



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) NV ECAC POLICY AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING** **THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023** **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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby noticed that the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council reserves the right to take agenda items out of posted order (except that public hearings will not begin earlier than posted times); items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time; and items may be combined for consideration. A time for public comment is provided at the beginning and at the conclusion of the meeting. A time limit of three minutes may be imposed by the Subcommittee Co-Chairs, for public comments, in order to afford all members of the public who wish to comment, with an opportunity to do so within the timeframe available to the Council. The Subcommittee Co-Chairs reserve the right to call on individuals from the audience or to allow for testimony at any time.

The Subcommittee Co-Chairs reserve the right to call items of the agenda out of order as needed.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting. Please contact Denise Tanata at DTanata@childrencabinet.org, at least five business days in advance so that arrangements can be made.

This public notice has been posted at the offices of the Department of Education in Carson City and Las Vegas; Department of Health and Human Service in Carson City; and at the Nevada State Library and Archive in Carson City. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada ECAC website at <http://nvecac.com>.

The support materials to this agenda are available, at no charge on the Nevada ECAC website at: <http://nvecac.com/> (under the meeting date referenced above) or by contacting Denise Tanata at The Children’s Cabinet, 1771 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 200B or 702.544.9629 or DTanata@childrencabinet.org.

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call- 1:07 PM

Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- **Members in Attendance:**
 - Julie Houchins, Co-Chair- Present
 - Denise Tanata, Co-Chair -Present
 - Marty Elquist, SEED Director, The Children’s Cabinet- Present
 - Patti Oya, NDE OELD, Director- Present
 - Lela Arney, ARP Project Manager, The Children’s Cabinet- Present
 - Brianna Cambra, Quality Manager, The Children’s Cabinet- Present
 - Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet- Not Present
 - Katarina Jackson, Provider Representative- Not Present
 - Brian Cullen, DWSS CCDP- Not Present
 - Nicole Martin, DWSS CCDP- Not Present
 - Anna Marie Binder, Parent Representative- Not Present



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- Public in Attendance:
 - Anna Villatoro, The Children's Cabinet
 - Alyson Godfrey, Office of Early Learning and Development

2. Public Comment #1

- No public comment.

3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve a flexible agenda.
- Brianna Cambra seconded the motion.
- No one opposed the motion.
- Denise Tanata approved and passed a flexible agenda.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2023

Materials: [MAR 9 2023 Policy and Finance Sub MINUTES-Revised.pdf](#)

- Denise Tanata gave the subcommittee a few minutes to look over the March 9th minutes.
- Brianna Cambra made a verbal correction to the minutes.
- Patti Oya motioned to approve the March 9th minutes.
- Lela Arney seconded the motion with the correction to agenda item #5.
- Denise Tanata approved the March 9th minutes with a correction in agenda item #5.

5. Discuss Policy Priorities and Updates from the 2023 Legislative Session

(Discussion, For Possible Action) Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair and Representative from the Children's Advocacy Alliance or Belz and Case Materials: CAA 2023 Legislative Bill Tracker - <https://www.caanv.org/2023-legislative-bill-tracker/>

- Denise Tanata gave an update on AB 113 (The Governor's Office for Early Childhood Systems). AB 113 has been passed out from Government Affairs and sent to the floor. It included positive amendments that include ECAC vetting candidates for the director position and submitting three candidates to the Governor for consideration. Also, align the submission of the annual reports to the legislature with the ECAC annual report due on December 1st. Lastly, committee members would like to see added specificity to the scope of work and responsibilities. Next, it would go to ways and means because it has a fiscal note.
- Denise Tanata gave an update on AB 114, which is the ECAC bill. The bill has passed through Health and Human Services, although it's still in the committee. Next, it should be referred to the assembly floor. There has been no opposition so far.
- Denise Tanata gave an update on AB 348, which creates the virtual early Childhood family engagement pilot program. The bill was heard last week and was passed with some amendments this week. Denise noted that she and John Craig with the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children provided testimony in opposition. Denise brought up that the legislative digest for the bill does include a reference to the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). Denise informed the committee that ECAC was unaware of this bill and had no input. ECAC follows the guidance of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and does not support virtual early learning programs. The sponsor of the bill and the committee chair are open to some additional amendments that are being discussed. This bill would still need to go to Ways and Means. It has an \$8 million appropriation on it.
- Denise Tanata gave an update on SB-278 which is a childcare tax credit for businesses. On March 30th, SB 278 was heard in the Senate Revenue and Economic Development committee. The bill is currently up for a vote and there is a work session scheduled. This bill would provide tax credits for the state-modified business for employers who help pay for childcare costs. There are a lot of issues to work out on this bill.



