



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 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

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

Council Members in Attendance:

- Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
- Denise Tanata, United Way of Southern Nevada
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Dept. of Early Childhood, Multilingual & Special 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 Licensing
- Linda Young, Other members as the Governor deems necessary
- Lori Cox, Headstart of Northeastern Nevada
- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Megan Schwarzrock, University of Nevada, Reno
- Patrice Gardener, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development, Head Start State Collaboration Office

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
- Emily Champlin, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Jamelle Nance, Strong Start, Children’s Advocacy Alliance Nevada
- Janice Lee, University of Nevada Reno, Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership
- Lauren Ryan, The Children’s Cabinet
- Marc Zine, Senior Stakeholder Liaison, IRS Communications & Liaison
- Mary Regan, Las Vegas Urban League
- Nicole Vairo, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Program
- Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Rachel Schmidt, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education



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- 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
- Susan Du, Senior Stakeholder for Outreach Resources
- Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Valerie Balen, J. Belz & Associate

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

3. APPROVAL OF FLEXIBLE AGENDA

Motion:

- Carrie Paldi 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 APRIL 28, 2021

Motion:

- No items presented for correction.
- Linda Young moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted above.
- Patrice Gardener seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries to approve minutes with corrections made.

5. ITEM B: ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF THE 2021 CHILD TAX CREDIT

Council updated on the presentation on how families can qualify and receive the 2021 Child Tax Credit. Eligible families with qualifying children, even those with no income, may be entitled to receive as much as \$1,800 per qualifying child between July and December 2021 by monthly direct deposits, checks or debit cards.

Marc Zine, Senior Stakeholder Liaison, IRS Communications & Liaison presented.

- Marc Zine updated the Council on Advance Payments of the 2021 Child Tax Credit
 - Changes to the Child Tax Credit will help families get advance payments starting this summer and these changes apply to tax year 2021 only.
 - The IRS will pay half the total credit amount in advance monthly payments beginning July 15.
 - Individuals will claim the other half when they file their 2021 income tax return.
 - The qualify for the advance Child Tax Credit payments, the individual and his/her spouse, must file if they filed a joint return. If they filed a 2019 or 2020 tax return and claimed the Child Tax Credit on the return, they must provide the information in 2020 to receive the Economic Impact Payment. Non-filers can use the Non-filer sign-up tool: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-non-filer-sign-up-tool>
 - The financial information provided will determine if the individual qualifies and determines if they can be automatically enrolled for advance payments.
 - Nevada Free Tax coalition can provide support for all filers.



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6. ITEM C: SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY UPDATE ADOPTION

Updates on the changes to Nevada's Suspension and Expulsion Policy. Original policy adopted by the ECAC can be found on the State of Nevada Policy Statement on Expulsion & Suspension in Early Childhood Settings Janice Lee, Nevada Pyramid Model Implementation State Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno Materials: 2021 Suspension & Expulsion Policy Update. Janice Lee, Nevada Pyramid Model Implementation State Coordinator, University of Nevada, Reno updated the council.

- Janice Lee reported that a small workgroup consisting of Edie King and Sheri Fyfe, from the Nevada Part C office and Robin Kincaid, Nevada PEP, convened to update the suspension and expulsion policy statement.
 - Under the purpose statement updates were made to update language as well as to strengthen the equity language around children with disabilities, race and ethnicity, and geography.
 - Changes were made to the Key Terms and Definitions. This section was expanded to better match national language and clarify terms in more detail. Definitions were borrowed from the National Center for Pyramid Model Interventions. Hopefully this will help us all use the correct terminology moving forward.
 - The Overview section was shortened to reference other documents instead of going into more detail. The focus was to keep it short and focus on the impact of suspension and expulsion on children's development.
 - Guidelines for Early Childhood Programs areas are the same, but language was changed for clarity.
 - Under Resources, the statement was updated to include language to clarify it the listing is not an endorsement of these resources or agencies and the Council should review to make sure members also feel these are appropriate.
 - Jenna Weglarz-Ward suggested that given the importance of Pyramid Model Implantation and efforts to prevent suspension and expulsion, the ECAC should have a NVPMI standing agenda item. Carrie Paldi echoed Jenna's suggestion. Janice agreed to present on the NVPMI standing agenda item.
- Marty Elquist called for a motion to approve the updated policy statement on Expulsion & Suspension in Early Childhood Settings with the addition of an equity resources section.

