



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
NV ECAC POLICY AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 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, Subcommittee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06pm

Members in Attendance:

- *Denise Tanata, The Children’s Cabinet, Subcommittee Co-Chair*
- *Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education Office of Early Learning and Development*
- *Lela Arney, The Children’s Cabinet*
- *Brianna Cambra, The Children’s Cabinet*
- *Anna Marie Binder, Parent Representative*
- *Elysa Arroyo, Educator, New Co-Chair for Policy and Finance Subcommittee*
- *Brian Cullen, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program*
- *Nicole Martin, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program*

Public in Attendance:

- *Anna Villatoro, The Children’s Cabinet*
- *Sabrina Jones, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development*
- *Rachel Stepina, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development*
- *Holly Welborn, Children’s Advocacy Alliance*
- *Vanessa Dunn, Children’s Advocacy Alliance*
- *Tiffany Olivas, The Children’s Cabinet*
- *Rosa Tamayo, The Children’s Cabinet*

2. Public Comment #1

No public comment was provided.

3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

- *Brianna Cambra motioned to approve a flexible agenda.*
- *Anna Marie Binder seconded the motion.*
- *No one opposed the motion.*
- *Denise Tanata approved and passed a flexible agenda.*



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Materials: [4-13-2023- NV ECAC Policy and Finance Subcommittee MINUTES](#)

- Denise Tanata gave the subcommittee a few minutes to look over the last minutes.
- Patti Oya motioned to approve the minutes as presented.
- Lela Arney seconded the motion.
- Anna Marie Binder abstained from the vote, as she was not present at the April meeting.
- All other members voted in favor. Motion passed.

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

(Discussion, Legislative updates) 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 summarized what part of the process the session is currently in.

- Many things passed on the last day June 5th.
- This meeting did not conclude all business. The meeting ended without passing the Capital Improvement Budget bill. Special Session presently occurs.
- Things that passed through session, the governor has 10 days to sign those bills. These bills may not get a signature until later.

Holly Welborn presented a few bills that directly impacted early childhood in Nevada.

- **AB 113**- Bill to Establish the Governor's Office for Early Childhood Systems *did not pass*.
- **AB 114**- Bill to Diversify the Early Childhood Advisory Council passed and has been signed by the Governor.
- **AB 348**- Bill for Parent Involvement Online Program passed with 2 million in appropriations.
- **AB 28**- Baby Bond bill *did not pass*.
- **SB 232**- Post Partum bill did pass, and we are awaiting a signature by the governor.
- **SB 278**- Bill for Child Care tax credit for businesses *did not pass*.
- **AB 330 and AB 285**- Both bills address school discipline and behavioral issues.
 - Addresses discipline policy by age range, act, and zero tolerance policy.
 - Addresses issues such as bodily harm, battery, and sale and possession of drugs.
 - CAA is still reviewing the policy.
 - They will be distributing documentation to the community and parents to show what these bills look like and what this means for their children.
 - These bills will go into effect July 1st.
 - CAA provide an update in the middle of July.

Patti Oya provided details on AB 65 for kindergarten entry and the new Early Literacy Readiness Account.

- **AB 65** – Regarding Kindergarten Entry
 - A child must be 5yrs by August 1st to be enrolled in kindergarten this year.
 - The change is the first day of school is now August 1st.
 - Parents will be able to enroll their child August 1st if their child went to Pre-K.
 - Many families are stuck in the window from Sept. 30th to August 1st. These families are trying to find options for this upcoming school year.
 - Starting the 2024 school year the age requirement for children to enter school has changed from age 7 to age 6 years old.
 - Kindergarten is mandatory. If a child comes to school at 6yrs old and has not attended kindergarten, they will be placed in kindergarten.
 - A 6-year-old will not be enrolled in 1st grade unless they have attended kindergarten.
 - If a child is 7 years old upon entry into school an assessment will be done, and the child will be placed into kindergarten or 1st grade. In this case second grade is not an option.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- **AB 400** – Early Literacy Readiness Account (Governor’s Bill)
 - Bill is not enrolled yet.
 - Proposed 7 million per year to support early childhood and early literacy -adding Pre-K seats, expanded eligibility, implementing a statewide kindergarten entry assessment. Part of this reads that children will be ready for kindergarten.
 - School choice language was removed.
 - Kids who are not reading at grade level will be retained in 3rd grade is added back into this bill.
 - NDE is waiting for the enrolled version of the bill and will release additional information once the final language is reviewed.
- **AB 265** – Addresses expelling children at 6 years old for poor behavior.
 - NDE is working to expand enrollment into Nevada Ready Pre-K so that we can help the children before they get to that point.

