



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

November 2022

#### Department of Education

##### **Office of Early Learning & Development – Patti Oya**

- No written update provided

##### **Early Childhood Special Education**

- No written update provided

##### **Office of Student & School Supports – Alberto Quintero**

- No written update provided

#### Department of Health and Human Services

##### **Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program –**

Karissa Loper

- No written update provided

##### **Division of Child and Family Services, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health –**

Rhonda Lawrence

- State level partnership within DHHS, DPBH, DCFS, DHCFS are participants in a Learning Collaborative sponsored by the Center for Health Care Strategies on Aligning Early Childhood and Medicaid. Current focus of this project is to expand maternal SUD (Substance Use Disorders) supports and home visiting programs to better support families and prevent infant out of home placement.
- Nevada Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) received \$3.125 million dollars through HRSA Maternal and Child Health funding to create and establish a Nevada Statewide Expansion of the Infant Toddler Court Program. Primary goals/objectives of this five year project include the creation of a state level office of ITCP to:
  - support the establishment of two new ITCP court programs (8<sup>th</sup> District Court – Clark County and 1<sup>st</sup> District Court – Carson);
  - support the expansion of capacity of the existing “Safe Babies Court Team” in Washoe County (2<sup>nd</sup> District Court); and
  - establish a state level office to coordinate ITCP training, technical assistance, data collection, and program evaluation with the assistance of the National ITCP Resource Center – Zero to Three.

##### **Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing – Latisha Brown**

- No written update provided

##### **Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health –**

Vickie Ives

- **Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health** - Tami M. Conn, MPH, Section Manager

- The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Section (MCAH) has been participating in the Strong Start Health and Wellbeing Workgroup with the Children’s Advocacy Alliance.
- The MCAH Section has a new Maternal and Infant Health Program Coordinator, Tasha Cadwallader
- The MCAH Section and Nevada State Immunization Program collaborated on a sensory friendly vaccine kit, designed for kids and adults with disabilities. Items provide distractions and pain relief during shots.
- MCAH has a partnership with REMSA to provide safe sleep education and cribs and car seats. MCAH provided additional funding to REMSA to support outreach to underserved populations. The goal is to reduce infant mortality and increase awareness of safe sleep and child passenger safety among populations with racial/ethnic health disparities and those disproportionately affected by infant mortality.
- Nevada Home Visiting federal ARPA funded efforts continue with local implementing agencies
- MCAH Data Dashboard:  
<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiaZlBmY2Y0OTgtOGFiOS00OTEyLWFKM2QrNmQ2NTI1YjI5YjgzIiwidCI6ImU0YTM0MGU2LWI4OWUtNGU2OC04ZWZhLTE1NDRkMjcwMzk4MCJ9>
- **WIC** – Andrea Rivers, MS, Section Manager
  - The temporary increase of available Cash Value Benefit (CVB) remains included in the current Continuing Resolution (CR) through December 16, 2022, for WIC families to purchase fresh, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. An increase to the CVB amounts (originally \$9 and \$11 dollars per month) has been available to eligible WIC participants since June 1, 2021. CVB to purchase fruits and vegetables is redeemed by nearly 80% of WIC participants monthly. There are many advocacy efforts through the National WIC Association (NWA) imploring Congress to maintain the increase for families in future funding cycles.
  - The current funding levels per WIC participant:
    - Children \$25/month
    - Pregnant/Postpartum Women \$44/month
    - Fully/Partially Breastfeeding Women \$49/month
    - Fully/Partially Breastfeeding Multiples Women \$73.50/month
- **Nevada State Immunization Program** - Kristy Zigenis, Section Manager
  - The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program was created as part of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Section 1928 of the Social Security Act, in August 1993. The goal of this federally funded program is to improve vaccine availability nationwide by providing vaccines at no cost to VFC-eligible children through public and private providers enrolled in the program. The program is regulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Immunization Program (NIP). The VFC program is now operational in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and eight territories including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Nevada began its VFC program in October of 1994.
  - VFC vaccines are purchased under CDC contract and are supplied to enrolled providers at no cost. VFC enrolled patients may not be charged for the cost of the vaccine. Office visits may be charged, and Medicaid and Medicaid Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) may be billed for vaccine administration fees. Families not covered by Medicaid or Medicaid HMOs may be charged a vaccine administration fee. This administration fee should not exceed the fee cap of \$22.57, which is established by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). This fee may be adjusted based on the family’s ability to pay.
  - The objective of the Nevada State Immunization Program is to increase the immunization levels of children by eliminating the cost barrier that has prevented some private health care providers from immunizing children whose parents could not afford the vaccine. It also helps ensure that every VFC

eligible child does not contract a vaccine preventable disease. The Nevada Immunization Program works closely with Local Health Districts and the community to help develop and implement systems to assess immunizations levels statewide.