Motion:

 - Latisha Brown moved for the approval of the updated policy statement on Expulsion & Suspension in Early Childhood Settings.
 - Linda Young seconded the motion.
 - All were in favor.
 - Motion carries to approve the updated policy statement with the additional section included.
- Marty Elquist asked Janice to forward her the final Word version of the policy update. Marty will make the formatting changes Jenna addressed, make it ADA accessible, and put it on the Nevada ECAC website.

7. ITEM D: 2022 + STRATEGIC PLAN FACILITATOR SELECTION ECAC MEETING SCHEDULE

Council was updated on the presentation from the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Facilitator Committee on recommendation for 2022+ Strategic Planning Facilitator. Denise Tanata, ECAC Member and Ad Hoc Committee Chair presented.

- Denise Tanata reported that eight members served on the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee who reviewed and scored the three proposals using a consistent scoring rubric. Based on the scoring and discussion, the committee is recommending Professionals in Philanthropy as the 2022+ facilitator.
 - Marty Elquist asked if Professionals in Philanthropy was Proposal #1 or Proposal #3.
 - Denise Tanata responded that they were Proposal #3.
 - Marty Elquist commented that she was interested in the Not Recommend vote for Proposal #3 and for Proposal #1 Neutral. One member on the subcommittee felt strongly enough on Proposal #3 to Not Recommend. Marty asked if Denise could provide some insight on this.



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- Denise Tanata stated that she believed that because there were 3 Proposals that they thought they could only Recommend, Not Recommend, or Neutral, one policy each so there was some confusion.

Motion:

- Marty Elquist moved for the approval of Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Subcommittee's motion to select Professionals in Philanthropy as our ECAC facilitator for our 2022 + plan.
- Patrice seconded the motion.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries.
- Marty Elquist asked Denise if she will be contacting the other proposal submitters, thanking them for their time, and informing them that they were not selected.
 - Denise Tanata answered yes in agreement. She also stated that she will be offering all three of the facilitators some details on their scoring and we will provide any notes on their proposal per request.
 - Marty Elquist thanked Denise for following up with the facilitators.
- The Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Subcommittee also motions that the committee stay in-tact to assist with facilitator and to ensure all stakeholders are engaged in the process, convening meetings and focus groups, and alignment with other early childhood plans.

Motion:

- Marty Elquist moved for the approval of the 2nd recommendation from the Ad Hoc subcommittee is to continue the work, to stay intact, and to continue to support the strategic planning facilitator process.
- Dr. Linda Young seconded the motion.
- Julie Houchins offered to support the 2nd recommendation.
- All were in favor.
- Motion carries.
- Denise Tanata commented that any members who would like to serve on the Ad Hoc subcommittee, please contact her.

8. ITEM E: COMMUNITY CALENDAR – INTEGRATION SELECTION

Council was updated on the Community Calendar and how to promote events and usage. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Interim Executive Director, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy, UNLV presented.

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye reported that the Community Calendar for providers and to make sure that everyone was aware that this existed. It is a Google Calendar.
 - Amanda can add you to the Calendar so you can update events yourself.
 - You can view it on the website as a list, an agenda, or the month.
 - Lori Cox asked where they locate the Calendar.
 - Marty Elquist responded that the Calendar is easy to embed and Amanda can give you the code. Marty stated that the calendar is embedded in the ECAC website as main webpage and can be accessed on the right-hand side menu. In addition, her she and her colleague, Mary Regan from Las Vegas Urban League, embedded the calendar on NevadaChildCare.org.
- Marty Elquist commented that the Calendar to promote statewide and community events was an action item on the current ECAC strategic plan. The Council felt that a coordinated, statewide community events calendar was a very important item to implement and now that this action step has been implemented, we have to utilize and share.

9. ITEM F: OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING REQUIREMENTS

Council was updated and discussed Open Meeting Law requirements, advance postings, record keeping, and stating your name before speaking. Rachel Schmidt presented.



