

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
POLICY AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022
1:00 PM

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

Meeting Location:

This meeting was held via Teams videoconference.

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

- Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.
- Members in attendance:
 - Denise Tanata
 - Julie Houchins
 - Brian Cullen
 - Lela Arney
 - Patti Oya
 - Kat Jackson
 - Brianna Cambra
 - Marty Elquist
 - Cathleen Rexing
- Public in attendance:
 - Lea Case
 - Rachel Stepina
 - Jamelle Nance
 - Kathy Yoder-Bass

2. Public Comment #1

- Marty Elquist announced that the Reno Child Care Services Center (CCSC) just had the launch event. Governor Sisolak, Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, representatives from our federal delegation members and Ann Silver were present. Governor Sisolak reinforced his support for early childhood and told Marty to let him know whatever is needed to support the efforts. Marty Elquist also spoke to the new superintendent for Washoe County School District who also expressed support for Universal PreK and the CTE training.
- Lela Arney commented that Dr. Enfield also expressed interest in participating in the outreach campaign.
- Rachel Stepina mentioned that she also spoke with Dr. Enfield regarding the campaign and expressed appreciation for Marty’s efforts to represent the field and the issues.



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3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

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

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2022 and June 9, 2022

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve the minutes from March 28, 2022 and June 9, 2022 as drafted.
- Patti Oya seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor of the motion, motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss Fiscal Mapping Project

- Denise Tanata mentioned that we had a presentation from the Children's Funding Project at the last meeting and the slides were sent out with the meeting agenda.
- Denise Tanata provided a brief update on the project. We are currently working on developing a list of the agencies and programs that have early childhood funds to identify. Denise Tanata shared the ECE Funding Map list with some reformatting to allow for space to identify budget holders. Denise Tanata will have a list of programs and services from the Children's Funding Project before the next meeting and will begin to fill in the blanks on the list. The subcommittee will review the list at our next meeting to fill in the list of budgets and budget holders for each funding stream.
- Brianna Cambra added in the chat that Macy Helm (UNR Extension) is the budget holder for Snap-Ed.

6. Discuss Policy Priorities

- Denise Tanata opened the discussion on identified policy priorities and invited Jamelle Nance to present the Children's Advocacy Alliance policy priorities.
- Jamelle Nance provided an overview of the relevant policy priorities on the Children's Advocacy Alliance 2023 Policy Agenda. Issues identified included:
 - Increase state's child care development fund contribution to increase access to child care subsidy and support QRIS
 - Increase subsidy reimbursement rate to cover cost of high quality care including infants and toddlers with special needs and children in non-traditional care
 - Sustainable child care workforce wage increase for child care workers, work conditions, professional development, to ensure comprehensive child care workforce
 - Provide equitable access to child care expansion by exploring regulations associated with potential child care provider barriers associated with rental properties including (HOA approval) and landlord regulations
 - Universal PreK
 - Expand access and investments in high quality out of school time programs
 - 12 month continuous eligibility for children on Medicaid
 - Expand Medicaid coverage to include 12 month eligibility for post-partum care
 - Expand Medicaid coverage for pregnant women to 200% of federal poverty level
 - State appropriation to expand Home Visiting programs and using Medicaid to support Home Visiting programs
 - Paid Family Leave policies providing a minimum of 6 weeks of paid leave to new parents
 - Early Intervention Services – monitoring policies
- Jamelle Nance stated that they are working on identifying bill sponsors and developing policy briefs for some of these issues and would welcome support.
- Marty Elquist asked when the agenda will be finalized and what will happen with the document.



