



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) POLICY AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 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 videoconference.

SUMMARY MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Denise Tanata, Co-Chair, started the meeting at 1:02 pm.

Members in Attendance – Quorum achieved with 100% attendance:

- Julie Houchins
- Denise Tanata
- Marty Elquist
- Patti Oya
- Lela Arney
- Brianna Cambra
- Ashley Dines
- Katarina Jackson
- Brian Cullen
- Nicole Martin
- Anna Marie Binder

Guests in Attendance:

- Alyson Godfrey
- Anna Villatoro
- Annette Dawson Owens

2. Public Comment #1

- No public comment provided

3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

- Patti Oya motioned for approval of a flexible agenda.
- Lela Arney seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor, motion passed.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2023

- Patti Oya motioned for approval of the February 9, 2023 minutes as drafted.
- Brianna Cambra seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor, motion passed.

Denise Tanata utilized the flexible agenda to move agenda item number 5 after agenda items 6 and 7.

5. Discuss Subcommittee Membership and Guest Presentations

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Materials: NECAC Subcommittee Roster - <http://nvecac.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NECAC-2022-Subcommittee-List-2023.pdf>

NECAC Subcommittee Responsibilities and Commitment Form - <http://nvecac.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NVECAC-Subcommittee-Roles-Responsibilities-2021-Update.pdf>

- Denise Tanata- Based on comments, they need to look for different members for the subcommittee. Potentially from Maternal Child Health to see if they have a representative that can join.
- Nicole Martin suggested Cassius Adams at behavioral public health that she has worked with recently, a children and youth special health needs coordinator, he may be a good fit if interested.
 - Denise mentioned that we may want to start with having a conversation or inviting them to present; then ask them to join as a member, if appropriate.
 - Nicole mentioned that he would be great as a member, Marty agreed that he would be an asset.
- Anna Marie Binder mentioned that The Nevada Council on Developmental Disabilities had a presentation that was very informative from Jeff Wilcox, a private health insurer, that was very informative.
- Brianna Cambra mentioned that the Governor’s Office of Workforce Innovations had assembled a temporary work group which they are talking about making a permanent workgroup, and it would benefit them to be part of the discussions.
 - Denise Tanata suggested inviting the Governor’s Board of Workforce Innovations Child Care Subcommittee to present the findings and recommendations from their report.
- Patti Oya suggested having a presentation on the WIC and SNAP programs to see if they are experiencing some similar barriers for participants.
 - Brian explained that the benefits were increased due to COVID and had since been called back to normal rates, now that the pandemic is over. This decision was made by the Federal government. Brian explained that the food stamps (SNAP) should be spent on things that are not allowable on WIC to expand impact of the food support programs.
- Follow up items:
 - Invite Cassius Adams, Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs, to present or discuss policy priorities at an upcoming meeting (Nicole)
 - Invite Governor’s Board of Workforce Innovation to present policy recommendations (Bri)
 - Invite someone from WIC and SNAP to present on their programs and qualifications (Patti)
 - Invite Vickie Ives or MCH representative to present on relevant policy and financing priorities (Denise)
- Denise Tanata moved onto agenda item # 8.

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

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair and



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

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/>

- Children’s Week at the Legislature – March 13th to 16th:
 - Denise mentioned that there will be a press conference on Monday morning at 10:00 am in front of the legislative building and a coinciding event in Las Vegas at the East LV Community Center.
 - Lela Arney added that the Child Care Provider Action Committee would have four members attending and they will be providing a presentation on NABS (child care background check system).
 - Julie Houchins mentioned that United Way will be having a table and they will be joining a meeting with YMCA, Jhone Ebert and Governor Lombardo.
- Anna Marie Binder mentioned that she participated in Development Disability Day in Carson City yesterday. Dr. Sondra Cosgrove participated in some conversations and will be providing a recap soon.
- Bill Updates:
 - AB113 and AB114 were heard in committee and some minor amendments are being worked on. The next step is for the committees to schedule them for work session (vote). Once they pass out of the committees, they will likely need to go to Ways and Means since they have fiscal notes attached.
 - AB113 – Governor’s Office put in a fiscal note that would request three positions for the office including the Director and two analyst positions. Also adding some language around having the ECAC submit three candidates to Governor for consideration for the Director position and requiring office to submit an annual report aligned with the ECAC annual report.
 - Anna Marie Binder asked about the Governor’s order to streamline regulations and asked if the NV ECAC was required to submit recommendations under that order.
 - Denise responded that she received an email from the Governor’s Office on this, but since the NV ECAC does not officially oversee any regulations, not sure if we have to address this, but we definitely can.
 - Anna Marie mentioned that the Children’s Special Education Commission is being asked to provide recommendations, so the ECAC may want to address as well. Anna Marie will send the request she received to Denise to review.
 - Patti responded that the NV Department of Education is working on recommendations, but none specifically from the Office of Early Learning and Development.
 - Brian responded that the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program references federal regulations as well as licensing and other relevant NV Revised Statutes, but does not have any regulations specifically under their jurisdiction.
 - Patti Oya mentioned AB65, which includes the cut off date for 1st grade. There were many pieces pulled out especially the restorative justice pieces which was controversial. The kindergarten cutoff date for the birthday is still there. They changed from September 30th to the first day of school (two years ago) and that made it difficult with the districts. They picked the date of August 1st. The other problem that they changed in AB65 it reads “if you are coming to school for the first time in second grade, you will be assessed, and you can be put all the way back to Kindergarten.” They cleaned it up, they don’t know the data, and they don’t want this to happen to anyone. Now, if children are coming in to first grade that will be their first entry, they will be assessed. Patti confirmed that Kindergarten and First Grade are not mandatory in Nevada.
 - Annette Dawson Owens mentioned AB28, the baby bonds bill which establishes funds for children on Medicaid that they can use when they turn 18. She also mentioned that she was in strategic planning with NAN (Nevada Afterschool Network) talking about bills. CAA does not have their one pager yet because it’s shifting. Their priorities are evolving but include AB113 and AB114 with Claire Thomas, restorative justice surrounding