- Patients who qualify for VFC vaccines are as follows:
  - Ages 0-18 years
  - Medicaid eligible or enrolled
  - Uninsured
  - Native American or Alaskan Native - As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)
  - Underinsured
- **Oral Health** - Jannette Gomez
  - The Nevada Oral Health State Plan 2022-2032 was recently developed and will be published on the Nevada Oral Health Program website soon. Through the research for the state plan, the Nevada Oral Health Program found that oral health disparities exist in Nevada children. Nevada children had higher rates of decayed teeth or cavities compared to the U.S. 20% of Hispanic children have decayed teeth or cavities, compared with 11.5% of White children. In addition, 25 % of non-English speaking households have children with decayed teeth or cavities, compared with 13.5% of English-speaking households. 8.3% of 3-5-Year-Old Head Start enrollees did not receive needed dental treatment. The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) includes results that describe the oral health care of pregnant and perinatal people. PRAMS data show that approximately 35% of women had their teeth cleaned before pregnancy; 34 % had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy; while 73.4% had insurance to cover dental care during pregnancy in 2020. Poor oral health during pregnancy can lead to poor health outcomes for the parent and baby. Improving oral health for pregnant people is one way to prevent cavities in young children, as pregnancy may make people more prone to periodontal disease and cavities. Therefore, oral health is considered an important part of prenatal care.
  - The Nevada Oral Health Program will be using this data as a guide to increase oral health education and awareness for children and pregnant people.

### **Director's Office, Aging and Disability Services, Part C and NEIS – Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell**

- Retention Initiative: NV EI Professional Development Center
  - The State's Inter-Finance Committee approved ARP funding for our IDEA Part C Office's NV Early Intervention Professional Development Center, which will house a Developmental Specialist Series. This professional development will serve as a comparative certification path for Developmental Specialists to fulfill their professional requirements at no cost. It is our hope that this retention initiative will support our workforce who are experiencing serious economic barriers to traditional routes to licensure (these barriers include skyrocketing housing and other living costs). Our PD Work Group is comprised of approximately 15 individuals across a few agencies who are working tirelessly to develop evidence-informed curriculum with the consultation and technical assistance from subject matter experts and stakeholders. We plan to begin our first cohort of Learners in April 2023. We would like to thank everyone who reached out to us and who had reached out on or behalf to the IFC legislators--we are incredibly grateful for your support. Wishing everyone a safe and joyous holiday season!

### **Pyramid Model Update – Janice Lee**

- Nevada Association of Positive Behavior Support (Nevada APBS) Network Conference and the National Training Institute on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior (see details below under “Training and Professional Development Opportunities”)

## NevAEYC Update – Carrie Paldi

- NevAEYC is finalizing our Public Policy agenda for 2023 – 2024. Once the agenda is available, it will be shared with NECAC.
- The NevAEYC Early Childhood Conference is scheduled for May 18-20, 2023 at the Tuscany Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Keynote speakers will be Kelly Ramsey with Develop People, Inc. and Dr. Isauro Escamillo from San Francisco State University. Michelle Kang, CEO of NAEYC will be attending the conference, too. Information about presenting and becoming a vendor will be available in December.
- NevAEYC began accepting application for the second round of early childhood staff stipends on October 17<sup>th</sup> and to date, 4,000 educators have applied. NevAEYC will be accepting applications through April 30, 2023.