Nicole Martin described AB463 and impacts to Child Care Licensing.

- **AB463** – Child Care Licensing
 - Bill passed effective July 1st State licensing is now coming under the division of welfare and supportive services and will no longer be under Department of Public and Behavioral Health

Denise Tanata elaborated on the changes of AB114 to the ECAC.

- Regarding **AB 114 ECAC Bill**
 - This bill changes membership but did not have an effective date.
 - AB114 will go into effect October 1st.
 - We need to discuss AB 114 at our ECAC and leadership team meeting because this bill changes numbers and will impact the quorum.
 - We will need to do some recruitment quickly to fill these seats and not run into quorum issues.
 - Next steps - to narrow in sooner than later policy priorities from ECAC for 2025. This will not be discussed today.
 - **Suggest** for new co-chairs of this subcommittee that this will be an upcoming agenda item. To begin having this discussion of things that did not pass such as AB113. As well as others that did pass but did not have all the provision or funding needed. Also, to look at maternal child health issues.
 - We might want to bring in some representatives from some other sectors to discuss maternal health.
 - The intent of the discussion is to have a solid list of recommendations to the full ECAC for review and discussion by the September ECAC Meeting. To allow time to incorporate this into the annual report that the ECAC will submit to the Governor’s office and the Legislature that is due on December 1st. Which would have to be reviewed and approved by ECAC at the November meeting. This is just a reminder of these timelines.
- Brianna Cambra mentioned that the 45F federal childcare tax credit excludes child care providers from seeking the credit. Denise Tanata mentioned that this is a federal policy issue and that we should discuss exploring this with our federal delegation.

6. Discuss Development of Early Childhood Eligibility Portal

(Discussion, For Possible Action) Members will discuss the establishment of an Early Childhood Programs Eligibility Portal, like the First 5 South Carolina First Steps online system (see link below). Members will review the EC Program Eligibility Portal Document to identify all relevant Early Childhood Programs, eligibility criteria and key contacts. Members may discuss additional issues relevant to the development of the portal. Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs
Materials: [EC Program Eligibility Portal Document](#) Sample: First 5 South Carolina - <https://first5sc.org/>

- Denise Tanata recapped the discussion from the April meeting and referenced First Five South Carolina’s eligibility portal as an example. Denise put together a chart to begin a discussion around what programs and services should be included.
- Rachel Stepina discussed inclusion of the eligibility portal as part of the PDG B-5 grant.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Establishing a common eligibility system was a bonus area in the grant that was submitted and awarded.
 - We did write in the bonus area because we were familiar with First Five South Carolina and the collaboration with other partners including those here on what Nevada may want to do in this respect.
 - Many of the foundations have been laid through some of the groundwork for our subsidy system currently with vendor eLogic Genesis and beginning to map out what this can look like.
 - In terms of PDG we included funding to support this work.
 - PDG funds have changed and will change again. However, we are looking at how we can reallocate funds based on the need of eligibility.
 - The contract we would be working on at this point is a sub-award to The Children's Cabinet because they have been setting foundation and taking the lead in a variety of projects.
 - The planning pieces are still under discussion and on the table.
 - I see value in the conversation within this subcommittee because we are gathering with many leaders here.
 - We want all intentions to be collaborative partnership and development and not just one entity to carry this work forward.
- Denise Tanata shared the [EC Program Eligibility Portal Document](#) and updated the chart to reflect input from the subcommittee. The following programs have been identified for inclusion:
 - Child Care Subsidy
 - Nevada Ready! PreK
 - Early Head Start
 - Head Start
 - Medicaid
 - CHIP/Nevada Check Up
 - WIC
 - SNAP
 - TANF
 - Home Visiting Programs/MIECHV
 - NV Early Intervention Services
 - Child Find
 - McKinney Vento
 - Pyramid Model Home Visiting
 - Low Income Housing Water & Energy Assistant Programs
 - Autism Treatment Assistant Program (ATAP)
 - The subcommittee also discussed including other services, such as mental health, occupational therapy and noting QRIS programs. These programs will require additional research to be able to identify specific programs and providers, as well as the relevant eligibility criteria.
 - Rachel Stepina suggested embedding this project into the subcommittee workplan. Denise will update the workplan for the subcommittee to review at the next meeting.