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

education, health issues with Medicaid expansion, and continuous coverage eligibility for children. Every Tuesday they have a legislative update with Executive Director Holly Welborn.

7. Discuss Subcommittee Workplan

- Denise Tanata shared the Policy and Finance Subcommittee Workplan via Teams. Denise announced they are going back to utilizing OnStrategy. Wants to make sure we reference the workplan each meeting to see if we need to do any updates.
 - Will use the OnStrategy platform to input workplan activities, timelines, and metrics. OnStrategy team is in the process of taking workplan and inputting into the system. It will be critical for each of the subcommittees to update the workplans with their status and progress. Staff will then input the updates to the OnStrategy system. The information will keep track of ECAC progress of achieving goals and objectives. This will also help generate the annual report that will be submitted to the Governor and legislature. Asking if we need to add or update workplan.
- Objective 4.1 -fiscal analysis of the Early Childhood Funding Streams.
 - A lot of ongoing work with Children's Funding Project. It's a lot of work and they had a meeting with individuals from the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (not the Childcare Development program) to look at the spreadsheet and talk about updating the information. The Children's Funding Project is serious about wanting accurate data.
 - DCFS has a lot of program budget, but they don't the capacity or staff to do the review. They will note that they did not verify information with the agency. Denise reminds everyone in the meeting to share why this work is important specially with those that are not part of the ECAC. The goal is to identify where the gaps exist for, we can get more resources to the agencies and serve more kids and families. It starts with accurate data collection.
- Objective 4.1: Identify all projects/analysis currently taking place or needed to estimate the actual or needed costs for all ECS programs/services/infrastructure needs, this one was just added.
 - There was a meeting in February with the Early childhood systems agencies. In the process of planning a follow-meeting and a survey. Denise wants to include a bullet point in the survey asking if the agencies do any type of cost modeling, that they can include in the analysis.
 - Denise mentioned that the cost modeling with P-5 will take longer, the timeline will be 6/30/2024.
 - Patti Oya- Nevada PreK (WestED) estimated completion will be 6/30/2023. Universal PreK (WestEd) estimated completion will be 6/30/2024.
 - Denise will follow up with agency leads on some of these key programs and see if they are doing anything.
- Objective 4.2: Identifying funding pathways and policy changes needed to meet program and system goals.
 - There is so much going on during the session but are moving to the end of the calendar year to be able to think through what the focus of the group should be.
 - Can the Children's Advocacy Alliance open a portal for people can share policy or priority issues? Denise will follow up with Holly.
 - Denise, Marty Elquist, and Brianna Cambra had an internal conversation with the leadership team talking about Maternal Mortality issues and what can be done. There is at an agency or program level what they can do to help identify some of the issues. They are working on a data system for the direct support staff working with clients, when they identify barriers or challenges in access services, it can be flagged, and bring it up to a higher level to be assessed.
 - Marty Elquist- They want to build a process to generate a monthly report. They want to add another value in the action logs, if a case manager runs across a barrier, they can record a service barrier. They can ultimately run a report with all the barriers, and they can share this report with ECAC, funders, and all the above. This is a work in progress. This would also include eligibility for families and childcare providers.
 - Denise Tanata-The Children's Cabinet is one agency but the more organizations who work with families, it will be helpful to identifying barriers and collecting data. Will touch base with Holly from Children's Advocacy Alliance to speak about this.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

8. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata stated that she will see who they can connect with to begin presentations and discussions discussed above at future meetings.

9. Public comment #2

- No public comment provided.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm