



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 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: 869 3186 1791 Passcode: 395944 |

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified 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 Public comment may be submitted in person, virtually or in writing by contacting Denise Tanata at dtanata@childrencabinet.org. A time limit of three minutes will be imposed by the Council Chair, 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 Council Chair reserves the right to call on individuals from the audience or to allow for testimony at any time. Individuals providing testimony must fill out a visitor card.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting. Please contact Alberto Quintero at albertoquintero@doe.nv.gov, 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; and the Nevada Public Notices website notice.nv.gov. 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 Marty Elquist at dtanata@childrencabinet.org.

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Membership Updates and Roll Call- 9:02 AM

Members in Attendance:

- Seat A – Latisha Brown
- Seat B – Alberto Quintero
- Seat C – Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell
- Seat D – Dr. Diane Nicolet
- Seat E – Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward
- Seat G – Tiffany Alston
- Seat H – Patrice Gardner
- Seat I – Brenda Morales-Solorzano
- Seat J – Julie Houchins
- Seat K – Marty Elquist



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Seat M – Tina Springmeyer
- 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

Council Members Absent:

- Seat F – Carrie Paldi
- Seat L – Vacant
 - Dr. Terence McAllister has applied to become a member of the ECAC for the pediatric, mental, physical, and behavioral healthcare seat L. They are waiting on the appointment from the Governor's office. Dr. Terence McAllister is a primary care pediatrician in Las Vegas. Dr. McAllister is also the Vice President of the Nevada chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and looks forward to participating and joining the board.
- Seat M- Margarita Salas Crespo

Public in Attendance:

- Lela Arney, The Children's Cabinet
- Daina Loeffler, Clark County School District
- Gerilyn Slicker, University of Nevada-Las Vegas
- Kaley Bachinski, Visible Network Labs
- Kelly Carr, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Rosa Tamayo, The Children's Cabinet
- Marissa Baron, Sr Project Manager, Visible Network Labs
- Candace Mapp, Nye County School District
- Terence McAllister MD, Vice President of Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Annette Dawson Owens, School Readiness Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Kelcy Meyer, Northern Regional Coordinator, Aging and Disability Services Division
- Brooke Conway Kleven, PT, DPT, PhD, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy
- Patti Oya, OELD, Nevada Department of Education
- Leann McAllister, Executive Director, Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Rosie Wolterbeek, Nevada Department of Agriculture, CACFP Trainer
- Krisann Alvarez, DCFS/ Vice President of the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Sarah Carone, The Children's Cabinet, Elko ECAC representative
- Vickie Ives, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, CFCW
- Anna Lisa Acosta-Rogers, Western Nevada College Child Development Center Carson City
- Anna Villatoro, The Children's Cabinet
- Jamelle Nance, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Ashley Dines, The Children's Cabinet
- Tiffany Olivas, ECCS Manager II, The Children's Cabinet
- Jennifer Hines, EC CHW Manager, The Children's Cabinet
- Kara Wasiaak, Child Care HUB Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Rachel Stepina, Nevada Department of Education, OELD
- Leah Schellhammer, The Children's Cabinet
- Todd Butterworth, The Guinn Center



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

2. Public Comment #1

No Public Comment.

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

- Marty Elquist makes motion to approve flexible agenda.
- Dr. Linda Young seconded the motion to approve a flexible agenda.
- No opposition to the motion.
- Denise Tanata approved the motion for a flexible agenda.

4. Minutes from January 18, 2023

- Marty Elquist motions to approve the January 18th minutes as presented.
- Dr. Linda Young seconded the motion to approve the January 18th agenda.
- No opposition to the motion.
- Denise Tanata approves the January 18th minutes as presented.

5. Minutes from March 8, 2023

(Discussion, For Possible Action) The Council will discuss and approve the minutes.

Materials: [March 8, 2023, Minutes](#)

- Jennifer Butler makes the motion to approve the March 8th minutes as presented.
- Julie Houchins seconded the motion to approve the March 8th minutes as written.
- No opposition to the motion.
- Denise Tanata approves the March 8th, 2023, Minutes as presented.
- Marty Elquist thanked Anna Villatoro for the exceptional job that she's doing with the minutes.

6. Presentation – Nevada Early Childhood Network Analysis Report

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Presentation and discussion on the 2023 NV Early Childhood Network Analysis survey conducted by Visible Network Labs on behalf of the Nevada ECAC.

Representatives from Visible Network Labs

Materials: [NV Network Analysis Report](#); [ECAC Network Analysis Member Profile](#)