## Nevada Child Care Provider Action Committee – Carrie Paldi

- The CCPAC has continued to meet monthly and discuss successes and challenges they face as they serve children and families. In November, we met with Mary Buchmann at the CCSC to identify vendor discounts that would be helpful for providers. We also met with licensing to discuss some requested adaptations to the Clics system and they are working with the developer to identify possible changes. We were awarded grant funding to support participation stipends and learning opportunities that require travel expenses. We are looking forward to expanding our committee to two separate groups; one with center-based members and the other with home-based provider members. If your agency is seeking provider feedback for policy or programmatic roll-out, we would love to provide dialogue based on direct service experiences. For more information, you can contact Lela Arney at [Larney@childrencabinet.org](mailto:Larney@childrencabinet.org).
- CCPAC Meeting Recap 11-2-2022
  - Local and State Vendor Discussion Mary Buchmann with the CCSC will facilitate a discussion on what types of vendor discounts would be the most beneficial to all types of child care providers. Target, Walmart, Costco, Sam's Club (membership and goods), distribute grant applications for \$5,000 to Sam's Club, Smiths (for food), Best Buy-gift cards for raffles, Sysco for food, Dinners with Dignity type partnership, Amazon, Discount School Supply, Bonanza Produce, Gas Stations.
  - Dream Session We have talked about things that pertain to licensed center challenges, but are there recommendations specific to home-based providers? Renting/Housing is an issue for HBCC. Access to substitutes is a need. Some programs have never been able to use the ECSN program because lack of staff availability. Idea: What is a subs network was established using college students as staff (sporadic schedules). Some parents would like to sub, but the training requirement is a deterrent. One provider asked if the training actually produce quality providers. Is there evidence that the initial trainings are effective in that way? We discussed the NAEYC Unifying Framework
  - Children's Week Discuss this event and ways to participate. It will be March 13-16 at the Carson City Legislative Building. [NICRP | Children's Week \(unlv.edu\)](https://www.nicrp.org/childrens-week)
  - Other Topics
    - Center and Home-Based CCPAC groups - These groups will separate in 2023.
    - Membership Stipends and travel opportunities \$100 monthly stipend will be provided for attendance and engagement.
    - NAFCC Membership The Children's Cabinet has funding for all home-based providers in the state to have a Free NAFCC membership

## Pritzker PN3 Initiative and Early Childhood Policy Update – Jamelle Nance

- No written update provided

## Strong Start Update – Annette Dawson-Owens

- No written update provided

## HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Health Integration Grant – Denise Tanata

- HRSA ECCS Systems Asset and Gap Analysis (SAGA) report is complete. The report and summary will be posted on the Nevada ECAC Reports and Documents page on the website at: <http://nvecac.com/ecac-reports-documents/>
- The SAGA will be utilized to develop a comprehensive and unified Strategic Plan specific to the prenatal to three population, in coordination with key stakeholders.

## ECE Workforce Plan – Marty Elquist

- SRI Education will be facilitating a series of workgroup meeting to begin development of the Nevada Early Childhood Workforce Framework. The workgroup meetings will begin on November 30<sup>th</sup> and will complete their work in May 2023. A final report is expected by June 30, 2023. The four workgroups include:
  - Compensation and Financial Incentives
  - ECE Workforce Data
  - Working Conditions and Support
  - Professional Pathways
- If you are interested in participating in one or more of these workgroups and have not received an email from SRI Education, please contact Marty Elquist at [MElquist@childrencabinet.org](mailto:MElquist@childrencabinet.org).

## NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council – Ashley Dines

- The Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) recently received training on the Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership in Early Childhood Systems from the Parent Leader Network.
- The NECFLC will be utilizing the Manifesto as a guide for developing additional training and leadership opportunities to support engagement of parent leaders in decision-making in the early childhood system in Nevada.
- We are continuing to recruit parents or family members in Southern Nevada who have lived experience with Nevada’s Early Childhood System to participate on the NECFLC – for more information, contact Ashley Dines at [adines@childrencabinet.org](mailto:adines@childrencabinet.org).
- The Children’s Cabinet is currently recruiting for a Northern Nevada Parent Leadership Coordinator to start a Northern NV NECFLC, which we hope to have in place by early 2023.

## Research and Needs Assessments – Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye

- A comprehensive and updated list of Needs Assessments, Feasibility Studies, Reports and other documents can be found on the Nevada ECAC website at: <http://nvecac.com/ecac-reports-documents/>

## New or Potential Grants and Funding – All

- [HRSA-23-036 – Rural Health Network Development Planning Program](#) – Closing Date: January 6, 2023
  - This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the Rural Health Network Development Planning Program (“Network Planning Grant”). The purpose of the Network Planning Program is to promote the planning and development of integrated health care networks to address the following legislative aims: (i) achieve efficiencies; (ii) expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services and associated health outcomes; and (iii) strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. This program supports one year of planning and brings together key parts of a rural health care delivery system, particularly those entities that may not have collaborated in the past, to establish and/or improve local capacity in order to strengthen rural community health interventions and enhance care coordination.

