

Nevada ECAC Family Leadership & Engagement Strategy Recommendations

ECAC Family Leader Mentorship Program

Overview: ECAC members (including non-appointed subcommittee members) would opt-in to serve as a mentor to a parent/family leader, which could include members of the NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) or other parent/family representatives who chose to serve on or regularly attend Nevada ECAC meetings. ECAC Mentors would be paired with a parent/family leader based on areas of interest and other factors deemed appropriate for the parent/family leader. ECAC Mentors would commit to spend 2 to 5 hours per month with the parent/family leader to prepare for upcoming meetings including providing an overview of meeting procedures, key topic areas, and follow up to ensure clear understanding and supportive engagement of parent/family leaders.

Role of ECAC: Support recruitment and engagement of mentors; provide opportunity for mentors and parent/family leaders to present recommendations for improving authentic engagement.

Resources Needed: Parent/family leaders will be provided with a stipend for participation; ECAC mentors would not receive a stipend (current parent stipends are included in the HRSA ECCS grant).

NECFLC Agenda Item

Overview: Ensure there is a standing agenda item for the NECFLC to present updates on activities and present on recommendations, priorities or other issues that are relevant to the early childhood system from the parent/family perspective. While all parent/family participants with the Nevada ECAC will be encouraged and supported to participate in all meetings, providing a standing agenda item for this group will enable them to have a space to discuss issues, present recommendations and/or to identify barriers that may not be included in other discussions. The NECFLC will select and identify speakers or presenters for this agenda item and will collaborate with the Chair to ensure all materials or needs are addressed.

Role of ECAC: Include NECFLC on bi-monthly agendas and encourage all Subcommittee Chairs to create space for parent/family leaders to present issues and ideas during Subcommittee meetings.

Resources Needed: Parent/family leaders may need some support with drafting materials or presentations, which can be supported by the Parent Leadership Coordinators or Nevada ECAC staff.

Parent/Family Training Program

Overview: The NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) is developing a list of training opportunities for parent/family leaders. The NECFLC is looking for ECAC members or partners with experience and expertise on specific topics to conduct these trainings (30 minutes to 1 hour in length). The trainings will be recorded and made available to new parent/family leaders as they join the NECFLC (or a partner parent/family leadership group) to provide them with information and background on the early childhood sector and related topics. This project would require ECAC members and partners to sign

up/volunteer for the trainings and be available to provide training either in person or online and be recorded/edited for future use.

Role of ECAC: Support identification and recruitment of qualified trainers on a specified list of topics.

Resources Needed: Varies by training for related curriculum or materials; cost for professional to edit videos for future showing/online posted would need to be determined.

ECAC Website Revisions

Overview: Several revisions to the Nevada ECAC website are needed to support parent/family engagement strategies. These include:

- Simplify language on website to ensure all aspects of the website are understandable, using plain language and defining acronyms.
- Develop and post infographics that will help share information, including an understanding of the early childhood system and the strategic plan (what are these and why are they important?).
- Enable ability to share meeting recordings on the website for individuals to view after each meeting for those who are unable to attend in person.
- Post monthly ECAC newsletters on website (newsletters should include meeting summaries written in plain language)
- Clearly identify all of the agencies/organizations involved with the NV ECAC.
- Clearly identify and explain role/purpose of the ECAC and subcommittees, from a parent/family perspective.
- Clearly identify how parents/families/partners/others can provide input, public comments, requests, etc. (in addition to how to attend meetings)

Role of ECAC: Provide feedback/input on recommended changes to the website; assist with outreach to get input from parents/family leaders on recommended changes to website

Resources Needed: Website developer; graphic designer (for infographics)

Quarterly Parent/Community Forums

Overview: Support the NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) in hosting quarterly parent/community forums to seek input on relevant early childhood issues and to provide updates on relevant ECAC/Systems initiatives. The NECFLC would lead/facilitate the forums with support from the NV ECAC (not official ECAC groups, so not subject to OML requirements). Use this opportunity as a place for parents and community members to share thoughts and ideas on issues relevant to them and then have the NECFLC or a parent/family representative present a summary and/or key recommendations back to the ECAC. Details on how the recommendations were implemented could also then be shared back with the parent/community groups who participate (establishing two-way communication).

Role of ECAC: Work collaboratively with NECFLC to help develop key topics, presentations, infographics and related information to support information sharing at the Forum. Identify at least one member (but

not more than three) of the NV ECAC to attend/participate in the forums to answer questions and/or provide feedback on information/ideas presented.

Resources Needed: Participant incentives (meals/refreshments for in-person attendees), stipends and/or child care for participants; discuss opportunity to blend funding sources (HRSA, Pritzker, PDG & others) to support these quarterly events (could be in person, virtual or hybrid); potentially hire facilitator to run meetings

Social Media Outreach and Engagement

Overview: The NV ECAC should build out their presence on social media to buildup a following, as well as to follow other groups. In addition to sharing relevant updates and information through these social media platforms, the ECAC should strategically identify and join/follow other parent/family social media channels (such as, but not limited to, parent Facebook pages covering NV specific geographic areas) to identify relevant issues, events, priorities and systemic barriers. Engage in conversations with parent/family groups where they are and offer support/resources aligned with the NV ECAC and our partners.

Role of ECAC: Identify individuals/staff to establish social media platforms on behalf of the NV ECAC, ensuring that all platforms are kept up to date; identify individuals/staff to monitor and engage in relevant social media platforms to share information on the NV ECAC and to summarize relevant issues, events, priorities and barriers presented by parent/family groups in their own spaces.

Resources Needed: Staff time to develop and maintain social media platforms; staff time to monitor/engage with other social media platforms.

Thought Exchange Platform

Overview: Online, subscription based platform utilized to seek input from diverse partners through an online platform. Collects and analyzes qualitative data. Utilized by some school districts to receive input from parents and community partners on specific topics. *(May be more useful, cost beneficial, to utilize a platform like this once a base of parent/family/community partners are established.)*

Role of ECAC: Review/provide input on feasibility and practical application of platform.

Resources Needed: Cost of platform (needs to be determined); staff to update/maintain site to request relevant information and analyze responses.