



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING JULY 26, 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 Zoom videoconference.

MINUTES SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 1:08 PM

Julie Houchins, United Way of Southern Nevada, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, UNLV, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Members in Attendance:

- Cynthia Magaña, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care and Development Fund
- Rachel Stepina, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning Development
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District
- Patrice Gardner, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning Development, Head Start Office
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, ECAC Systems Alignment Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Julie Houchins, ECAC Systems Alignment Subcommittee Co-Chair

Members Not in Attendance:

- Dr. Diane Nicolet, Washoe County School District Trustee
- Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning Development
- Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
- Anna Marie Binder, Parent Representative

Public in Attendance:

- Byron Dondoyano, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning Development
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Consultant, The Children's Cabinet
- Sabrina Jones, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning Development
- John Giammona Wilber, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning Development
- Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Program Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
- Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet
- Rosa Tamayo, Family Leadership Coordinator (North), The Children’s Cabinet
- Elizabeth Santa Cruz, Children's Learning Center/ Nevada Blind Children's Foundation
- Mary Regan, Las Vegas Urban League- Early Childhood Connection



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2. Review and Approval of Minutes

(Discussion/Action)

Julie Houchins, Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Materials: [Minutes for June 28, 2023](#)

- Julie Houchins requests that the June 28 minutes be corrected or updated to reflect her absence.
- Patrice Gardner motions to approve the minutes with the correction about Julie Houchins' attendance.
- Cynthia Magaña seconds the motion.
- All subcommittee members in attendance vote to approve the motion; none oppose, the motion passes.

3. Public Comment #1

- John Giammona Wilber (ECAC Administrative Assistant, NDE, OELD) points out that upcoming meetings for the Systems Alignment Subcommittee have yet to be scheduled. He requests that the subcommittee members confirm the dates and times for upcoming meetings.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward (Subcommittee Co-Chair) confirms that scheduling logistics will be discussed during agenda item six.

4. Subcommittee Work Plan Revision

(Discussion/ Possible Action)

Julie Houchins, Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Materials: [Subcommittee Workplan](#)

- Rachel Stepina asks the Co-Chairs if an item to approve a flexible subcommittee meeting agenda needs to be on the agenda.
- Denise Tanata clarifies that while a vote is not needed to put such an item on the agenda, a decision to move forward with the meeting with items out of order needs to be voted on by the members.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward screenshares the combined ECAC subcommittee workplan. She clarifies that no changes have been made to the workplan, but she has added the comments from the last subcommittee meeting. She states that while the objectives of the Systems Alignment Subcommittee are static and linked directly to the Strategic Plan, key activities may be revised.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward points out that the key activity, "Collection of Additional Data" has been hindered by not having access to data collected by non-ECAC organizations and other early childhood advocacy groups. As this has been a persistent barrier, the subcommittee needs to figure out how to access the data, and data analysis, that already exists through outside groups.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward notes that Objective 2.2 (*Produce and disseminate an early childhood system assets and gaps analysis*) of the work plan requires dissemination of the early childhood Systems Assets and Gaps Analysis (SAGA). She says it is unclear which information the subcommittee is supposed to disseminate, and she notes that this objective overlaps with the work of multiple other ECAC subcommittees.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward confirms that today's discussion around this agenda item will be integrated into the workplan by herself and Sabrina Jones (ECAC Systems Specialist) after the meeting.
- Julie Houchins asks directly, "What information is our subcommittee looking to collect?"
- Sabrina Jones comments that she has reviewed the minutes of other ECAC subcommittees She has pinpointed activities of other subcommittees that could have some data that Systems Alignment is looking for. She comments that the Policy and Finance subcommittee recently had a presentation regarding the Governor's Workforce Development Board's Childcare Policy Report.