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- Rachel Schmidt updated the Council on Open Meeting Law (OML) requirements AB253 revisions, advance postings, record keeping, and stating your name before speaking. AB253 passed in the 2021 session with new guidance for hosting meetings in person, virtually or hybrid. The agenda appointment was revised to include the following changes:
 - Now a public comment may be submitted in person, virtually, or in writing.
 - They can now livestream all the public meetings and no longer must post a physical copy of the agenda in the Public Library, county offices, and school districts.
 - New posting requirement states that the complete agenda must be posted before 9:00 AM on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations: the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Carson City and Las Vegas offices, the Boards and Commissions website (notice.nv.gov), the Nevada ECAC website, and sent through the ECAC ListServ (Office of Early Learning and Development's ListServ).
 - Rachel stated that the Council must continue to email their Agenda 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting to allow NDE staff sufficient time to complete all posting requirements.
 - Rachel announced that her last day with NDE is July 30th and thanked everyone for their support.
 - Marty Elquist thanked Rachel Schmidt for her work and support of the Council over the past couple of years and wished her well in future endeavors.
 - Marty asked the Council if we should have NDE's Deputy Attorney General (DAG) do a presentation on OML. The Council had a presentation about four years ago and given the changes it might be great to have a refresher. Lori Cox, Linda Young and Denise Tanata all voiced support to add the presentation to the next ECAC meeting agenda.

10. ITEM G: 2022 EARLY LEARNING INSTITUTE PLANNING

The Council discussed the 2022 Institute to be held virtually or at College of Southern Nevada. Dr. Linda Young, ECAC Member and Early Learning Institute Planning Committee Member presenting.

- The first annual Early Learning Institute was held virtually March 2-4, 2021.
- The Early Learning Planning Committee will begin meeting again in August to plan the 2022 Institute. Nevada Department of Education is participating on the planning committee as are several members of the Nevada Association of School Administrators. Additional partners include: Village Foundation, CCSD Trustees, Nevada School Board Association, American Association of School Superintendents, Cook Center for Human Connection, National Association of Elementary School Principals, Nevada State College, College of Southern NV, Vegas PBS, Nevada Association of School Psychologists, City of Las Vegas, Clark County Commissioners, and the City of North Las Vegas.
- The group has created an Early Educator of the Year award and plan on continuing this recognition annually.
- Planning to have 6-8 keynotes
- Participants will receive one full credit for attending.
- Hoping to have the event at College of Southern Nevada with participant accommodations and receptions at the JW Marriott in Summerlin.
- Opening up the conference nationally.

11. ITEM H: UNLV INTERNS TO SUPPORT ECAC

Council discussed the possibility of using UNLV interns to support the work of the ECAC.

Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ECAC Member and Assistant Professor, Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual and Special Education, UNLV updated the council.

- Jenna Weglarz-Ward reported that the purpose of having college interns is to support the work of the Council and to provide opportunities for emerging leaders in the state to learn and start to engage in the work processes across the state.



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- Discussed using undergraduates and graduates at UNLV as interns.
- The objective for the interns would be to get an understanding of the process of the Council, to learn how to effectively manage Council activities, to develop their verbal and written communication skills, and creating and maintaining relationships as an active part of the Council.
- The council came up with the following list for possible activities and roles to support the Council in the following ways:
 - Attend ECAC Meetings, when possible.
 - Attend subcommittee or strategic planning meetings as assigned.
 - Read minutes, documents, and agendas for Council and subcommittees.
 - Help co-chairs in managing meeting logistics (e.g., for online meetings: manage chat, take notes, create follow up needs documents, take roll/attendance, draft minutes for chairs to review).
 - Complete communication for subcommittee (e.g., send emails on behalf of co-chairs, send follow up emails to group members).
 - Complete any research tasks for subcommittee (e.g., search for materials on community organizations, state groups, topical research/practitioner articles, state, and federal policy statements).
 - [potential: Support Council social media activity (e.g., recruit content for social media support, post approved social media content regularly)].
 - Complete agreed upon tasks with co-chairs.
 - Meet with Volunteer/Intern Supervisor quarterly.
 - Maintain documentation of tasks and completed hours.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward proposed that the Council discuss the time commitment and hours per month for these interns, suggesting that perhaps the interns receive credits for their time. These would be unpaid internships, so they need to be mindful of their time, and including both, synchronous and asynchronous work.
- Denise Tanata commented that she loved the idea and said it opens opportunities for research that needs to be done.
- Lori Cox commented that most of her background is in higher education and was concerned about the hour commitment for the interns. She stated that unpaid internships are being more frowned upon in higher education.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward agreed with Lori and said she would like to see some sort of compensation such as credits or service hours.
- Lori Cox agreed with Jenna and liked this idea.
- Patrice Gardener commented that she liked this option and would like the Council to further consider the credit component as a better option.
- Marty Elquist agreed also with fellow Council member comments and stated she was in favor of internship for credit for the reasons addressed by the Council.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward stated that each intern would require their own internship contract with specific individualized roles and responsibilities, as well as expectations.
- Marty Elquist commented that The Children's Cabinet has used always interns in the past. She said that this would require a set of roles and responsibilities, a scope of work with an agreement, and interview the possible interns to find a good match.
- Marty Elquist asked Jenna if she should put this on the Agenda for August with another iteration of Student Volunteer Interns Roles and Responsibilities.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward agreed to revisit this topic at the August meeting.