- During the meeting, Denise Tanata presented the sixth agenda item which was the Nevada Early Childhood Network analysis report. She expressed her excitement about the completion of the project and thanked the members and partners who participated in the network analysis survey. Denise acknowledged that the survey was lengthy but provided valuable insights into the early childhood system and individual work within the group. Despite the difficulties of conducting the survey during a busy legislative session, she expressed gratitude for everyone's participation.
- Kaley Bachinski and Marissa Barron, both senior project managers at Visible Network Labs, introduced themselves and expressed their excitement to present the results of the Nevada Early Childhood Systems Network survey.
- Visible Network Labs is a social enterprise committed to helping people, organizations, and communities use network science to increase their capacity to make a positive difference in the world. The organization offers technical training and data analytics to help people develop effective collaborative strategies and improve their work outcomes. Today, they will review some survey data and discuss the findings.
- During the meeting, Kaley Bachinski requested that members post any questions they may have in the chat. There will be time to address them towards the end. Alternatively, members were welcome to speak up and jump in at any point. The survey's primary objective was to evaluate the network of early childhood organizations and community stakeholders throughout Nevada, centered around the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- In January of this year, Visible Network Labs conducted a survey and received a strong response rate of 87.5%, with 56 out of the 64 members who were invited to participate. This allowed for a representative sample and better understanding of the network as a whole. The survey also aimed to address some overarching research questions, which were displayed on the screen for members to see. Some questions were as follows:
 - What is/should be the missions and outcomes of the network?
 - How effectively has the Nevada Early Childhood System aligned linkages across early childhood programs and services?
 - What are the qualities of the partnership?
 - What qualities are needed to achieve outcomes?
 - What resources and services do different programs or organizations provide to the system?
- The survey aimed to address the previous questions, and Kaley Bachinski provided the council with initial findings which focused on the composition of the network. Members were shown a summary of the different types of organizations that comprise the Nevada Early Childhood Systems Network. The network comprises of 64 organizations belonging to 7 sector groups: early education and care, K-12 education, public health, mental health, youth security and hunger, healthcare, and employment/workforce. The other specified category includes additional identifiers.
- Among the partners surveyed, 23% categorized their organization as "other". Kaley Bachinski shared some examples of what these members mentioned, such as local government, child welfare costs, a cross-sector network for rural communities, higher education, and support for impoverished women. There were many different responses from members. The complete list can be found in the final report.
- During a presentation by Visible Network Labs, it was shown that over half of the survey respondents serve the entire state of Nevada, along with other areas and network member services. A breakdown of this information was provided. Additionally, a network map featuring all 56 organizations that participated in the survey was presented.
- Kaley Bachinski shared the Nevada Full Network Map, which included eight additional organizations and networks, bringing the total number of nodes to 64. For some members, this was their first time seeing this type of map, so Kaley took the opportunity to explain what it represented. The map displayed each organization as a circle or "node," and the line represented all relationships reported by respondents—the size of the node shows which organizations have the most significant number of connections. So, the larger nodes are the ones that have more connections.
- Kaley Bachinski highlighted that the position of a node or an organization within a network map is not considered good or bad. Every position has advantages and disadvantages and is necessary for a network to function properly. Key players are usually placed at the center of the network map because they are directly connected to a large number of others, making them more central to the network. According to Kaley Bachinski, there are nodes on the edges of the network map that are visible to members. These nodes are considered less connected, but they are still important because they may be well connected to other networks. They have the potential to introduce fresh insights and viewpoints to the network via their community or stakeholder ties.
- Kaley Bachinski provided a different perspective of the network map, which is color-coded according to the primary functions of each organization. For instance, childcare organizations are identified by blue, while early childhood organizations are represented by orange.
- Kaley Bachinski highlighted in the final report that three organizations emerged as key players in the network due to their high number of connections. These organizations include the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy at UNLV (labeled #34 on the map), The Children's Cabinet (#32), and the Children's Advocacy Alliance (#39).
- Kaley Bachinski shared some comparison maps to help members visualize how the Nevada Network Map compares to others. Additionally, Visible Network Labs has partnered with various community networks that serve public health, healthcare, and social service organizations.
- During her presentation, Kaley Bachinski discussed the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and shared some data points. Members were asked about their level of awareness of the council, and it was found that statewide organizations were more aware of it than other regions. This information was presented in the meeting. She briefly



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

discussed data points related to the Nevada early childhood system. The respondent organizations expressed that they could provide or potentially provide information and feedback, with 71% indicating community connections and 62% citing specific expertise in early childhood. Almost all respondents selected bringing together diverse stakeholders, 95%, as an aspect of collaboration that contributed to the success of the Nevada Early Childhood System.

- The survey asked whether the Nevada early childhood system would be more effective with a more formal structure within government, such as a state office dedicated to early childhood. About 2/3 of respondents believe the Nevada Early Childhood System would be more effective with a formal structure within the government, and about 1/3 of respondents were unsure.
- According to Kaley, there's a desire to establish a more diverse network, but organizations face the challenge of limited resources to build and manage such networks. While networks can be advantageous, there is a limit to how many relationships the network can handle before losing its collaborative advantage. It's common for people to assume that more network connections indicate a better-functioning network, but this can be resource-intensive. The Nevada network categorizes most relationships as cooperative and coordinated, but ideally, relationships should be evenly distributed across different levels of intensity. If most relationships only involve awareness, it suggests that the network is not fully leveraging its collaborative advantage. However, if most organizations reach an integrated level, the network may become unsustainable as it demands more resources to maintain the relationships. So, in terms of network health, they are looking for when 50% of relationships in a network are characterized as cooperative or coordinated, which indicates that members are effectively budgeting their relationships. The Nevada Early Childhood Systems Network is a little over 60%. They may want a little more distributed across each of these, but it's still very positive that it's at least 50% when looking at the intensity.
- Visible Network Labs looked at network partnerships. So, about half of respondent partnerships led to an exchange of resources, 53%, and another 38% of relationships were only informative. 36% of partnerships have led to improved services, and 34% have improved organizational capacity. Kaley Bachinski discussed relational value in organizations. She explained that partners can bring various types of value to a network, which can be evaluated based on three dimensions: Power and Influence, Level of Involvement, and Resource Contribution. The survey assesses these dimensions to determine the value of each partner within the network.
- The bar chart shown depicted the average value scores within the Nevada network of the three dimensions of value, and survey respondents rated their network partners' Power and Influence as the highest and resource contributions as the lowest. Trust was also examined. Kaley explained that trust is a network between organizations. Building relationships enables efficient exchange of information and decision-making, reducing duplication of effort among groups that may have previously competed. The graph showed that members placed a very high level of trust in their network relationships. Partners were perceived as highly reliable. It was positive to see a score above three and every single one of the dimensions.
- Kaley Bachinski shared Recommended Next Steps, that includes discussing the characteristics of the overall network with network partners and members. Each individual member that completed the survey will receive their own personalized personal profile.
- Some recommended next steps for the Nevada Early Childhood Systems Network are to:
 1. Discuss the characteristics of the overall network with network partners and make sense of the network maps together. Consider how network members are connected with each other and which ones are considered most valuable to partners.
 2. Consider whether changes in the nature of the network relationships would improve collaboration or increase impact. For example, discuss how to manage the expected and recorded levels of activity among members.
 3. Use the process outcomes in the final report to track, demonstrate, and celebrate progress for long-term goals. For example, developing intentional strategies for partner engagement and involvement in the network over time.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Kaley Bachinski requested that members watch for an email containing their personalized link. They will receive their profile report no later than tomorrow through the hello@visiblenetworklabs.com email. Members can access the report through the link provided and save it as a PDF for their records or share it with their respective organizations.
- According to Denise Tanata, personalized personal profiles will not be shared publicly. Only survey participants will receive the links to their personalized profiles. The full report has been distributed to all members and is included in the meeting materials along with a sample member profile for the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council.
- Denise Tanata stated that the ECAC will utilize the provided information to improve the early childhood system by incorporating it into its ongoing projects. This will involve analyzing data and implementing changes to enhance the Early Childhood System.
- Jamelle Nance asked about access to the complete report as they are exploring communication frameworks to enhance their connections with partners, particularly concerning the Strong Start Initiative. Denise Tanata confirmed that the meeting packet had included the full report.