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- Jamelle Nance said they are working with their Marketing Director to create a simpler form to share, once they have narrowed down the policy priorities. They anticipate having this complete in the next couple weeks. She stated they are looking at other programs to ensure they are not duplicating efforts.
- Marty Elquist asked if it would be better to have multiple organizations pushing for the same policy priorities. The group discussed the need to ensure that all early childhood organizations are aligned with the policy priorities, with the Children's Advocacy Alliance taking the lead on lobbying and advocacy efforts.
- Denise Tanata asked if the Children's Advocacy Alliance would be tracking the bills coming out. Lea Case responded that they are tracking the Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) that are currently coming out and they are reaching out to identify which BDRs may be related to early childhood and will keep the subcommittee updated. They will be doing weekly calls during the session, but no plans to generate a public list.
- Lela Arney mentioned that the Child Care Provider Action Committee is developing a policy priority related to training for new directors and the state system for directors to input information – a lot of duplication of data entry. Lela Arney also mentioned that NevAEYC will be meeting next week to discuss the Imperatives document.
- Jamelle Nance asked if the issue related to rental issues for home-based child care providers has come up and if there are any details available. Lela Arney responded that she met with Wonderschool on this issue and they are working with Crystal Johnson at DWSS to delve into the issue to identify what policy issues may need to be addressed. Denise Tanata recommended that Jamelle Nance should reach out to Wonderschool to get additional information on the issue. Denise Tanata also mentioned that zoning issues have come up previously as a barrier to establishing new home-based providers, particularly in some rural areas.
- Marty Elquist recommended that someone should put together one policy brief addressing all of the barriers to establishing home-based child care in Nevada. She also clarified that the local zoning issues previously identified by the ECAC were in the City of Reno and Lyon County.
- Lela Arney mentioned that Wonderschool has identified about half of their current cohort as having housing barriers.
- Marty Elquist mentioned that DWSS is working on developing a housing assistance program.
- Patti Oya stated that the Department of Education is also interested in supporting home-based providers, as they are looking at a mixed delivery model for state PreK.
- Denise Tanata asked who the lead will be on this issue for developing a policy brief, drafting bill language and identifying a bill sponsor.
- Brian Cullen added in the chat that Darcy from Wonderschool presented on this issue at the housing forum in Clark County. Brian Cullen also added that he 'met Lewis Jordan and we have full support of the new Executive Director of the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority in regard to breaking the barriers in that arena for child care in SNV'.
- Denise Tanata mentioned that NICRP will be hosting a policy priorities meeting next week. We will ask for an update from that discussion at the next meeting.

7. Discuss Subcommittee Workplan

- Denise Tanata shared the workplan document with the subcommittee and asked if there were any updates or new key activities that needed to be added.
- Marty Elquist added that the contract for the cost modeling analysis has been finalized and the contract runs from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. They are working on setting up a kick-off meeting for that work. Denise Tanata asked if there was anything needed from this subcommittee to support the work. Marty Elquist will work with the vendor to identify opportunities for support that are needed.
- Patti Oya asked if there was a need to bring in WestEd who is doing a similar cost modeling project for PreK.
- Denise Tanata will setup a meeting with Marty Elquist, Patti Oya and Lela Arney to discuss alignment of the fiscal mapping and cost modeling projects.



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- Lea Case provided a link to the presentation WestEd conducted for the Interim Education Committee:
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/27668>
- Lea Case also mentioned in the chat that Assemblywoman Thomas and Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod both identified universal PreK as a passion project in that meeting.
- There were no additional updates or additions to Objective 4.1
- Objective 4.2 is specific to the policy considerations. Denise Tanata mentioned that we will want to coordinate with the other subcommittees to identify any potential policy issues. Denise Tanata also mentioned that we need to make sure we are including not just the early learning issues, but also maternal and child health related policy issues. We also need to develop a list of recommendations to include in our annual report to the Governor and Legislature.
- Marty Elquist asked if we had identified someone from Maternal and Child Health to serve on this subcommittee. Denise Tanata responded that she would follow up with Vickie Ives to see if anyone is available to participate.

8. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Denise Tanata asked if there were any other items that needed to be added to the next agenda.
- Request if WestEd can provide a brief presentation on the PreK funding project.

9. Public comment #2

- No public comment was provided.

10. Adjournment

- Denise Tanata adjourned the meeting at 2:03pm