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- Denise Tanata gave an update on SB 117 regarding Community Health Workers (CHWs). This bill would expand on who can supervise CHWs to make them eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. The bill was heard in the Senate Health and Human Services on February 21st and passed this week with some amendments. The bill expands for therapists, social workers, and more health professionals who could supervise CHWs and be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
- Denise Tanata gave an update SB 232 which would allow Medicaid postpartum coverage to extend to 12 months. The bill is important for the early childhood sector to expand that care for new parents. It was heard and passed out of committee on the same day. It is heading to Senate finance.
- Denise Tanata clarified that she is not sponsoring any bills but wanted to know if anyone had questions or if there are any other bills to highlight.
- Patti Oya asked Denise about SB 278 regarding the tax credit. Karissa messaged the Nevada Department of Education and asked about it. They are concerned that the Welfare division will act as the middleman for the tax credit. They would like to know if that's the case and if it is a good idea.
- Denise Tanata responded that the original bill language did reference the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Child Care Development Program. This original bill required employees to qualify under the Child Care Development program guidelines to qualify for the tax credit. The original amendment of the bill presented removed the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services and added the tax division in charge of the program. It also removed the requirement that employees had to meet the income eligibility guidelines. There were concerns about opening up eligibility without income guidelines. Denise will take a look at the new amendments.
- Patti Oya mentioned AB 65 regarding kindergarten. There was a late amendment submitted by Assemblywoman Selena La Rue Hatch that made age 6 mandatory for school. No testing will be required.
- Patti Oya mentioned AB 400, which would fund the Early Literacy Fund. Nevada Department of Education will give grants to nonprofits, districts, and charters for children less than 6. The goal would be to support children with Early Literacy Intervention. There are some concerns about what interventions 2-year-olds need for early literacy? They added language around professional development for people working with children less than six on developmentally appropriate early literacy. The next concern was how the Department of Education would give the grants out on time.
- Julie Houchins asked Patti Oya if the bill could be part of the itinerant services to help with the Special Education piece.
- Patti responded that The Department of Education is gathering a "wish list" of ideas from across offices, that includes The Office of Inclusive Education. They are looking at what is unfunded or what has limited funding and how they can increase it. They are looking at how to increase Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) because it is a regulation, but they are not doing it because they don't have the funding.
- Patti Oya mentioned AB 348 regarding virtual pre-k. It was frustrating that this bill was about access for children in rural or Clark County because there are not enough pre-k seats. There is a need to fund the Nevada Ready Pre-K program so that there are more seats and more access.
- Brianna Cambra gave an update on last month's Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation childcare report. One of their action items was a statewide survey that was done for private businesses and how they utilized the current Employer-Provided Child Care Credit (45F). Half of the respondents did not know it existed, and 80% of them are not utilizing it. There will be a huge communications push via the chambers. The Las Vegas Chamber is refusing to push it out immediately and will wait two weeks. Kim Young will be in Las Vegas to talk about this at an event. They would like ECAC representation there to help make the connection with stakeholders.
- Brianna Cambra asked Patti what policy and fiscal impact is happening around the governor's education budget proposal and potential monitoring of the school districts.
- Patti Oya responded that there is an audit bill for the department and the Governor is about accountability.
- Patti Oya shared that they have a new deputy Superintendent, Ann Marie Dickson.



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6. Discuss Subcommittee Workplan

(Discussion, For Possible Action) Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs Materials – [Nevada ECAC Workplans Document.docx](#)

