



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023 • 9:00 AM

“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.”

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Child Care Services Center	1771 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 200B, LV, 89119	Las Vegas	Training Room
Child Care Services Center	961 Matley Lane, Suite 110, Reno, 89502	Reno	Training Room
Virtual	Link: Zoom	1-669-900-9128	ID: 881 4933 6663 Passcode: 789905

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Membership Updates and Roll Call

Denise Tanata, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Denise Tanata announced that Patrice Gardner, Vice Chair, would be running today’s meeting.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Seat A – Latisha Brown
- Seat C – Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell
- Seat D – Dr. Diane Nicolet
- Seat E – Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward
- Seat F – Carrie Paldi
- Seat G – Tiffany Alston
- Seat H – Patrice Gardner
- Seat I – Brenda Morales-Solorzano
- Seat J – Julie Houchins
- Seat K – Marty Elquist
- Seat M – Jocelyn Pereira
- Seat M – Dr. Linda Young
- Seat M – Denise Tanata
- Seat M – Jennifer Butler
- Seat M – Karissa Loper Machado
- Seat M- Elysa Arroyo



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Council Members Absent:

- Seat B – Alberto Quintero
- Seat L – Vacant
- Seat M – Tina Springmeyer
- Seat M – Margarita Salas Crespo

Public in Attendance:

- Alyson Godfrey, NDE OELD
- Miae Pace, NDE OELD
- Emily Champlin, NDE OELD
- Ashley Dines, The Children’s Cabinet
- Rhonda Lawrence, DCFS, IECMH
- Lela Arney, The Children’s Cabinet
- Gerilyn Slicker, UNLV
- Brianne Dotson, WestEd
- Lynn Purdue, Purdue Marion & Associates
- Shannon Laranjo, The Children’s Cabinet
- Lucy Hadley, WestEd
- Rosa Tamayo, The Children’s Cabinet
- Sara Kharrat, NDE
- Rebecca Dunne, NV Institute for Children’s Research & Policy, UNLV
- Citlaly Ruiz Ruvalcaba, The Children’s Cabinet
- Ashleigh Baker, Tribal ECAC, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
- Lauren Ryan, The Children’s Cabinet
- Kathy Yoder-Bass, The Hills Preschool
- Tom Puckett, Thomas Puckett Advertising/Purdue Marion & Associates
- Mychelle Weart, NDE OELD
- Donna Einspahr, Mountain View Lutheran
- Leah Bennett, The Children’s Cabinet
- Jennifer Hines, The Children’s Cabinet
- JT Champlin, NDE, OELD
- Kelcy Meyer, DCFS Safe Babies Court
- Rachel Stepina, NDE OELD
- Kelly Carr, NDE OELD
- Taliana, unknown
- Tiffany Olivas, The Children’s Cabinet
- Jamelle Nance, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
- Kara Wasiak, The Children’s Cabinet
- Greg Hill, WestEd

2. Public Comment #1

- No public comment provided.



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3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

Action: Dr. Diane Nicolet motioned for an approved flexible agenda. Marty Elquist seconds the motion. No opposition and no discussion. The Council approved a flexible agenda. The Board may take agenda items out of order; combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

4. Minutes from January 18, 2023

- Ashley Dines makes comment that there is a member's full name missing in the attendance.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward mentions that under section 5 there is also missing context in the agenda "insert chat". Patrice Gardner also mentions that there are a couple other "insert chats" with text missing.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward adds that there is text missing in updates from NevAEYC.
- Carrie Paldi adds that she submitted updates but missed the deadline.

- Denise Tanata apologized and noted that they will go back and make corrections to the minutes, referencing the video recording.
- Patrice Gardner announced the vote on the January 18th meeting minutes would be postponed to the next meeting, pending corrections needed.