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

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Presentation and discussion on recommendations from the NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council, and key partners, on strategies to support authentic engagement of parent and family leader with the Nevada ECAC.

Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo, Parent Leadership Coordinators, The Children's Cabinet

Materials: [ECAC PL Engagement Strategy Recommendations](#); [NECFLC Training Menu](#); [ECAC Family Leadership Mentorship Program](#)

- Ashley Dines introduced herself and Rosa Tamayo, who is based in northern Nevada. Ashley has been working with the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council for some time now. They have been discussing various items, such as the ECAC and their website, and gathering feedback from family leaders. They have come up with some suggestions and strategies to improve the website, such as simplifying the language to make it more understandable, defining acronyms, and providing meeting recordings and brief descriptions of partners and organizations.
- It was also suggested that there be a family spotlight section for organizations, including ECAC. The goal is to include parents and families in the agenda, not limited to the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council but to other organizations involved in the ECAC as well. The ECAC aims to identify these individuals and allocate a specific agenda item for them. This approach encourages participation and lets parents and families know their input is valued.
- Ashley Dines transitioned to focusing on outreach and engagement. She recommends utilizing social media as it is a significant way for outreach. Additionally, she suggests leveraging the people within their network, as there are excellent networking opportunities with various agencies and organizations within the group. It's important to stay like-minded, continue to collaborate, and ensure everyone has the same message when speaking to families and ensuring they bring them to the table.
- According to Ashley Dines, she and Rachel Stepina came up with the idea of creating a platform for exchanging thoughts and ideas, making it unnecessary to hold meetings all the time. She acknowledges that people have busy schedules with numerous meetings and may prefer not to schedule an additional meeting to discuss certain topics. Ashley Dines asked the group if they knew of any other platforms like Jam Board.
- During the meeting, Ashley Dines mentioned that the ECAC's role is to review and provide feedback on the feasibility and practicality of the platform. It was also stated that the NECFLC requires support with the strategies they presented but that the NECFLC is there to assist the ECAC in supporting the families they serve. A suggestion was made to hold quarterly meetings for parents to bring families together. This would include parents from the NECFLC and other organizations. Ashley Dines also mentioned that the NECFLC forums will not be subject to open meeting laws, so participants do not need to worry about legalities. Parent and family representatives will present a summary of key



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

recommendations to the ECAC, which is excellent news as the needs and opinions of parents and families will still be considered.