7. Discuss Subcommittee Workplan

(Discussion, For Possible Action) Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Materials: [NECAC Subcommittee Workplans-2023 Combined.docx](#)

- Objective 4.1 Perform fiscal analysis of early childhood funding streams and program development needs.
 - Denise provided an update on the fiscal mapping work with the Children's Funding Project.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- The first part of this project is near completion and the Children's Funding Project will be able to do a presentation at the July ECAC meeting, pending approval from the new Chair and Leadership Subcommittee.
- They will be doing a national release of the first cohort of around 15 states in August of the fiscal mapping.
- The initial fiscal map will be looking at programs and services covering children ages 0 up to young adults, age 24.
- There are over 300 different funds or programs included in the fiscal map.
- We are starting to have conversations with the Children's Funding Project to start the deep dive into early childhood and need to identify program priorities.
- Objective 4.2 Developing a list of policy changes.
 - Denise discussed the importance of putting a list together of the policies and recommendations included in the annual report that will go out December 1st. Putting together what are the key talking points, who are the key stakeholders etc. So, we have a unified vision of policies to make this happen. We would like to have this on the agenda for the next meeting for this subcommittee.
- Rachel Stepina recommended including the Eligibility Portal in the workplan; the subcommittee agrees that this will be added to the work plan as a key activity.
- Denise Tanata will draft the key activities and put them in the workplan. She will send Julie and Elysa for a review so they can make edits and present to the group for the next meeting. All agreed.
- Denise Tanata mentioned that at the last meeting we talked about identifying fiscal gaps and what funding is really needed to support early childhood programs. The fiscal map has over 300 programs and funding streams services, so we need to prioritize.
 - Brianna had recommended we start looking at some of the national reports, specifically the PN-3 Policy to Impact Center strategies as a starting point. The PN-3 policy focuses on 0 to 3, however we would add other programs that serve the broader populations.
 - Denise shared a summary of the Prenatal to 3 Policy Impact Center Policy Clearinghouse that includes what they have identified through research of effective policies and strategies. [PN3 Policy to Impact Center Strategies.docx](#)
 - This summary includes a Nevada Road Map. This information identifies two policies where we've met the criteria around the extended health insurance as well as state minimum wage. Also, it provides other policies that need more research.
 - Recommends we add some programs that serve the broader populations. Look at the percentage of eligible populations or programs.
 - Suggested we look at home visiting, Head start, Nevada Ready programs- Might be a good start to identify fiscal gaps.
- Patti Oya agrees about the number of eligible versus who we service and where the bigger gaps are. If we have data around impact. It must be about cost, impact and where the bigger gaps are to say where we should put our money. Not sure if we have all the info in one place.
- Anna Marie Binder added that this is included in our work agenda. When we can integrate with our Systems Alignment subcommittee, we will be able to answer these questions.
- Denise Tanata shared the importance of looking at the full early childhood system and its fiscal gaps, especially when looking at the needs of the whole child and the family. It is about making sure that we do this effectively. We want to look at whether we have supports in place if we can track data and if we have human capital.
- We need to look at the infrastructure that is needed in our state to make this happen.
- We are looking at all the vulnerable population, and all these pieces. This is how we can increase access to these programs. This is a long-term plan.
 - Open for discussion is to look for effective or impactful programs in the early childhood sector.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Suggest we look at what we are doing with the other subcommittees to help bring this together.
- We will continue this agenda for the next meeting in July.
- We need to look at a list of priority programs to include for a deep dive into the early childhood analysis.

8. 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

- The subcommittee discussed continuing the current agenda items for the next meeting.

9. Public comment #2 *Public comment will be taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control, or advisory power. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Council Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.*

- No public comment was provided.

10. Adjournment

- Denise Tanata adjourned the meeting at 2:32 PM