5. Presentation – NV Early Childhood Marketing & Outreach Campaign

20 minute time limit: (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

- Presentation and discussion on the 2023 NV Early Childhood Marketing and Outreach Campaign
- Lynn Purdue, representative from Purdue, Marion & Associates mentions that on March 13th, which begins Children's Week at the Legislature, they are holding two kick-off events. One of them will be in Southern Nevada at The East Las Vegas Community Center at 10:00 AM. The second event will take place in Carson City, in front of the Nevada Legislative Building. These events are intended to get media coverage for the campaign and awareness for other community partners.
- They also shared parts of the campaign including videos of children promoting the new Nevada Child Care Fund. Purdue, Marion & Associates also shared the analytics of the campaign from February 1-28, 2023.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet asked if there is an opportunity for infant and toddler care to be visualized in the campaign and what strategies are being utilized to reach the frontier areas.
- Lynn Purdue responded that the campaign is working with consultants that are in the rural areas. Scott handles the Northern rural.
- Tom Puckett responded that they worked with children ages 3 to 7 for the television spots. Tom added that digital media reaches statewide, it reaches anyone with a smartphone and internet connection.

- Dr. Diane Nicolet added that they hope to see brochures and visual will also represent children ages 0-3.
- Denise Tanata asked for clarification on what conversion means. Lynn responded that conversion number relate to the number of click throughs to the NevadaChildCare.org website from the campaign site.
- Rachel Stepina asked what are the next steps for the campaign, timeline, and how can they be involved.
- Lynn Purdue responded that the advertisement will continue, they will be engaging partners, printing flyers, and sending materials to children's resource center through The Children's Cabinet. They are trying to be at events where they can speak directly to parents and create business roundtables to get the business community involved. They will be creating a toolkit to carry message to others.
- Rachel Stepina asked how the campaign will be working with the public school districts.
- Lynn Purdue asked for a contact for the school districts, and mentioned they are working with the Boys and Girls Clubs, among other community based organizations.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet and Dr. Linda Young offered assistance to connect Lynn with the appropriate school district contacts.



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Lynn will have an offline conversation to go over how to work with the school districts.

- Denise Tanata discussed the process of focusing on reaching populations that are not yet connected.

6. Presentation – Kindergarten Think Tank

(Information/Discussion) Presentation on the Kindergarten Think Tank program.

Kelly Carr, NDE Office of Early Learning and Development

Documents: *Flyers for The Kindergarten Think Tank program, Educator of the Year Award*

- The first meeting for the Kindergarten Think Tank program is March 9th 4:30-6:00 PM. This is a group of individuals who are passionate and care about all things Kindergarten related. Kelly Carr is looking for individuals who want to join, they can scan the QR code or click on the form link. It's an ongoing quarterly virtual committee that will meet as needed based on topics that are coming up about kindergarten. Their goal is to improve communications to teachers and schools, provide resources, and to gather stakeholder input. In the first meeting they will discuss the kindergarten entry assessment. They are looking for feedback of those in the field and reviewing best practices. They are also looking at the kindergarten entry date, the bill is in the process of being heard in the legislative session. The proposal is to change it from the first day of school to August 1st.
- One goal of the Kindergarten Think Tank program is to remind people of kindergarten specific bills that influence the teachers in the field and encourage comments.
- Rachel Stepina asked if they can share the interest that The Kindergarten Think Tank program has.
- Kelly Carr said there are about 90 people on their list of participants. They foresee that people will come and go based on their schedules and interest of topics. Participants include representatives from: The Children's Cabinet, Goodwill, Charters, family advocates, and more.
- Short notice for meeting due to Spring Break for schools. They will be recording the meeting and send out to participants that were not able to attend.
- NDE Early Educator of The Year Award- NDE is taking nominations until April 23, 2023. They want to uplift teachers, they will have an application period and interview panel.

7. Presentation and Discussion – Preschool Cost Study Update

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) The Region 15 Comprehensive Center at WestEd and NDE Office of Early Learning and Development seek input from the NECAC to better understand regional cost nuances and the implications for increasing the number of state-funded preschool seats. In January, the Region 15 Comprehensive Center shared preliminary cost study findings. In March, the Center will collect input on recommendations to strengthen the Nevada Ready! State PreK program.