- According to Ashley Dines, having quarterly conversations and receiving suggestions from parents can help make some progress. Additionally, parents would be pleased to hear that they should receive compensation or incentives for attending these meetings. Also, parents love food, so that's always a bonus.
- Rosa Tamayo shared the ECAC Family Leadership Mentorship Program and explained that this would be beneficial for parents. Rosa presented the Family Engagement mentorship program application. They have compiled an application for the ECAC members to help support family engagement in the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council.
- According to Rosa Tamayo, the mentorship program aims to foster relationships, encourage meaningful parent involvement, and create partnership opportunities. The program's goal is for members and family leaders to gain a better understanding of each other's perspectives, respect each other's roles, and have a greater knowledge of the community and public policy. She added the online application in the chat and mentioned that this was a draft and that she would like members' feedback. She also stated that they see the role of ECAC as providing mentorship to help individuals identify and recruit qualified presenters. This is because they believe that with parental leadership, interactions and relationships can be increased, and channels can be created to better understand family perspectives.
- Denise Tanata included that the ECAC Family Leadership Mentorship Program would be an excellent opportunity to support and engage parents. She also paused to see if anyone had questions. Denise Tanata highlighted that the ECAC had discussed the significance of family leadership and engagement and supporting individuals with lived experience to be part of leadership and decision-making. The ECAC has been exploring ways to achieve this effectively and authentically. Denise Tanata loved this mentorship program idea but acknowledged that it could only succeed with the active participation of members and partners.
- During a discussion, Denise Tanata highlighted the potential passing of AB 114, which would include parent representatives in the Early Childhood Advisory Council. This proposal aims to support parents by giving them access to someone who can answer their questions and meet with them before and after meetings. This will help them feel more comfortable and understand the ECAC.
- Patrice Gardner asked how many ECAC members the Family Leadership Council seeks. Rosa Tamayo responded that the more, the better, but the goal is that each parent pairs up with an ECAC member. The Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership program in the North currently has approximately eight members. Although they still need to meet, their first meeting is scheduled for the 24th. According to Rosa, the Southern Nevada group has around ten members.
- Denise Tanata acknowledged that not all Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council members may choose to participate in the mentorship program. By joining, they would have the opportunity to provide input during ECAC meetings or subcommittees. This program may also be open to non-parent family leaders outside the council. Additionally, the ECAC may welcome new parents and family leaders under anticipated legislation. They are trying to see who is interested, and does it sound like a reasonable plan?
- According to Patrice Gardner, it is hoped that all ECAC members will step up, including those who are not currently serving on the subcommittee. This is a great chance to get involved in an effort that has been discussed for a long time. She also inquired if the family leaders had mentioned anything about the ECAC meeting hours, particularly their current schedule. Was this question asked to them or not?
- Ashley Dines confirmed that she informed them about the lengthy meetings, and although nobody seemed overly excited about it, she did not consider it a complaint. She also suggested that the subcommittees are smaller meetings, which they can sample before attending the full ECAC meeting.
- Patrice Gardner inquired about any recommendations for ECAC. Specifically, if they suggested any changes that would improve the situation if the hours were adjusted. According to Ashley Dines, the leaders in her NECFLC group have no issues with the ECAC hours, and their meetings are held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm because it works for them. She also mentioned that attendance has improved since the hybrid option became available.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Tiffany Alston wanted to confirm the number of parents participating in the Parent Leadership Council. Ashley Dines reported that she leads seven parents from Southern Nevada, while Rosa Tamayo has approximately eight parents from Northern Nevada.
- Rosa Tamayo has shared the NECFLC Training Menu and noted that they have put together several training programs for parent leaders. There are approximately eight required pieces of training that need to be completed. The team is seeking support from all members to provide these training sessions, which will take half an hour to an hour each. If members are interested in signing up to help, please let them know. Rosa suggested that if members knew of someone who would make an excellent lead for this training, they should share the information too. The trainings will be provided to family leaders to improve their leadership and advocacy skills and their knowledge of the early childhood sector and related topics. These topics were carefully selected as valuable resources for parent leaders.
- Denise Tanata clarified that the names or organizations listed are just ideas being considered, and nothing has been confirmed. If anyone sees their name or organization on the list, it simply means they were thought of during the planning process. She added that it's vital to offer a variety of appropriate trainings, and the council wants to ensure that participating parents and family members have a say in what kind of training they receive. The list is subject to change and will be expanded based on their input.
- Jennifer Butler inquired if the training menu would be shared with the group so they could take it back to their respective organizations to determine if they could assist. She knows they do trainings at the Las Vegas Urban League. Denise Tanata responded that the document was in the meeting materials.
- Rachel Stepina inquired about where to find the Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership within the current list of pieces of training. Should it be included in the DEI training or a separate one? She also asked how they consistently bring those ideas to the forefront as they elevate parent leadership opportunities and voices.
- Rosa Tamayo responded and suggested that diversity, equity, and inclusion should be covered in all training sessions. Rosa also added that the Manifesto must be done by someone trained to provide that training.
- Denise Tanata mentioned that the southern members of the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council and the ECAC received the Manifesto for Race Equity and Parent Leadership training at the end of last year, which the Parent Leadership Network conducted. However, the cost associated with the training must be paid to the members of the Parent Leader Network to provide that training. They can continue to provide the training, but resources will be needed to support it.
- Rosa Tamayo asks for everyone's support to make things more cost-effective and utilize the budgets for other essential things, such as family engagement and leader stipends. She believes this is a significant issue that needs attention, but finding connections within the ECAC subcommittees or other resources would be greatly appreciated too.
- Denise Tanata thanked Rosa Tamayo and Ashley Dines. She also welcomed any further inquiries from ECAC members or partners and encouraged them to contact Rosa, Ashley, Tiffany, or herself. Their feedback and thoughts on the appropriate trainings to offer and who could provide them would be greatly appreciated. Denise looks forward to hearing from them.
- Denise Tanata mentioned that she had missed calling Tiffany Alston's name during roll call and wanted to make a record of it.

8. Nominations and Vote for New NV ECAC Chair

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Discussion on nominations and vote for the Nevada ECAC Chair position due to the current Chair, Denise Tanata, resigning from the NV ECAC effective 7/1/23.

- Denise Tanata is resigning from her Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair position at the end of June. She will submit a resignation letter to the Governor's Office for Boards and Commissions. She will be taking on a new role as a consultant. Denise mentioned that she now resides in Virginia and has been serving on the ECAC for a year since she moved. She wanted to help with the transition and believes it's important to have ECAC members, especially a chair, who live in and represent the state of Nevada. Denise Tanata confirmed that she intends to remain actively engaged with the ECAC as a public member. She will continue to participate in meetings, including subcommittee meetings, and assist with early childhood systems work connected to the ECAC. Additionally, she is willing to support the transition process.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- According to Denise Tanata, all ECAC members were sent an email containing nominations for the chair position. One nomination was accepted, while the other was politely declined. Therefore, there is only one individual on the slate.
- Denise Tanata requested that the individual responsible for the new chair nomination make the announcement publicly. She approached Patrice Gardner to present the nomination for the chair position formally.
- Patrice Gardner first thanked Denise Tanata for her contributions to the ECAC and acknowledged that her efforts have helped the organization make significant progress. She sincerely thanked Denise for her service on the ECAC. Patrice Gardner officially nominated Tiffany Alston from Sunrise Children's Foundation. She is currently serving and representing Head Start.
- Denise Tanata asked if there were other nominations at this time. Does anybody want to step up to be chair? No response at the time.
- Patrice Gardner motioned to nominate Tiffany Alston as the ECAC chair starting July 1st.
- Jennifer Butler seconded the motion.
- There was no discussion. Denise Tanata held a vote among the appointed members and there were no objections or abstentions.
- Denise Tanata approved the motion to nominate Tiffany Alston as the ECAC chair starting July 1st. Tiffany Alston thanked Denise Tanata.
- Tiffany Alston expressed her gratitude to Denise Tanata for their meaningful conversations over the past year. She acknowledged the importance of those who had come before them and the support they have provided and recognized Denise as one of those important individuals. Tiffany is feeling excited and confident that the ECAC will showcase the pieces they have been working on and adding to it.

