medicaid, expanding presumptive eligibility for pregnant women on Medicaid including 12-month eligibility for post-partum care, and help around the community health workers. In addition, Michelle Gorelow submitted BDR130, which also relates to presumptive eligibility for pregnant women, and Senator Melany Scheible submitted PBR56, which also relates to 12-month eligibility for children on Medicaid.
- They have about 150 bills that have been pre-filed. None of them are specific to early childhood education. Janet will send a link later and encourages everyone to take a look through those bills as well.



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- The legislature session starts on February 1, 2021. They are unsure if it'll be virtual or hybrid.
- First on the agenda for the legislature is the budget. The Governor will state the state of address in about month, and he will release his suggested budget proposal.
- The Economic Forum, group of five people, will project what the bi-annual revenues will be. They come up with a figure of about 8.5 billion for a two-year cycle in comparison to the agency request submitted prior to that of about 9.7 billion. That difference governor has state agencies to submit 12% in cuts for the 2023 bi-annual.
- The senate and assembly assignments:
 - Assembly, Health and Human Services Chair: Rochelle Nguyen
 - Five freshmen that have not served before with 2 new members who have served in the past.
 - Assembly, Wades and Needs Committee Chair: Maggie Carlton
 - Senator Julia Roddy is continuing to serve as Senate Health and Human Services Chair
 - Senator Chris Brooks is serving as Senate Finance Committee Chair
- CAA hosting a winter policy summit for legislatures next month
 - Focusing on issues related to:
 - School readiness
 - Children's Health
 - Children's Safety and Economic Wellbeing

15. ITEM L: STRONG START UPDATES

Council was updated on the progress of the Strong Start and asked for guidance in moving the Strong Start agenda and activities forward. Annette Dawson Owens, Children's Advocacy Alliance presented.

- They are leading the efforts for Nevada Strong Start through the Pritzker Children's Initiative. They were awarded, but they are back into an extended planning phase of the grant with submission deadline of Jan 29. CAA's work is headed by Priscilla Acosta, Strong Start's prenatal to 3 expert.
- Expanded partners and implementation steps. The plan has four policy areas:
 - 1. Increase the number of pregnant individuals, infants and toddlers utilizing services to support healthy development.
 - 2. Increase utilization and quality of community based early childhood support for families with young children.
 - 3. Increase capacity and utilization of quality childcare programs serving infants and toddlers.
 - 4. Increase statewide capacity and understanding of the need for early childhood focus.
- Next Strong Start meeting is tomorrow, 12/17 at 12pm. New members are encouraged to join.
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye: Parent Ambassador program is funded by Nevada Association through the education of young children through a grant they received. Because of COVID they saved funds and they will all extend through June. They just had a meeting before the holidays about a week ago. Four parents left in the north and some may come back in January. Seven or Eight parents in the south.
 - They are looking for continued funding to assist the program. A lot of parent want to continue as mentors. They would like to send out the application again in April or May to start a new cohort. The length of the cohort will depend on funding and what parents can commit.
- Denise Tanata asked about Children's Week and whether it'll be virtual or in person.
 - Amanda: they are brainstorming different ways to keep it active and engaging online.
- Annette: they created a Strong Start Governor's cabinet with the eight involved with Strong Start governor.



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16. ITEM M: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATES

The council received updates from NDA and KEA, Read by Three, CCDF quality, PDG:B-5 and other NDE early childhood programs and projects. August meeting to include updates on PreK-12 Reopening and the status of PDG:B-5 planning projects. Patti Oya & Stacey Joyner, Office of Early Learning and Development, NDE presented.

- Patti Oya: They are working with West Ed on communication piece on the important of funding PreK and are waiting on the Governor's budget.
- Three scenarios:
 - State PreK budget takes the same cut that it did in AB3.
 - They get the 19.7 million dollars that they originally received. No growth.
 - They get an enhancement for 1,000 more seats, 500 per year.
- In the meantime, the superintendent is holding three legislative orientations
 - People centered funding plan
 - Student Outcomes, Ed Life
 - COVID related impacts
- Kindergarten transitions working with Education council. End goal is to have a state guidance document on the importance and planning around kindergarten transition.
 - First step is to have focus groups held by school districts.

17. ITEM N: QRIS UPDATE

Council received updates on the progress of Silver State Stars QRIS. Emily Champlin, Office of Early Learning and Development, NDE presented.

- Emily: Programs are opening and closing. They are continuing with the plan to be as supportive and flexible as they can with supporting centers with their quality journey during these challenging times.
- In 2020 despite pauses, they had 27 programs rated, 17 rate between April and December. Of the 17, 10 got their first rating, 4 of them increases their quality star rating, 3 maintained their level, 1 decreased
- Working closely with assessment team to get programs rolling in the new year. Hopefully at around January 15.
- Creating a Padlet is coach or provider focused. <https://padlet.com/emilyruthfoster/7roy7ub62uw9xqpi>

18. ITEM O: PART C & NEIS UPDATES

Council received updates on Nevada Early Intervention Services caseload and status of the phased re-entry plan. Lori Ann Molina Lovell, Part C is not in attendance. No one else is available to give the update.

19. ITEM P: LOCAL ECAC UPDATES

Council is updated from the local ECACs. Local ECAC Chairs presented.

- Amanda, Southern Nevada: Last meeting was in October. They recapped the end of the year. Still working on tool kit for business to support breastfeeding. They will reassess in the year to figure out their best efforts and determine their focus moving forward.
- Tiffany, Carson/Douglas: Because of COVID and all other additional tasks they are not doing their big project until late Spring or summer.
- Northeastern Nevada, Elko: No one is in attendance to give an update.
- Churchill County: No one is in attendance to give an update.
- Nye County: No one is in attendance to give an update.



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- Story/Lyon/Mineral Counties: No one is in attendance to give an update.
- Priscilla Acosta, Tribal: Marty put Priscilla in touch with Stephanie Wyatt. Priscilla: Stephanie is interested in revitalizing the Tribal ECAC. The Intertribal Council Nevada's Child Care Development was also doing work on it in the beginning of COVID, but it had to be put on the back burner. They brought it forward to the Nevada Indian Education Commission, but they have also slowed down a bit because of COVID issues. Marty, Priscilla and Stephanie will meet in January to start planning to get Tribal ECAC back on track.
- Washoe County: Members of Washoe and Elko ECAC have been working in collaboration with RPD to host a statewide DAP K professional learning series with additional support from Children's Cabinet and NevAEYC. We have over 70 Kindergarten teachers (2 cohorts) from across the state participating. The series will be meeting December-March.

20. ITEM Q: NEVAEYC UPDATES

Updates from NevAEYC. Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center presented.

- Carrie: they have completed their elections for the board and applicants have been informed. Announcements will occur by Friday, December 18.
- The board retreat will be in January, and it will be virtual.
- They are finalizing their policy agenda for 2021, which will be approved by the NevAEYC at the retreat. Once approved it will be posted on website.
- Annual Early Childhood conference will be at the end of April, and it is virtual.
- Southern Nevada chapter NevAEYC held virtual a mini conference on December 6. 46 people attended and earned up to 6 hours of Nevada Registry approved training.
- Continue to accept TEACH application at NVteach.org
- TEACH Nevada programs received a one year grant to move the needle on early childhood issues. A committee has been formed and will focus on three areas:
 - Supporting the development of online bachelor's degree in ECE towards non-licensure;
 - Apprenticeship programs particularly for high school students interested in joining the early childhood workforce and;
 - Compensation, wages and benefits.
 - The committee will be meeting on January 10th to create an action plan to identify next steps in advancing these three areas in Nevada
- Over the last year and a half, TEACH has been conducting surveys with TEACH graduates to learn more about their lives after earning Early Childhood degrees. This study looks at retention in the workforce, career progression, wage increases and educational advancement every 6 months for three years after graduating.
 - 17 TEACH graduates have completed their 6-month survey, and they are finalizing the report, which will be shared with the ECAC council once completed.

21. ITEM R: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The council discussed what they would like on the upcoming agendas. Marty Elquist, Council Chair

- In February they will go over the intern tasks
- Go over the draft RFP



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- Denise Tanata ask that we extend an invitation to Jocelyn Cousins with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco to give a presentation. They have been working on a series investing in the future of child care. Jocelyn is located in the state of Nevada, and there are efforts to integrate the series in Nevada.
 - Carrie Paldi says is sounds interesting and exciting.
 - Marty agrees.
 - No one opposes. Denise will reach out and extend the presentation and give Marty all updated information.

22. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Amanda: Nevada Institute for Children is helping with campaign related to COVID-19 code 1 community response and is targeted to underrepresented groups in the community. The goal is to encourage preventative measures. They have target social media posts and flyers. They have targeted seven populations including African American, Native American, Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander, separate Asian communities, hard of hearing community, Hispanic, LGBTQ. They are also doing photoshoot to show local representation. Will have those wrapped up in a week. - <https://nmhec.org/>

Heike: They support children who have disabilities for families 0-3 in age, and they support ATAP, Autism Treatment Assistance Program. They have noticed that these families are having trouble keeping up with their services due to COVID and changes in insurance plans. They have developed two different trainings for supporting those providers including a family engagement training to help keep in contact with families and making sure providers know how to engage with families on line. The second training is a transitioning training for early invention. The kids are exiting at age 3 and it's difficult not to lose those families. They reached around 30 providers with these trainings, and they reached about 30 families. They had around 100-120 providers and therapist, so about 2,000 families can benefit from those trainings.

Jenna Weglarz-Ward: Jenna met with Senator Duckworth from Illinois to discuss supporting parents of children with disabilities in accessing child care. Jenna is working with Division of Early Childhood to provide information and recommendations to include in that piece of legislation. There is great interest in expulsion policies.

Amanda: Amanda sent out an email for people to get on the listserv for Early Childhood Research Consortium. They are having a call in January. They are looking for new people who are into research in early childhood and would like to be on the plan committee. If you're interested let Amanda know and she will get you more information.

Heike: Alberto is sending out the Family Engagement newsletter from the Department of Education. They have been forwarding to the NEIS providers and they have been forwarding it to their families. Two families said that even if their children are not yet in school or they are not in the area, they still found the information really helpful and joyful. Thank you, Alberto. Alberto will share the link for people to subscribe.

Marty: Extends gratitude to Niesha Tinajero who will now be an R&R Specialist, so we will have someone new taking notes for the council from now on. Congratulations and thank you for your work.

23. ADJOURNMENT

11:16PM