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STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. ITEM I: SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS AND ROSTER UPDATES CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATES

Council was updated on subcommittee membership and action step planning. Updated on the use of OnStrategy and support needs. CCDF subsidy and resource and referral programs including updates on CARES funding.

Marty Elquist, ECAC Chair; Alberto Quintero & Lori Cox, Family & Community Subcommittee Chairs; Lori Ann Molina-Lovell & Denise Tanata Health Subcommittee Co-Chairs; Tina Springmeyer & Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Early Learning Subcommittee Co-Chairs presented.

- Lori Cox reported that the Family & Community Subcommittee does not have an update at this time and will have to table this item until the next meeting.
- Denise Tanata provided an update for the Health Subcommittee is meeting regularly, every other month. The focus has been on how to prep for Strategic Planning coming up and are evaluating their key performance indicators, goals, objectives, strategies, to see what they need to work on. They also have looked at appropriate partnerships with other subcommittees and possible partnerships with other coalitions.
 - Lori Ann Molina-Lovell said she did not have any other updates to report.
- Marty Elquist reported that Jenna Weglarz-Ward agreed in June to be the Co-Chair of the Early Learning Subcommittee with Tina Springmeyer, who was not present at this meeting.
 - Jenna Weglarz-Ward reported that she and Tina Springmeyer have not met yet, so she did not have any updates, but is excited to take on the new role.

2. ITEM J: 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, ECAC Chair and Denise Tanata, United Way of Southern Nevada as Co-Chair presented.

- Denise Tanata reported that she has not had access to the federal systems database, so she has not updated the funding map. She will do this for the next meeting and will reach out to the Council members for updated budget information for this spreadsheet. Denise asked the Council to contact her if they notice any missing items or items that need to be removed on the spreadsheet.

3. ITEM K: NEW OR UPDATED EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Council Identify 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 Haboush-Deloye reported that there were no new assessments to update this past quarter. She stated that there several community assessments that she is aware of that are being finalized right now and hope they will be public in the next report, including a community assessment for the Nevada Health District. She said that some of the Early Head Starts are currently doing their assessments and will find out if they can be made public as well.
- Lori Cox asked Amanda how to contact her because she has a community assessment.



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- Amanda Haboush-Deloye replied to Lori and said she could email her at amanda.haboush@unlv.edu with any assessments that need posting and she will add to her list.

4. ITEM L: FACEBOOK PAGE

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

- Anna Severens provided an update for ECAC Facebook Page and stated that
 - They have 379 followers and they have had about 5 posts since the last meeting, with 30-40 engagements on those posts.
 - She is excited to hear those new interns will be able to assist with social media posts. She added that if anyone had any posts they would like to put on the page, to send them to her or to Marty Elquist to forward to Anna.

5. ITEM M: CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATES

Christell Askew, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services was not in attendance to give an update. No other person was available to give an update.

6. ITEM N: CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

Council Update on Child Care Licensing including impact on COVID and Nevada's Child Care Capacity

Latisha Brown, Child Care Licensing presented.

- Latisha Brown reported updates for Child Care Licensing
 - Currently Child Care Licensing numbers show that they 425 active facilities.
 - They have 58 pending applications for centers and 63 pending applications for family group facilities, for a 121 total of pending applications. These pending applications are people who applied to become licensed facilities with the State of Nevada.
 - They have noticed that family care facilities have been closing to open centers. Also, they have noticed that employees are leaving centers to open family care facilities.
 - Complaints have gone up, which was expected, due to reopening and the loosening of Covid-19 restrictions. Currently they have 93 open and investigated complaints.
 - They received pushback from facilities after the CDC Guidance sent out a notification stating that in childcare facilities, even if childcare providers and staff are vaccinated, there will be a need to continue prevention measures for the foreseeable future, including as masks and social distancing.
 - They have posted these guidelines to List Serve and sent it out to facilities and are enforcing these guidelines put out the CDC.
 - They will post any changes to the CDC Guidance on List Serve
 - They will continue to follow CDC Guidance and proceed on the side of caution, because children are not vaccinated and it necessary in keeping them safe.
- Marty Elquist asked Latisha if the CDC Guidance she was referring to as the specific guidance for child care.
- Latisha Brown responded that yes, the language she read was directly from CDC Guidance and can be found by going under Schools and Childcare Guidance, which is under Covid-19 Vaccinations. She offered to send it to Marty.
- Carrie Paldi thanked Latisha for sharing this information and said that it provides clarity on which guidelines to follow.



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7. ITEM O: LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES

Council received legislative updates and issues related to early childhood. Valerie Balen, J K Belz and Associates, on behalf of Children's Advocacy Alliance presented.

- Valerie Balen stated that she was speaking on behalf on Jeanette Belz who was not in attendance. She updated the Council on bills that ended up passing. The legislative session ended on May 31, 2021, and the Governor had ten days to sign the bills that were passed out of the legislature.
 - Zero-to-Three Age bills that passed
 - AB119 relating to Maternal Mortality Review Committee made some changes to study disparities among pregnant women and maternal mortality based on geographic area, race, and other demographics.
 - AB189 expands Medicaid coverage for postpartum care and other services for pregnant women and removed a requirement for residency.
 - AB192 revises Medicaid provisions governing the testing of pregnant women for certain sexually transmitted infections.
 - AB287 related to the licensing and certification of freestanding birthing centers.
 - AB256 expanded Doula coverage in Medicaid.
 - SB420 created the public option for health care
 - Failed Bills included
 - Midwife Licensure
 - Virtual Pre-K
 - Currently in the Interim Session which has a different structure and keeping an eye on health committees, as they now must have 10 BDR's and will see if any will be related to Pre-K and/or 0-3 Early Learning age.
 - The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was accepted by the state around 2.7-2.8 billion dollars, with a huge part of it outlined for K-12 education.
 - They will not have much of an update after this update until the next session. It is up to the ECAC if the Council would like to keep the standing item on the agenda.
- Denise Tanata asked Marty if Patti Oya could give an update on the Nevada Ready Pre-K Budget status at the end of session.
- Patti Oya replied that she will giving that information to the Council later under NDE updates.
- Denise Tanata replied that she will wait for that and commented that a lot of the broader ARP funds were approved in the last meeting, but the ARP Childcare Stabilization Grant Funding Plan in the amount of \$220 million dollars for childcare will be going before the Interim Finance Committee Meeting on August 18, 2021, for review and approval.
- Marty Elquist stated that the next ECAC Meeting will be after the August 18th IFC Meetings, so we do have CCDF updates on our Standing Agenda Item, so hopefully we can have a presentation on the use of the ARP Funding moving forward.
- Marty requested that the legislative updates remain on the Standing Agenda Items, as we wanted this on the agenda throughout for the year to receive Interim Session updates and to also prep for upcoming sessions.
- Carrie Paldi commented that this was correct, and they wanted to keep this on the Standing Agenda to have updates.
- Denise Tanata concurred with Marty's decision regarding the legislative updates on the Standing Agenda.
- Valerie Balen appreciated the clarification on these updates and stated that she understood and would update Jeanette Belz.



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- Marty Elquist said she would update the Standing Item description that is more specific to the interim session.

8. ITEM P: PRITZKER PRENATAL TO AGE THREE UPDATES

Council was updated on the Pritzker implementation plan and alignment with the ECAC strategic plan. Jamelle Nance and Tiffany Tyler-Gardner, Children's Advocacy Alliance presented.