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

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Presentation and discussion on recommendations from the NECAC Communications and Engagement Subcommittee to define “Underrepresented and Underserved Populations” for the Nevada ECAC.

- Denise Tanata clarified that in the previous version of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council strategic plan, a list of definitions was included. She suggests that the Council review the complete list of definitions and consider incorporating them into the current strategic plan, possibly as an appendix. This topic of how the ECAC defines underrepresented and underserved populations was discussed in the Communications and Engagement Subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata added that the subcommittee did review the definition and made some suggested revisions to the existing definition. Denise wanted to present those to the full ECAC for review and approval. So, everyone should have a copy of the document in the meeting materials.
- During the meeting, Denise Tanata shared the Vulnerable Populations Definition document and briefly explained the updates made after discussions with the Communications and Engagement Subcommittee. One notable addition was a statement about the definition, which they deemed important. They added a reference and citation to define the federal property level. This provides clarity and ensures accuracy in the information provided. They added they recommended changes to include dual or multi-language learners. Additionally, they included a bullet point for immigrants or refugees. They revised the document to include children with special needs and behavioral or mental health needs. Some technical revisions were made to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) to include the definition provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Then it was also reviewed and revised accordingly.
- Marty Elquist mentioned that the CDC's ACEs definition has some variations from their bullet points. In the chat, she shared the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/ace-brfss.html>.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward suggested adding "indigenous groups" as an alternative term for the third bullet point regarding tribal areas and their members. This is because there are variations in language usage at the university and national levels. She also inquired about the meaning of a child with special needs. From the disability community's perspective,



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

the term "special needs" is not widely used due to its broad and undefined nature. Each individual has their definition. Therefore, she suggested specifying the definition or opting for "child with a disability and development delays" instead.

- According to Latisha Brown, defining the special needs aspect is better than eliminating it. She believes this because her nephew has type 1 diabetes, and although he is not disabled, he still requires some special needs. Latisha recommends that the ECAC should clearly define this aspect.
- Patrice Gardner said that she would recommend they put special healthcare needs.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward supported Patrice Gardner's previous suggestion to categorize special healthcare needs separately from children with disabilities and developmental delays. This way, state and federal definitions can be more accurately applied to each group.
- Denise Tanata inquired with Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward if they should make any changes. Currently, they have a child with a disability and are wondering if it should be indicated. Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward recommended using the term "developmental delay" for a more general description. She did not want to specify the need for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Rachel Stepina inquired about the impact of having a child with special healthcare needs and how it would affect the bullet point below regarding behavioral and mental health needs. Is it included in the previous bullet point or a separate consideration? According to Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, the category of behavioral issues in young children stands alone. This is because young children may not necessarily be diagnosed with mental health or psychological disorders but may still be experiencing significant behavioral issues or Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health issues.
- In the chat, Elysa Arroyo proposed adding or modifying things as they arise. Marty Elquist agreed with Elysa Arroyo. They could bring it back next meeting for a vote and then agree to revisit it annually or as needed.
- Rachel Stepina added that the bullet for language should read either dual language learner or multilingual learner, just when it comes to the terminology and the grammar. She added the most common now in research, and practice is multilingual learners.
- Dr. Linda Young said they have been working on these definitions for a while and believe defining vulnerable and underserved children will be a process. They will probably need to have a working copy, and after they release it and see how it fits with other components in the community, they may want to review it in a year to ensure it's working well. It's still being determined if they have a plan for this yet, but it's important to note that things are constantly changing.
- Denise Tanata thinks it's a great idea to revisit and ensure they do it correctly. Denise asked Marty Elquist, chair of the Data and Evaluation subcommittee if the definitions document made sense to her. They had previously discussed the importance of ensuring these things are measurable and trackable, even possibly mappable. Denise wanted to hear Marty's thoughts on the matter from her perspective.
- Marty Elquist, the Data and Evaluation subcommittee chair, expressed that she was reviewing the document with that specific perspective. She believes using the appropriate terminology for each sector will enhance the document's usefulness. She thanked everybody for their input. She found it a bit overwhelming as there are many data points to process. But the data subcommittee is willing to take on the challenge.
- Rachel Stepina added to Dr. Linda Young's comment about reviewing the definition of "vulnerable populations" regularly in collaboration with the ECAC. This was based on the previous PDG planning grant in 2019 and the needs assessment. Since the updated needs assessment is a requirement of the current PDG, they will be reviewing the definitions regularly over the next three years. Rachel supports Dr. Young's suggestion as they identify demographics and areas of vulnerability across the state. This work is part of a larger system, including the Data and Evaluation subcommittee and ongoing efforts. Rachel wanted to highlight this connection.
- Marty Elquist asked Rachel Stepina if the needs assessment would look at each bullet. Rachel Stepina emphasized the importance of assessing their available materials and determining their intended purpose. Regular updates are necessary, and knowing where these materials are is crucial. However, they have the freedom to update the information in various ways. Instead of creating a new hundred-page document, they only need to duplicate and update the previous version.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

They have gathered many new resources and conducted extensive needs assessments throughout the system. They are using this information to identify gaps in services for vulnerable populations and determine which services to provide.