- Denise Tanata gave an update on objective 4.1 which is the fiscal analysis with the Children's Funding Project. The project is moving along, and they are almost done with the initial review. They are working on connecting with agencies to make sure the information is accurate. There have been a few discrepancies in what's been reported by the federal government and state agencies.
- Denise Tanata added that there will be a meeting to discuss the next steps regarding Early Childhood. This meeting will include budgets and fiscal mapping specific to Early Childhood Systems. There will be a section on what current funding is coming in and addressing what gaps exist. There will also be a focus on how other states are doing regarding funding to eliminate gaps. Ultimately, The Children's Funding Project will be putting together a report with recommendations on what Nevada can do to increase funding for the early childhood system pieces. This strategy will help define what the financial needs are and what are the gaps. The Office of Early Learning and Development is doing the project with WestEd looking at pre-K and that cost.
- Denise Tanata also mentioned that through the HRSA grant, they have started this early childhood comprehensive systems leadership group. This group has a lot of agency departments as well as some of those NGO partners. This is a great start for the group to ask if they are funding appropriately. Based on the last meeting, we can invite some key players to this group to talk about their policy and fiscal strategies and begin to address that.
- Brianna Cambra asked the group about the P3 policy impact report.
- Marty Elquist mentioned that this is a good idea for this group to make those state comparisons. Using a national resource can be powerful.
- Denise Tanata can commit to looking at the P3 policy impact report before the next meeting. If other people have reports that identify high-impact programs in the early childhood sector, send them to Denise. Denise will try and synthesize the reports with the highest priorities and connect them with the ECAC Nevada master list. Although the Children's Funding Project is looking at recommendations for funding, it will also be helpful to gather reports and recommendations with innovative approaches to financing some of the programs. These can also be shared with The Children's Funding Project.
- Marty Elquist asked Denise how these ideas and work will be looped in with the Guinn's Center project. How to make sure that the information gets relayed over.
- Denise Tanata responds that she will compile the list and share it with the Guinn Center. They need to ask the best way to share this information with them. Denise and Marty discussed ways of sharing the list for internal and external partners. Denise mentioned utilizing the ECAC website.
- Denise Tanata addressed objective 4.2, the funding and policy changes to meet the program and system goals. The committee needs to look at the list of policy changes that are needed at a systems level and that requires legislation. Denise recommended putting together a list of policy recommendations to include in the annual report to the governor and legislature.
- Denise Tanata mentioned going through the PN3 policy report and looking at some of those policy or fiscal recommendations that ECAC can put forward as recommendations. The subcommittee can submit this to the full ECAC at the September meeting. This would allow enough time to include the draft of the report before the ECAC in November and submitted by December 1st. At the end of the session, the subcommittee will also have an idea of what policies went forward and which did not.
- Lela Arney asked about the new home-based Provider Action Committee and if this would be the right platform to bring some of the things they have discussed. One of the things that surfaced was home-based providers not having access to the educational support that license providers have. They are also having challenges with professional development and not having access to some of those resources.



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- Denise Tanata responded that she thinks it is the right platform. The role of the subcommittee is to hear and discuss those relevant policy issues.
- Julie Houchins added that United Way supports the family, friends, and neighbors through a separate committee that they got going with Urban League, where they have CPR scholarships and field trips.
- Brianna Cambra added that she liked including the policy priorities in the annual report even if they don't get picked up in legislation. Brianna asked how the Children's Advocacy Alliance, The Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC), and ECAC are talking to each other when they are all pushing policy priorities.
- Marty Elquist said Denise has acted as the glue to make sure that organizations have aligned messaging. The organizations are aligned and working together. Denise can help with this when she transitions into her consultant role.
- Marty Elquist responded to a question regarding supports for kith and kin providers, indicating that the state is working with Homegrown. These supports include networking and unification. Marty said that Homegrown should be included in anything the group does and that the group should stay well informed. Marty suggested connecting with Crystal Johnson to clarify that Homegrown is providing ongoing support to Kith and Kin providers.
- Brian Cullen asked for clarification regarding Lila's statement about the ability to develop and the requirement to be CCDF eligible.
- Lela Arney responded that providers that opt into the FFN program have some requirements that are compliant with CCDF regulations. Once they are compliant, they can receive subsidy payments. Lela was thinking more about individuals that cannot do that process and still being able to have educational support. Lela added that T.E.A.C.H. for example, makes their criteria for how to be eligible for college. Lela wonders if there's a way to support people who want to be on that pipeline to work in programs, even program administration.
- Brian Cullen added that entities that are outside of CCDF make those requirements. The requirements for the Child Care and Development Fund in regard to subsidies only apply to the people receiving subsidies. He explained that money that comes into CCDF is required to be spent on advancing quality, childcare education, and career pathways. There is even a 5% administration cap. Brian added that CCDF has a significant reserve because the money is not being spent. They have not focused on looking at ways to advance career pathways or other childcare opportunities. The requirements for CCDF, if you apply those requirements to be eligible, should only be for individuals that are receiving a subsidy.
- Marty Elquist added they are CCDF requirements for providers, which include background checks and training hours.
- Denise Tanata asked the subcommittee if this would be a good space for the home-based group or other groups to come and do presentations regarding issues. The subcommittee gave a thumbs up and a couple of nods.
- Denise Tanata mentioned the interest in creating a system for sharing policy issues and priorities and had discussed with CAA. This would mean setting up some type of portal or system. CAA was not in attendance. Denise Tanata mentioned the interest in creating a system for sharing policy issues and priorities and discussed it with CAA. CAA was not in attendance. CAA is probably not thinking of this issue because of the legislative session. Meanwhile, there will be updates to the ECAC Contact Us page. There is a broken link. The subcommittee can then align with the Communications and Engagement subcommittee to get this information to the public. There should be two-way communication, so the community knows what the subcommittee is doing.

7. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting, Including Presentation or Discussion Requests from EC Systems Partners

(Discussion, For Possible Action) Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata asked the subcommittee who wants to invite others to join the group to give a brief presentation and discussion. The subcommittee can put together the invitation language or support where it is needed. The list from the last meeting included Cassius Adams with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Section. It was noted that Nicole would reach out, but she is not in attendance. Cassius Adams and invite them to the next meeting. Denise suggested inviting them to present on what they are doing, what policy issues are important to them, or the systems level.



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- Denise Tanata contacted Lisa Levine from the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation and will potentially be attending the Policy and Finance subcommittee or full ECAC.
- Denise Tanata will reach out to Vicki Ives and request a presentation on SNAP and maternal-child health. Brian can also make the request for SNAP and TANF. Brian can also request to have someone from SNAP and TANF present on eligibility.
- Patti Oya would like a conversation about the policy of eligibility and if people are aware of all the different eligibility.
- Brian Cullen mentioned they have a chart that shows all the different percentages. This includes the higher programs like Medicaid and childcare, that have higher federal poverty lines to participate in. Last year a survey showed the top five items that food stamps were spent on were free on WIC. If someone is on SNAP and they have a child, they automatically are eligible for WIC. People are using their SNAP on items they can get WIC for free. During interviews, they now send WIC referrals to eligible people. A good start has been the outreach team that has been working in the community.
- Patti Oya added that they work with a wide range because they accept 200% of families. PK families are eligible for a lot, and she hopes they are taking advantage of it.
- Brian Cullen mentioned that they used a resource guide and now they have to refer families to Nevada 211.
- It would be nice to get everybody together with all the programs and create a this is what you're eligible for if you're at 200% and below. They talked about having a landing page like Georgia or the first five, where you put in the individual name, household size, and gross income, and it'll tell you you're eligible. Brian suggested having a meeting and having everyone there and get something from it.
- Marty Elquist suggested that this subcommittee could help steer the head of that policy. Agreed that there should be a meeting where the programs come together and compare programming and eligibility.
- Denise Tanata Denise Tanata mentioned that there is a Nevada Welfare and Supportive Services Office TOPS worker at the CCSC in Las Vegas.
- Anna Villatoro added that there is a representative at the CCSC every other Wednesday who helps families get approved for DWSS services.
- Marty Elquist added that the subsidy case managers and possibly Urban League have eligibility training. For example, if a family comes in and is eligible for childcare subsidy and not on Medicaid or energy assistance, they can help them with the application.
- Brian Cullen added that it would be great if there was one document that everyone could share.
- Denise Tanata mentioned in the past week she has received three requests inquiring about eligibility. Denise loves the idea of bringing everybody together and figuring out an easier system. Denise will look into South Carolina's First Five.
- Patti Oya mentioned that South Carolina has a very in-depth application. It shows individuals what they qualify for. It's specific and even down to which Head Start that individuals qualify for, including how many vacant seats they have. Patti would like to see an easier process for individuals to access Welfare services that based on the federal poverty line (FPL) individuals can know what they are eligible for. She mentioned that it is hard to talk about the Nevada Ready Pre-K when they call and ask if they are eligible for it. She does not know about individuals' eligibility.
- Denise Tanata asked the subcommittee if the SNAP presentation should be on eligibility or rather identify the different programs that Early Childhood families can qualify for. They can invite representatives from different programs and have a conversation about creating an easier strategy for eligibility.
- Brian Cullen shared a document that showed SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid eligibility based on the federal poverty lines. Brian said this document would be a start for the conversation about improving family-friendly eligibility guidelines.
- Denise Tanata suggested gathering all income eligibility guidelines from different services, creating a proposal, and inviting everyone for a conversation.
- Patti Oya mentioned that she has eligibility requirements for Head Start, Nevada Ready State Pre-K, subsidy, SNAP, and free and reduced lunch. She is not sure if they are correct.



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- Denise Tanata envisioned that once they collect all the program's income eligibility, they can put them together in one document. She suggested having the family size, monthly income, and other information to show families what they potentially qualify for.
- Marty Elquist highlighted that people want to know the financial qualifications for eligibility.
- Brian Cullen will get the program information for DWSS. He will double-check if he can share the document he shared at the meeting.
- Denise Tanata clarified that they will compile a list of eligibility for WIC, DWSS, and NDE's The Office of Early Learning. Denise will send a follow-up email with a list of action items and identify if there are other program qualifications they need. She will connect with Vickie Ives and Kagan Griffin from Maternal Child Health.

8. Public comment #2

- Denise Tanata announced that she will be stepping down from ECAC effective the end of June. They will be looking for a new subcommittee co-chair who has to be a member of the ECAC. Denise will continue to participate and be part of the group.

9. Adjournment

Denise Tanata adjourned the meeting at 2:32 PM