- Tiffany Tyler-Gardner thanked the Council for rich engagement of the ECAC leadership on this initiative and for continued support on this work.
- Jamelle Nance updated the Council on the Pritzker Initiative Grant focused on the Prenatal to Age Three population and said that they have been meeting and have spearheaded three workgroups that include:
 - Maternal and Children's Health
 - Community Health Workers and Home Visiting
 - Early Education
- Currently, they are in the process of revising their implementation plan to reflect the legislative outcomes, so that their goals and objectives directly align with those outcomes.
- They are continuing to use every opportunity to spread the message and opportunities that are available to family childcare centers, especially those that care for the 0-3 population, as well as opportunities available to parents to receive funding to afford quality childcare.
- Marty Elquist commented that the Council was very intentional in aligning Pritzker Prenatal to Age Three Initiative and policy agenda to the ECAC Strategic Plan and PDG B5 Systems Planning Work. She stressed the importance of continuing the alignment moving forward with all the Early Childhood Education efforts that are going on.

9. ITEM Q: STRONG START UPDATES

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

- Annette Dawson Owens updated the Council on an event that CAA coordinated with UNLV's Preschool with Senator Rosen and Congresswoman Lee to introduce a Small Business Child Care Investment Act that would allow small businesses to qualify for funds through the help of nonprofits, to provide childcare and Early Learning access in Nevada.
- CAA hosted another town hall event in June using ARP funds to support education and their presentation was put on the Department of Education.
- They are engaged with CCSD to get best use of district funding and Early Learning opportunities.
- They continue to support Early Learning opportunities and continue to hold these town hall meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month and the next meeting will be held on July 12th and the focus will be on Prenatal-to-Three and will be working with Congressman Horsford's staff and office.
- CAA continues to work John Cregg at NAEYC and Amanda Haboush-Deloye at NICRP regarding the Parent Ambassador Program that Amanda started, and they just wrapped up their current round of parents in the program.
- They will be launching applications in August 2021 for a new cohort in the Fall that includes ten parents in the North and ten parents in the South.
- There is graduation celebration today at CSN with students formerly in foster care. Celebration led by DaShun Jackson, CAA's Children's Safety and Welfare Policy Director.
- The Kids Count Data Book was just released by Dr. Tara Raines and Nevada ranked 45th overall.



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10. ITEM R: NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATES

The Council was updated by NDE on 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, Nevada Department of Education presented. Emily Champlin, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education presented.

- Patti Oya updated the Council on state's Pre-K funding, they wanted to stabilize their seat cost to \$8,410 and was successful in having that approved.
 - Nevada Ready Pre-K had previously serve 3,094 children.
 - Total funding is now \$24.6 million to serve the same number of children.
 - NDE did not receive additional funding.
 - They restored their funding to \$19.7M, which is what they had been receiving the last couple years. It was cut during the Special Session, but it was restored to \$19.7M
 - There is an additional \$1.8 million GEAR 1 and \$3.1 million GEAR 2 funds from the Governor's discretionary funding.
 - The projection for Year 1 with the Governor's funding is 2,567 kids. The projection for Year 2 is 2,725.
 - GEAR funding must be used in Year 1.
- Marty Elquist asked what the number of kids was that were served in the Zoom Program for 2020 school year.
 - Stacey Joyner answered and stated that the number of kids were served in the Zoom Program for 2020 school year was 3,175 and this was a half-day program, so those kids received half-day services.
 - Patty stated that will all the federal relief funds, we really need to be clear on how districts are using other funds so we know the true seat cost. Local Education Agencies (LEA) cannot use pupil-centered funding weight for PreK, but they can use ARP so we really need to track the additional funds being spent toward PreK.
- NDE is finalizing the ARP spending plan and the use of the 10%. NDE received an extension through August and have submitted 3 Early Childhood proposals:
 - Social Emotional trainings
 - B-3 Leadership
 - Requesting an EPP specific to the B-3 work.
 - Aligning datasystems
 - Infinite Campus (IC) to include all PreK types and funding.
 - If we open up to child care, we need staff to support the data management
 - Denise Tanata asked if there is a possibility to integrate with child care subsidy data system.
 - Patti stated that they are ready for an RFP and will connect regarding the DWSS/Subsidy system.
 - It is really about getting kids into IC and showing child outcomes as we still get pushback for not having these data.
 - Denise stated that if possible, a back-end connection to the subsidy system?
- The Office of Early Learning and Development is also working on the Coaching Credential to specifically be added as part of the career ladder. Currently in development, but running into some challenges as universities have limited capacity to address unless tied to an official program or certificate. There is coursework developed in Colorado that we could adopt here in NV.
 - Lori Cox stated that coaching is her passion and asked if she could reach out to Patti to discuss the Coaching Credential at greater length.
 - Patti Oya responded and said of course and will get her caught up to speed.