- Rachel Stepina suggested that they include the NECFLC and CAA parent groups in reviewing the definition before the next meeting. They want to make sure they engage the parent leadership as well.
- During the discussion, Kelly Carr suggested that the underserved population should include teen parents and families who are experiencing transiency or housing insecurity.
- Denise Tanata revisited Kelly's recommendation and inquired with the council members about their opinions on addressing the issues of transiency and homelessness. Rachel Stepina mentioned that she considered the unique requirements of children and families facing homelessness and those in transition or with housing insecurities. With the continuous work being done in this area and the awareness of the significant growth needed, it may be beneficial to have two separate bullet points. Kelly Carr mentioned that she prefers "transiency" because some individuals may experience it without being housing insecure. She reflected on her older children's experiences, explaining that frequent moves have caused emotional and mental stress and anxiety for them. Patrice Gardner shared the same view but understood the potentially negative connotation of the word "transient." Instead, she suggested using the word "transition" as it may be received more positively. However, it is important to acknowledge this vulnerable population, especially when children are involved. She added that Las Vegas has a significant population of military families, which could be affected by this.
- Rachel Stepina mentioned that she is familiar with the term "Children/Families in Transition," which is also used by school districts.
- Denise Tanata inquired how they can measure how many experience transitions in the Nevada population. She knows that such measurements exist in school districts but is still determining how they are conducted on a larger scale.
- According to Marty Elquist, their definition includes the phrase 'to the extent possible' or 'clear and measurable'. It may be helpful to add that the ECAC recognized other factors to consider. However, this list is still important for ensuring equitable services and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Measuring the services' impact on these populations is essential to ensure they are meeting their needs.
- Latisha Brown mentioned working with other organizations to help with data collection. Latisha Brown reviewed the Child Protective Services information and noticed that it mentioned children experiencing four or more adverse childhood experiences. However, she pointed out that not all situations warrant CPS involvement. There are other agencies, such as Olive Crest, that deal with identifying and addressing various types of abuse, including substance abuse, verbal abuse, and emotional abuse. Sometimes families will seek help from Olive Crest on their own, showing self-awareness and a desire for assistance. It may be beneficial for ECAC to consider including other agencies that can help identify data, as there are many available resources.
- Dr. Linda Young highlighted the challenges faced by immigrant and refugee children who have experienced trauma. She emphasized that this is an ongoing issue that affects children who enter any system, including Nevada's.
- During the discussion, Dr. Diane Nicolet shared her thoughts on the challenges of measuring self-reporting. She also echoed Dr. Linda Young's concern about the difficulty in creating an exhaustive list, which often leads to missing important items. Despite this challenge, Dr. Nicolet acknowledged the comprehensiveness of the current list and expressed that although something may have been overlooked, it isn't possible to cover everything, and measuring remains a challenge.
- Denise Tanata suggested they should discuss the definition further before finalizing it. She implemented some of the changes discussed but believed a few more needed to be made. Additionally, she recommended that people take some time to reflect on today's conversation. Therefore, she proposed bringing the topic back for the next meeting or further discussions in the subcommittees. Co-chairs can review and decide how to utilize the definition in their respective subcommittees.
- Denise Tanata emphasized the importance of staying grounded and focused on expanding access to programs and services. This means taking a targeted universalism approach and identifying the populations with the highest need, such as families with young children who may benefit from home visiting, pre-K programs, or childcare services. To prioritize outreach efforts, consider geographic features and resources that can help identify high-need areas. However, it's also



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

important to consider specific factors that affect the prioritized populations. Overall, the goal is to connect with the right groups and organizations to make a meaningful impact.

- Marty Elquist shared her concern about the list, echoing Dr. Diane Nicolet's statement that it's difficult to prioritize. However, when it comes to measuring and providing services, it can feel overwhelming. She also emphasized the importance of comprehensively defining vulnerable populations to reach them effectively.
- According to Denise Tanata, the ECAC should clearly define and prioritize specific populations. This will help the ECAC guide state agencies on how to allocate extra funds for services and who should receive priority. Marty Elquist agreed with Denise Tanata that a definition must be voted on for the ECAC to fulfill its purpose effectively. The ECAC's role is to ensure that all children, particularly underserved and vulnerable ones, have access to necessary services and support by coordinating the Early Childhood system. They must identify the needs and measure progress to move the system forward to accomplish this.
- Julie Houchins asked if they can get a copy of these new definitions with the edits so we can think through them over the next month or so and then come prepared for the July meeting. According to Denise Tanata, the document will be posted again and will be labeled "revised" for today's meeting, which will be included in the May 17th meeting materials.

10. Presentation and Discussion – 2023 Early Childhood Policy Priorities

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Presentation and discussion on policies proposed for the 2023 NV Legislative Session impacting the early childhood population.