- Patti Oya, NDE-Office of Early Learning and Development introduces Lucy Hadley, Education Finance Research Associate, and Brianne Dotson, WestEd. Greg Hill, Senior Project Manager, WestEd is not available. This is a continuation of the previous conversation regarding Pre-K cost project. Final report will be finished and finalized by June. They want additional feedback from the council.
- They shared the slide presentation "Nevada Ready! Pre-k Cost, Equity, and Access Study." WestEd partnered with the Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development to understand the current cost of Nevada Ready! Pre-k program with their current standards. Last month, they shared their initial findings that the initial range is \$8,700-\$14,000 per child.
- WestEd shared the initial equity and access findings and asked the ECAC the following questions:
 - What factors might affect access and use of NR!PK among families in rural and urban communities, respectively?
 - As leaders in this field, what kinds of information might best help you design and implement policies that increase equitable access to NR!PK particularly among disproportionately impacted populations?
 - Who is being served by NR!PK, who isn't, and why?
 - To what extent does access to NR!PK vary along racial or ethnic lines?
 - How well do current NR!PK policies and practices serve disproportionately impacted populations?
- They came to two findings so far:
 - The demand for NR!PK greatly exceeds supply



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- While need is high overall, the need is greatest among historically marginalized communities
- Responses and follow up questions included:
 - Julie Houchins, United Way of Southern Nevada, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierras – Some challenges that they have seen are capacity, finding centers to offer programming, finding staff that meet the NR!PK expectations for lead teachers, getting teachers enrolled in to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nevada. The transportation piece for families in the rural communities is an issue. They have been working with the north for about two years for a pilot program, it's still a work in progress. They may not have the space to house more than 10-15 children, they are using more of a mixed aged group model.
 - Chat also mentions a lack of infrastructure or wraparound care.
 - Kelly Carr added an experience from a site visit in Wells: People are interested in spots in the Family Resource Center, they are the only child care provider in the whole town. Some people don't come because they have to drive about 75 miles or 45 miles one-way. Also, the alternate schedule is not working for them.
 - Julie Houchins asks if next year, the NR!PK 25-hours per week, can covered in 3 days or an open option for families?
 - Rachel Stepina mentioned the large Hispanic population; there should be research on the cultural preferences of the families. What are the barriers for them to enroll and seek NR!PK.
 - Carrie Paldi added that transportation is a barrier, including gas and how much it costs to get to these centers.
 - Julie Houchins mentioned best practices for wraparound piece in Southern Nevada. There are programs that are providing before and aftercare. Families can also use the subsidy to offset the wraparound fees.
 - Denise Tanata mentioned potentially utilizing home-based child care and group family child care for NR!PK. Nevada Cares housing project is just starting to build up group family child care and expand access. She mentioned looking at the requirements for home-based providers to participate and what those costs might be.
 - Carrie Paldi referenced the Classroom on Wheels (COW) program as an opportunity to explore to bring classes to rural areas.
 - Latisha Brown, Licensing- There are a lot of issues with HOAs and in rural communities there are issues with building and zoning, they don't want child care centers in the community. They might have a perceived thought of what child care can do to the neighborhood. Mentions calling HOA and educating them about child care being a positive thing in the community.
 - Julie Houchins added that United Way supports the Neighborhood Network, which provides training to these in-home providers.

8. **Presentation – NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) Recommendations for Parent Leadership and Engagement**

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Presentation and discussion on recommendations to support parent leadership and engagement with the NV ECAC.

Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo, The Children's Cabinet

- Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo shared a presentation of what they are working on and what issues they are seeing.
- They are missing parent voice, diverse representation, authentic engagement, and active participation.
- Goal as coordinators is to include parent/guardian leaders in active and authentic participation during NV ECAC meetings.
- Objective is to establish partnership trainings and mentorship to empower parent leaders to use their voice.
- Identify barriers that discourage authentic engagement/participation.
- Include time in ECAC agenda for parent leaders to utilize their voice.
- They want to break down barriers and feel included as far as language, accessibility, and technology.



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- Ashley Dines recommended having parent leader acknowledgments during the ECAC meetings. They would like to place an agenda item specifically made with purpose.
- Jamelle Nance from Children’s Advocacy Alliance asked how many parents they would like to have involved in the ECAC.
- Ashley Dines responded that they would like to have a parent for each subcommittee. They don’t really have a number but want to have parents in these spaces.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet provided feedback that having parents in subcommittees is a great start.