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- Jenna Weglarz-Ward commented that she teaches a coaching course and has some experience, particularly with Part C and asked to connect with Patti also.

11. ITEM S: QRIS UPDATE

The council was update on the on the progress of Silver State Stars QRIS.

Emily Champlin, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education presented.

- QRIS increased their assessments in 2021. Local districts programs have been paused, as far as ratings have been concerned; however, in-person coaching has continued. Still working with providers on what works best based on the providers' schedule and needs on a case-by-case basis.
- In February 2021 QRIS rated 1 program, in March 2021 they were up to 12 programs rated, in April they were up to 13 programs rated, May 2021 15 programs rated, and in already in June they have had 18 programs rated. In 2021, a total of 61 programs have been rated and of that total, there were 21 that received their very first Steps-to-Stars rating. Ten of the 61 programs saw an increase in their star rating and 18 programs maintained the same star rating as their previous cycle. They also 9 programs decrease in their star rating.
- QRIS is reimagining all three models to simplifying ways to show quality. The LEA model is furthest along and will roll out in August. Looking at reducing unnecessary burden.
- Also working through the SRI document and continue to work on standards alignment.
- QRIS is holding small recognition event this Friday from 11-3 at the PDC in northern NV and The Children's Cabinet in southern NV. There will be a banner presentation for those rating in the past year.
- Denise Tanata stated that she apologized but had to leave and Jocelyn had to leave earlier as well and wanted to check in with quorum.
- Marty Elquist replied, stating that 10 Council members will still be present and we will have quorum.

12. ITEM T: PART C & NEIS UPDATE

The Council was updated on Nevada Early Intervention Services caseload and status of the phased re-entry plan.

Lori Ann Molina Lovell, Part C presented.

- Lori Ann Molina-Lovell reported updates on Part C & NEIS, stating that they received good news from OSEP, the Office for Special Ed Programs, that the state received the highest level of determination that OSEP will provide to states for their Part C programs.
- Phase planning continues during Covid-19 and we have been providing some limited in-person services with clinics and Telehealth.
- As of July 1st they will moving into Phase 3 of planning and reentry services and will be expanding to a hybrid model, where EI visits will be returning to homes.
- The ARP funding projected amount for Part C will be 8.1 million dollars and are awaiting the parameters for this from OSEP. It is their understanding that these funds will be issued with the next grant and available on July 1st.
- They have been actively promoting Nevada Pyramid Model since February 2019 when they started their 1st cohort of three Early Intervention programs. They have just completed the training for the 2nd cohort and are looking to complete training for the 3rd cohort soon. In total with the 1st and 2nd cohorts, they have 4 of the 12 Early Interventions programs trained and after completing the 3rd cohort, will have 2 more programs. Currently the focus on Pyramid Model is sustainable funding.
- Lori Ann stated that there are many challenges facing their system, as they continue to strive to provide meaningful and equitable services and cultivate efforts for diversity, equity, and inclusion. One of the ways they are doing this is through



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monthly technical assistance to all programs on standing agenda items of equity. Those topics can range from self-care to different programs caring for vulnerable populations within our system. They also are also looking at retention issues as they see many individuals taking opportunities to leave the system for various reasons, such as moving out of state, leaving the field altogether to pursue other interests, burn out, and financial impact. They continue to work through these issues by focusing on retention and recruitment of personnel, by providing opportunities for professional development for their system through trainings this summer. They will be having 7 trainings throughout the Summer and into Fall, each 75 minutes in length and at no cost.

- Their next Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Meeting is on July 15th.

13. ITEM U: LOCAL ECAC UPDATES

Updates from the local ECACs Local ECAC Chairs presented.