- Annette Dawson Owens, School Readiness Policy Director of Children's Advocacy Alliance, gave legislative updates.
- **AB 65-** The Children's Advocacy Alliance team has been monitoring this bill that concerns the kindergarten start age date change. Previously, the cutoff date was September 30th, but it has now been changed to August 1st. This change affects a small group of children who had planned to attend kindergarten but must now consider other options. The Alliance has been providing input on this matter. According to Annette, the Senate Education Committee has granted an exemption to families who completed a four-year-old program, but only for the most recent year, during their meeting on May 10th.
- **AB 113-** Establishing the Office of Early Childhood Systems in the Governor's office is in the money Committee.
- **AB114-** Yesterday, AB 114, which revises new ECAC members, was passed unanimously and is now on its way to the Governor's desk. Annette expressed her excitement at the progress being made on the two bills sponsored by Assemblywoman Clara (Claire) Thomas, which everyone has been instrumental in.
- **SB 232-** On May 11th, the Senate heard SB 232 which pertains to providing 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage.
- **AB 28-** Today, there is a hearing alert for B28 related to baby bonds. The Assembly Ways and Means will hold the hearing at 4:00 PM today.
- Annette Dawson Owens reminded the members that several important deadlines were approaching. The 2nd House Committee deadline is Friday, May 19th, and the second House is May 26th. June 6th is the bill die day. Additionally, bills that are exempt from the committee will be due on May 31st. A lot is going on and everything is moving quickly.
- The members and the public can go to the Children's Advocacy Alliance [website](#) and see the bills there, track what's happening with them, and attend the weekly legislative updates every Tuesday given by Holly and the Belz & Case Government Affairs team that are there.

11. 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](#)

- **Leadership Subcommittee** – Denise Tanata and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- At their last meeting, The Guinn Center delivered a presentation on the Early Childhood Systems Governance study they're working on. Todd Butterworth shared an update on efforts to enhance the Early Childhood System in Nevada, which they will continue working on for the next few months. They are assembling a picture of the significant statewide private sector and public sector players in the early, Early Childhood space and looking at their statutory mandates and responsibilities and the policy levers they possess. They aim to gain insights on available tools to improve organization and strengthen the systems approach in the early childhood space. This will help achieve the desired goals more effectively.
- Jeana Miller will conduct a literature review to gather the latest and most effective knowledge from other states that have reorganized their early childhood systems and academic sources. This is just the beginning of our efforts, and we will continue working on this project for several months. They are excited to collaborate with all of the ECAC on this important work. If The Guinn Center contacts you, please respond promptly.
- According to Denise Tanata, it is important to have recruitment strategies that ensure fair and equal representation of new members on the Council. She believes that the leadership team will discuss this matter and review new member orientation policies, procedures, and practices to aid in their integration.
- The team currently focused on comprehending the systems being developed for leaders and early childhood education. They are also working towards educating policymakers about the early childhood system and their efforts in this field.
- **System Alignment Subcommittee** – Julie Houchins and Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Co-Chairs
 - They did not meet quorum at their last meeting; the next meeting is on May 31st at 1:00 PM.
- **Communications and Engagement Subcommittee** – Jennifer Butler and Dr. Linda Young, Co-Chairs
 - Next meeting will be on June 13th at 9:00 AM.
 - They intend to increase their capacity to equitably connect families with the early childhood system, continuum care, and community at large.
 - The subcommittee aims to attend four events annually to connect with major groups: two in the South and two in the North. One of the recommended events is the Doctor Martin Luther King Parade. They want to finalize the events by October.
 - Jennifer Butler suggested that they would like to have parents participate in the Communications and engagement subcommittee. She offered to assist with training and mentoring and suggested that Ashley Dines invite interested families to join the work group to provide valuable input for future planning.
 - Dr. Linda Young proposed providing merchandise or business cards to the members. Dr. Linda Young added that they want to be professional, elevate their meetings and communication beyond monthly or quarterly gatherings and subcommittee discussions, and establish meaningful connections.
 - Jennifer Butler requested the subcommittee emails and suggested creating an email the chair and co-chair can use to engage individuals interested in the committee work.
 - Denise Tanata thanked Dr. Linda Young and Jennifer Butler for providing valuable recommendations. However, they currently need a budget to implement these ideas. Denise believes this is the most challenging aspect to work on this without a budget. She suggested discussing with the leadership subcommittee to explore potential opportunities.
- **Finance and Policy Subcommittee** – Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata, Co-Chairs
 - The May meeting was cancelled due to several members being on PTO, resulting in a lack of quorum. However, they have scheduled their next meeting for June 8th.
 - During the subcommittee update, it was discussed that progress is being made on the fiscal mapping project. The last meeting included discussions on the children's funding project. The national release of the broader Children's Fiscal Map, which covers the range of zero to five at a high level, is set to take place soon. The first cohort of states is planned for release in August, with the possibility of presenting the Nevada portion at the July ECAC meeting, which the committee confirmed.
 - The initial plans for the fiscal map may be available in July. Still, they are starting to discuss the deep dive into the early childhood fiscal map, what that will look like, and identifying the gaps. The topic will be discussed in greater detail, including the use of national partner data such as the P3 Policy to Impact Center. This information will be analyzed by aligning it with the systems list. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.
 - Elysa Arroyo is interested in being co-chair of the Finance and Policy Subcommittee.
- **Data and Evaluation Subcommittee** – Marty Elquist, Chair
 - Marty Elquist was seeking a cochair for the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee and mentioned that she considered Karissa Loper-Machado.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- The most recent meeting they had was on April 20th. Quorum has been progressing well, and they are moving forward. Amanda Haboush-Deloye and Rebecca Dunne are providing support to help them understand their key performance indicators, and they are receiving assistance from various departments and agencies throughout the state system to collect data and achieve their program goals and outcomes.
- The subcommittee is currently working on identifying their research questions. This would allow them to review all the data and determine whether they have enough information to answer those questions. The definition of the vulnerable population came about because they agreed to focus on equitable access to high-quality early childhood programs and services in their first research question for the ECAC's early learning portion. Specifically, they will be looking at the number of four and five-star slots in early learning programs in Nevada, as well as the number of children served by age in these high-quality slots, while considering the various factors outlined in the vulnerable population definition.
- The subcommittee is working to connect all the pieces. It will require a lot of effort to reach a satisfactory outcome. Still, if they believe it is the right direction, they plan to examine other areas and identify research questions related to those sectors. Denise has agreed to assist with this task.
- The next meeting will be on May 18th at 1:00 PM.
- Karissa Loper-Machado asked Marty Elquist to have a conversation in July. They can talk about her potentially being a co-chair for the data committee.
- Denise Tanata mentioned that the list of subcommittee members will be shared with all ECAC members. She wants to ensure that everyone knows who is serving on which subcommittee, as well as the chair, vice chair, and open positions. Denise encourages all appointed members to sign up for a subcommittee if they are not already serving on one. They would like the members to serve on at least one subcommittee.