9. Discussion – NV Early Childhood Funding Sustainability Planning

Item was tabled.

10. Presentation and Discussion – Definition of “Underrepresented and Underserved Populations”

Item was tabled.

11. Presentation and Discussion – 2023 Early Childhood Policy Priorities

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

- Jamelle Nance, shared Children’s Advocacy Alliance was involved with advocating for AB113 and 114. They have provided testimony and they are also supporting other child care items and other areas. On Tuesdays at 11:30 AM they have a full legislative update opportunity via zoom.
- Denise Tanata provided some updates on AB114 and AB113.
 - AB114 (ECAC Membership and Scope) was presented on February 20th in Assembly Health and Human Services and several amendments were recommended to strengthen the language.
 - AB113 (Governor’s Office of Early Childhood) was heard in Assembly Government Affairs on February 23rd. It was received very well by committee members and there were some amendments presented and additional language recommended.
 - Added language that would allow the ECAC to submit Director candidate recommendations to the Governor.
 - Recommendations to add specific duties and functions of the office.
 - Recommendation to address reduction in disparities and access to program and services.
 - Require a report to be submitted on December 1st each year, in alignment with ECAC.
 - Requirement for state agencies to cooperate with this new Office for Early Childhood Systems.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet shared the link to sign up for NELIS to review all the bills and meetings. [NELIS Home \(state.nv.us\)](https://www.nelis.org)
- Jamelle Nance- Shared CAA also has a bill tracker: <https://www.caanv.org/2023-legislative-bill-tracker/>

12. Subcommittee Updates and Workplan Discussion

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Discuss updates, recommendations and workplan progress from ECAC Subcommittees and priorities for 2023.

Materials: [2023 NECAC Workplans](#)

Please see the 2023 NECAC Workplans document for a complete list of updates from each of the subcommittees. No additional updates were provided at the meeting.

- Leadership Subcommittee – Denise Tanata and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs
- System Alignment Subcommittee – Julie Houchins and Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Co-Chairs
- Communications and Engagement Subcommittee – Jennifer Butler and Dr. Linda Young, Co-Chairs
- Finance and Policy Subcommittee – Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Co-Chairs
- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – Marty Elquist, Chair



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13. Local ECAC Updates

(Discussion/For Possible Action) Discuss updates from Local ECACs, including plans for the ARP Local ECAC Small Grants. Summary reports are provided in the Local ECAC Summary Report document.

Materials: [JAN 23 Local ECAC Summary Report](#)

- Carson/Douglas ECAC- Updates didn't make it into the report. Tiffany Olivas updates include:
 - Re-established what their goals are
 - Continuing open houses of local child care programs
 - Brainstorm ways to get more folks to participate
 - Plans to partner with local children's museum to try to sponsor a place for early childhood
 - Create brochure of some concrete services they can provide to folks including tribal communities
 - Fall Conference in October 2023
 - Working on website and making it more targeted and that it's useful
- Elko County ECAC
- Southern Nevada ECAC
- Tribal ECAC
- Tri-County ECAC
- Washoe County ECAC

14. State Agency and Partner Updates

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Relevant informational items from state agencies and departments on programs, services, initiatives and/or issues relevant to the ECAC Strategic Plan. Summary reports are provided in the Partner Summary Report document.

Materials: [MAR 23 NECAC Partner Summary Report](#)

- Department of Education
 - Office of Early Learning & Development – Patti Oya
 - Office of Early Learning & Development- Rachel Stepina- Verbal update:
 - PDG-B5 is on the Interim Finance Committee agenda for April 6th to approve the grant funding. They are also hiring for 6 new positions. Visit their online platform for more information: <https://bit.ly/nevadaPDGB-5>
 - Revising the prekindergarten standards with Tina Springmeyer in Washoe County. The draft standards are ready for stakeholder feedback, email will be sent to provide feedback.
 - Early Childhood Special Education
 - Office of Student & School Supports – Alberto Quintero
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program
 - Karissa Loper reported that they are working through processes to update and replace their subsidy management system. Working on communication directly with providers with their Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies. Want to work on own newsletters and list serve to reach the subsidy enrolled providers.
 - Division of Child and Family Services, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Rhonda Lawrence
 - Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing
 - Latisha Brown reported that they are doing trainings and has noticed that there is miscommunication happening. Latisha will be attending all background trainings through child care licensing to ensure clarification. Spoke to Arizona and California to find out about out state background checks and learned standard language to add to their Nevada Automated Background (NAB) systems. They are



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currently approving background checks for previous residents of California and Arizona. They are adding an in-person training for background checks.

- Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health – Vickie Ives
- Director’s Office, Aging and Disability Services, Part C and NEIS – Lori Ann Malina-Lovell
- Pyramid Model Update – Janice Lee
- Research and Needs Assessments – Amanda Haboush-Deloye
- NevAEYC Update
 - Carrie Paldi reported that NevAEYC’s annual conference will be on May 18-20th, 2023. It will be in person, they are still looking for presenters. You can contact The Nevada Registry for the link. Sponsor and vendor information will be coming on soon and so will registration.
 - T.E.A.C.H is also accepting applications for the upcoming semester.
 - There are also stipends available for the Early Childhood Stipend, last day to apply is April 30th.
 - Week of the Young Child for NEAYC is April 1st-7th.
- Childcare Provider Action Committee Update
 - Carrie Paldi reported the Center-Based Child Care Provider Action Committee has been working on developing a presentation to share with the legislators about some of the barriers they face as child care providers in Nevada. Members will be attending Children’s Week and have several meetings scheduled with representatives to share concerns and how to improve systems that impact the child care industry.
 - The Home-based provider committee has been meeting since January and member Ivan Williams has been leading meetings.
 - If you have any questions reach out to reach out to Lela Arney at Larney@childrencabinet.org.
- Pritzker PN3 Initiative and Early Childhood Policy Update
 - Jamelle Nance reported Pritzker is doing good and looking for ways to align with the PDG B-5 and other sectors. They concluded the interim report on February 15th and looking towards the future with Pritzker.
- Strong Start Update
 - Jamelle Nance reported there are about 25 Child Advocacy Ambassadors and they receive a stipend each month. There is a dad in this group. CAA is connecting parents with legislators and community leaders. They want to enhance the parents with story sharing opportunities.
- HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Update – Denise Tanata
- ECE Workforce Plan – Marty Elquist
- NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council
- New or Potential Grants and Funding – All
- Training & Professional Development Opportunities
 - Denise Tanata asked if anyone is applying for Project Launch. No one is aware of anyone applying for this grant.

15. Discuss Agenda Items for May 17, 2023 Meeting

(Information/Discussion) Council will discuss recommendations for agenda items and structure for the 2023 meeting schedule.

- Project Sustainability discussion (tabled at today’s meeting)
- Definition of Vulnerable and Underserved Populations (tabled at today’s meeting)
- NV Early Childhood Family Leadership (NECFLC) Parent Presentation/Discussion

16. Public Comment #2

- Dr. Diane Nicolet shared some accolades with the group and especially to Dr. Linda Young for the Early Learning Institute. There were about 30 sessions and you were able to participate from anywhere. The diversity of the topics and the presenters was stellar. It was a wonderful opportunity for people to get together. The only thing that was challenging



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for Dr. Diane Nicolet when doing trainings is that they can't create relationships and does not get to see people up-close and personal. When Dr. Diane Nicolet started their presentation there was 369 people in attendance.

- Dr. Linda Young responded with a big shout out to Patti Oya for being outstanding to work with and Delilah Krasch with the Clark County School District. Also, thank you to Jeffrey Geihs with the Nevada Association of School Administrators.
- Rachel Stepina reminded everyone that the Early Learning Institute is not over, there are more sessions to attend. Rachel will be presenting on Thursday.
- Rachel Stepina also stated that there is an opportunity to engage with The Futuro Project which is happening through the Nevada State College. They were awarded a \$2 million dollar grant to focus on promoting equity for children that speak a language other than English with or without disabilities. <https://nsc.edu/academics/school-of-education/futuro/>
- Denise Tanata thanked Patrice Gardner for doing a fantastic job in facilitating the meeting.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:28am