- [HRSA-23-070 – Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Training Program](#) – Closing Date: January 19, 2023
  - This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP) Training Program. By expanding the DBP workforce, children with a wide range of developmental and behavioral concerns will have increased access to evaluation and services that address medical and psychosocial aspects of development. Through this award, programs will:
    - Prepare DBP fellows and other long-term trainees (LTTs) for leadership roles as teachers, investigators, and clinicians.
    - Build workforce capacity to evaluate for, diagnose or rule out developmental disabilities (DD), including autism, and other behavioral health concerns.
    - Prepare trainees to participate in clinical care and research training across the broad range of behavioral and developmental health concerns.
    - Provide pediatric practitioners, residents, and medical students with essential psychosocial knowledge and clinical expertise.
    - Provide technical assistance (TA) to strengthen systems of care for children who may have autism/DD and their families. TA recipients may include state Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant agencies and community agencies.
  - Each recipient will accomplish this purpose through five overarching objectives:
    - Objective 1: Recruit and train 10 LTTs, including 5 DBP fellows and 5 other LTTs, over the 5-year period of performance.
    - Objective 2: Conduct one activity per year to address equity and improve access to DBP services.
    - Objective 3: Provide training to a minimum of 200 short- and medium-term trainees per year.
    - Objective 4: Train a minimum of 150 practicing providers through continuing education per year.
    - Objective 5: Provide a minimum of 10 technical assistance (TA) activities per year to strengthen systems of care for children who may have autism/DD and their families.
- Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood – [earlychildhoodfoundation.org](#) – LOI Due: January 31, 2023
  - The Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood is an incubator of promising research and development projects that appear likely to improve the welfare of young children, from infancy through 7 years, in the United States. Welfare is broadly defined to include physical and mental health, safety, nutrition, education, play, familial support, acculturation, societal integration and childcare.
  - Grants are only made if a successful project outcome will likely be of significant interest to other professionals, within the grantee’s field of endeavor, and would have a direct benefit and potential national application. The Foundation’s goal is to provide seed money to implement those imaginative proposals that exhibit the greatest chance of improving the lives of young children, on a national scale. Because of the Foundation’s limited funding capability, it seeks to maximize a grant’s potential impact.

### **Training & Professional Development Opportunities – All**

- **Nevada Early Intervention (EI) Professional Development Center Open House** – Thursday, December 2, 2022 – 1:30pm to 3:00pm. This will be the first virtual Open House to learn more about options for fulfilling professional qualifications for the DS position or to learn how you may participate in this certification initiative if you are interested in helping others to accomplish their certification. Future Open House events are planned for the first Thursday of every month. For additional information or to register, please email: [dhhsnevadaeipdcenter-idcapartcoffice@health.nv.gov](mailto:dhhsnevadaeipdcenter-idcapartcoffice@health.nv.gov).

- Register to attend the **Nevada Association of Positive Behavior Support (Nevada APBS) Network Conference** at Suncoast Hotel in Las Vegas Feb. 9-10, 2023. Information and registration: <https://bit.ly/3EV9QhS> (from Janice Lee, Pyramid Model Partnership)
- **Nevada Early Learning Institute** (Virtual) – February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Contact Patti Oya ([poya@doe.nv.gov](mailto:poya@doe.nv.gov)) or Dr. Linda Young ([linda@villagestarfish.org](mailto:linda@villagestarfish.org))
- **Nevada Afterschool Network 2023 Afterschool Showcase** – March 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - <https://www.nevadaafterschool.org/2023afterschoolshowcase.html>
- **Children's Week at the NV Legislature** will take place March 13-16, 2023 in Carson City, NV, at the Nevada State Legislature. For more information, visit the following link: <https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html>. If your organization is interested in getting involved, please complete the Children's Week Involvement Survey ([bit.ly/CW23GetInvolved](https://bit.ly/CW23GetInvolved)). Parents and families interested in riding the bus from Las Vegas to Carson City to attend Children's Day on Monday, March 13, 2022, should complete the Bus Registration Survey ([bit.ly/CW23BusRegistration](https://bit.ly/CW23BusRegistration))
- Registration is open (and filling quickly!) for the **National Training Institute (NTI) on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior**. NTI brings experts from around the country to provide an in-depth learning experience built around the Pyramid Model. April 11-14, 2023 in Tampa, FL, <https://web.cvent.com/event/ed2d5850-15b2-4c94-8ea8-4af19fdc4101/summary> (from Janice Lee, Pyramid Model Partnership)
- **NevAEYC Conference** – Las Vegas – May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - <https://nevaeyc.org/events/state-conference/>
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Annual Conference** – Atlanta, GA - <https://nafcc.org/news-events/>