12. 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: [MAY 2023 Local ECAC Summary Report](#)

- *Carson/Douglas ECAC*
- *Elko County ECAC*
- *Southern Nevada ECAC*
- *Tribal ECAC*
- *Tri-County ECAC*
- *Washoe County ECAC*

- Denise Tanata invited representatives from local ECACs to share any additional information, specific requests, or questions they may have for the ECAC or their partners. No new updates were provided.

13. 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: [MAY 2023 NECAC Partner Summary Report](#)

- Updates are included in the May 2023 NECAC Partner Summary Report – additional updates provided verbally are noted below.
- *Department of Education*
 - *Office of Early Learning & Development – Patti Oya*
 - *Early Childhood Special Education*
 - *Office of Student & School Supports – Alberto Quintero*
 - No updates, but Alberto thanked the Office of Early Learning and Development (ELD) in the Nevada Department of Education for working in supporting with interviews.
 - Alberto Quintero also thanked Rachel Stepina for supporting the interview process.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- *Department of Health and Human Services*
 - *Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program – Karissa Loper Machado*
 - *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*
 - *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*
 - Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell from the Part C Office mentioned that their system now allows in-person visits with families without masks unless the family's request otherwise. Additionally, through the Part C office, their professional development center is holding virtual courses comparable to programming for the endorsement of Early Childhood developmentally delayed.
- *Pyramid Model Update – Janice Lee*
- *Research and Needs Assessments – Amanda Haboush-Deloye*
- *NevAEYC Update – Carrie Paldi*
 - The Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC) Conference starts tomorrow, 5/18/2023. They will screen Black Boys and have a follow-up discussion with the producers.
 - Patrice Gardner thanked Head Start, Early Head Start, Sunrise Children's Foundation, and Acelero for their sponsorship of a screening of the Black Boys documentary.
- *Nevada Child Care Provider Action Committee – Carrie Paldi*
- *Pritzker PN3 Initiative and Strong Start Update – Jamelle Nance/Annette Dawson-Owens*
- *HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Update – Denise Tanata/Tiffany Olivas*
 - Tiffany Olivas will lead the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) grant either at the start or end of June. Denise will provide support as a consultant.
- *ECE Workforce Plan – Marty Elquist*
 - The Nevada Childhood Mental Health Association has scheduled two upcoming trainings. The first one, which will take place on May 23rd, will be an overview of infant and early childhood mental health, covering its origins and development. The second training, scheduled for June 6th, will focus on reflective practice for infant and early childhood mental health. These trainings are free.
 - June 6th meeting: [Reflective Practice for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health - Children's Cabinet \(childrenscabinet.org\)](https://www.childrenscabinet.org)
 - May 23 meeting: [Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health: How We Came to Be How We Are - Children's Cabinet \(childrenscabinet.org\)](https://www.childrenscabinet.org)
 - According to Marty Elquist, obtaining infant endorsement involves a leadership cohort that receives endorsement first. This cohort is scheduled to complete the endorsement process in October, after which it will become available to the rest of the community. Additionally, Ann Polakowski serves as the Board chair and Sylvia V. Henry is the executive director of Nevada's Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.
- *NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council – Ashley Dines/Rosa Tamayo*
 - Rosa Tamayo announced that the initial family leadership council meeting for Northern Nevada will take place next Wednesday. All parents are invited, as the session will be in English and Spanish. The meeting will start at 10:00 AM.
 - Applications are currently being accepted from parents residing in both the northern and southern regions.
- *New or Potential Grants and Funding – All*
- *Training & Professional Development Opportunities - All*

14. Discuss Agenda Items for July 19, 2023 Meeting

(Information/Discussion) Council will discuss recommendations for agenda items for the upcoming meeting.

- By the next ECAC meeting, the Nevada Legislation session will have concluded. At that time, there should be a summary of what bills were passed and which were not, as well as how those may affect the early childhood sector.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Discuss the new membership recruitment orientation plan (Hold this for the September meeting)
- Children's Funding Project can present the Nevada Children's Fiscal Mapping Project.
- The Provider Action Committee can present to the group.
- Include parent and early childhood family leadership council as standing agenda items, allowing parents to share their thoughts.
- Vulnerable Populations Definition Discussion
- Presentation from the Nevada Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Association
- Nevada System Asset and Gap Analysis Summary Review
- Denise Tanata highlighted the importance of having a clear process for submitting comments, suggestions, or feedback. She thanked Anna Villatoro for updating the Nevada ECAC website and fixing the contacts page, which was previously not functional. Now, individuals who cannot attend meetings can submit comments on agenda items through the website. Denise encouraged everyone to take advantage of this feature.

15. Public Comment #2

- Denise Tanata stated that it had been an absolute honor and pleasure to work with everyone, and she had worked with many members for many years, but also to have the honor of serving as the chair of the ECAC. She apologized for not having the opportunity to fulfill her entire term as the chair, but it has been a long and adventurous year and a half. She mentioned that she had served on the council with everyone for four years. Denise looks forward to working with Tiffany and Patrice.
- Dr. Linda E. Young expressed gratitude towards Denise Tanata for her exceptional work as the chair and acknowledged her as an amazing individual. Dr. Young thanked her sincerely for all her hard work.

16. Adjournment- The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.