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye with the Southern Nevada Local Council stated that they had their last meeting on Wednesday, June 9th and provided the following updates:
 - They are working on their strategic plan for the Early Childhood Obesity Council and after making a few adjustments, will send it out for review. Marty is on this Council and is helping to make sure that it aligns with the existing ECAC language. She will send it out for feedback between the end of July to early August. Denise was present as well and was able to talk about the strategic planning at the state level also.
 - They are planning Step Up 2021 for Fall and looking to secure a venue, so they can settle on a date at the beginning of October. They will be reaching out to other local ECAC members to host Step Up events as well.
- Marty Elquist asked if any of the other councils were in attendance, asking for members from Washoe County, Carson /Douglas, Lyon Storey Mineral, Churchill, Nye, and Northeastern Nevada counties.
- Lori Cox commented that she reached out to her local ECAC team, and they will be starting up meetings this Fall.
- Marty Elquist thanked Lori and added that Denise Tanata and Stephanie Wyatt have been working with the Nevada Indian Commission to get new contact for the Tribal ECAC. None of the other local council members were in attendance.

14. ITEM V: NEVAEYC UPDATES

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

- Carrie Paldi updated the council on the NevAEYC and stated that approximately 280 individuals attended their virtual NevAEYC conference. The next NevAEYC conference will be held at the Nugget in Sparks and the dates will be July 21st & 22nd 2022.
- NevAEYC will also be hosting a mini conference in Elko August 16th-19th and is no-cost for NevAEYC members to attend the event. For non-members the cost is \$35 and will include an entry-level membership to NevAEYC.



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Registration for the event is open on Eventbrite or you can visit the NevAEYC on Facebook or contact Emily Bailey at emilybaileyece@gmail.com.

- During late Summer/early Fall they will be recruiting members to join the NevAEYC board of directors and open positions will include, President elect, Treasurer, AP of membership. More information on how to apply will be distributed in late July/early August and that information will be shared with council.
- They are also partnering with Children's Advocacy Alliance to continue the Strong Start Parent Ambassador program for a third year. NevAEYC will begin recruiting parents in the next few months with cohorts beginning in October. There will be one cohort in the north and one south consisting of 10 parents.
- In FY 2021, 150 individuals earned TEACH scholarships, of which 5 earned their AS degree, 5 earned their BA, and 1 earned their NDE Birth to 2nd Grade License. They are awaiting confirmation of 8 additional graduates for Spring 2021 semester.
- In addition to QRIS programs for FY 2021, NevAEYC has scholarships available to early childhood educators employed in programs not participating in QRIS and will be partnering with Nevada Youth Project to promote education in workforce.

15. ITEM W: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Marty Elquist updated reminded the council of their discussion of having Open Meeting Law if not August, then October.
- The Council will review the Intern document from Jenna Weglarz-Ward.
- Another item that should have been on June's Agenda was that they need to have nominations and elections for the Chairperson again. It has been 3 years for Marty's 2nd term as the ECAC Chair. This will be an item on the agenda for meeting in August.
- Marty asked if the Council if there were any other future agenda items.
- Patrice Gardener replied and stated that Denise asked if they could make room on the next meeting's agenda to discuss Strategic Planning Facilitation, to give the Council a general overview of the work as she starts that process.
 - Marty stated that she will add this item to the agenda to the meeting in August.
- Marty asked that any other agenda items be emailed to her at melquist@childrenscabinet.org.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

- Marty Elquist asked if there were any comments from the public.
- Janice Lee replied and asked to comment on Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership, that a small team composed of herself, Anna Severns, and Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, participate in a national opportunity across states and territories surrounding equity in Pyramid Model work. It was four days, over the span of a couple of months. It began with a presentation from the Children's Equity Project based out of Arizona State University, which detailed their report on equity and children which included three priority areas:
 - 1) Harsh discipline and the disproportionate application with young children.
 - 2) Segregated learning for young children with disabilities.
 - 3) Inequitable early childhood experiences for children who were duo-language or English language learners.
- In collaboration with their state leadership team, they will be holding a mini conference to hold a showing of the presentation to view as a group and share with our collaborative partners. This will be showing of the presentation in sections and will open it up to other collaborators on July 20th from 8:30am-12:30pm via Zoom to begin conversations



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around equity, diversity, and inclusion. For more information contact Janice Lee at janicelee@unr.edu and she will also be sharing an invitation through their network.

- Marty Elquist added that the ECAC uses the Office for Early Learning and Development List Serv and Rachel Schmidt could post this for them before she leave on July 30th.

17. ADJOURNMENT

12:49 PM