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- Sabrina Jones clarifies that this report contains information on the current state of childcare in Nevada as well as data about the state of childcare nationally. The report includes policy recommendations and best practices. Sabrina Jones also introduces that the ECAC Evaluation and Data Subcommittee has been working on collecting data, compiling a data dictionary, and defining “Vulnerable Populations.”
- Julie Houchins asks Rachel Stepina to speak on the Children’s Funding Project Fiscal Mapping project.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward comments that Objective 2.1 (*Conduct assessment of the strengths, disparities, inequities, strategic priorities and goals among programs and agencies within the early childhood system*) seems to have been addressed by several overlapping ECAC subcommittees. She asks, “What do we do with the information that has been gathered by the other subcommittees? Where does that fall into our workplan?”
- Julie Houchins responds by asking if any of the other subcommittees have ever done a collaboration meeting. She asks if the SA subcommittee should connect with the Data subcommittee.
- Tiffany Olivas asks if this collaboration is something that could happen during the leadership meetings.
- Rachel Stepina suggests that once specific areas of the workplan have been identified for collaboration, the co-chairs of the subcommittees should be approached directly. She reiterates that one of the specific goals of the SA subcommittee is to look for alignment across the ECAC.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward wonders if one of the activities of the SA subcommittee is to regularly review the findings of the other subcommittees and other things that get integrated into the ECAC, including SAGA. She suggests that this may fall under Objective 2.3 of the workplan.
- Rachel Stepina suggests that this work may be leveraged using Sabrina Jones’ role as ECAC Systems Specialist. She notes that Sabrina Jones will be attending all ECAC Subcommittee meetings and that she’s already presented research garnered from other subcommittees.
- Tiffany Olivas adds that in the work of creating comprehensive systems, there are many silos which may overlap but the infrastructure to capitalize on the overlap of that work doesn’t seem to be in place. She cites a good amount of overlap between ECAC and ECCS workgroups.
- Tiffany Olivas suggests creating a “crosswalk” for the state that defines and aligns different goals and objectives. This would include the ECAC, PDG B-5 work, B-5 initiative work, and early childhood comprehensive systems, specifically HRSA work. She says that creating this crosswalk is something she is currently working on and that she could use help from subcommittee members.
- Rachel Stepina confirms that the crosswalk activity would make sense under objective 2.3. She suggests looking for already completed relevant work that falls under the umbrella of certain state agencies. She offers that creating this clarity between stakeholders is a massive but critical undertaking.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward shares her enthusiasm for the project and hopes that through more defined conceptualization, it will be something that the SA subcommittee can do.
- Denise Tanata adds that to effectively work within cross sectors requires that the ECAC has a solid understanding of what each sector is and does. A better understanding will lead to a more effective integration.
- Byron Dondoyano asks if similar cross sector work in different states has been studied yet.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward answers that while she believes that has been studied in the past, it would be worth a renewed look.
- Byron Dondoyano asks if such research could be defined as a key activity.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward answers in the affirmative and wonders where that should go in the work plan.
- Julie Houchins expresses enthusiasm for this idea and offers it as an addition to objective 2.2.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward expresses interest in pursuing Rachel Stepina’s suggestion that missing information may very well already be collected by other states’ grant workers.
- Tiffany Olivas volunteers that there is an ECCS meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 1. The first presentation will be from ECCS visitors from Colorado. She invites subcommittee meeting attendees to join the ECCS meeting.



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- Rachel Stepina adds that the Colorado ECCS representatives recently had a collaborative TA call with PDG B-5. Nevada was the other presenter. She notes that in Colorado, the lead for HRSA and PDG B-5 is the same entity. She asks who the presenter at Tiffany's meeting will be.
- Tiffany Olivas answers that it will be Dawn from Illuminate Colorado.
- Rachel Stepina states that she will send Tiffany Olivas questions regarding cross sector integration for that Colorado presentation.
- Denise Tanata offers, via chat, that, "We are also looking at Early Childhood Strategic Plans from other states, so might be an activity to look at goals/priorities/activities from other states that support systems alignment and cross-sector coordination. We could compile some of that information and present to this subcommittee if that would be helpful."
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward asks Denise to clarify who "we" is in this scenario.
- Denise Tanata clarifies that she is referring to contracting work that she is doing in conjunction with the Children's Cabinet. She continues to volunteer that Tiffany Olivas has been compiling goal setting for the Children's Cabinet and that work might benefit the cross-sector system alignment work of this subcommittee.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward suggests that, due to time, a "moving forward point" regarding the workplan be agreed upon.
- Julie Houchins suggests that this, "roll onto our next month's agenda, and maybe some of those points out of the notes be included."
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward asks Denise Tanata, an open meeting law expert, if the two co-chairs would be permitted to meet and draft something outside of a regular meeting.
- Denise Tanata answers that such a meeting would be permitted, the co-chairs just need to be proactive about the potential problem of meeting a quorum.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward confirms that she and Julie Houchins will meet and draft a plan to be presented at the August meeting.
- Rachel Stepina verbalizes Sabrina Jones' capacity to assist the co-chairs in penning that draft.
- Julie Houchins confirms that the co-chairs will meet with Sabrina Jones before the next meeting.

5. Subcommittee Membership for Representation Across Different Sectors of Nevada ECE System

(Discussion/Possible Action)

Julie Houchins, Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward asks if anybody knows if the Governor's Office has approved any ECAC subcommittee members yet.
- Patrice Garnder answers that although she's not received word on approval yet, herself and Sabrina Jones are reaching out to the governor's office. She also offers that an invitation will be sent to a representative of the Governor's Office to attend a Leadership subcommittee meeting. The hope is that this will lead to a more systematic approach to ECAC Subcommittee membership approval.
- Tiffany Olivas comments that she checked to see if those new ECAC subcommittee membership positions have been posted on the Governor's Office Boards and Commissions site. They have not been.
- Denise Tanata states that because there was no activation date on the bill, the standard is that it will go into effect on October 1.
- Rachel Stepina suggests via chat that Tiffany Olivas could be a subcommittee member (if she wants to.) She suggests that more subcommittee members could help assuage frustrations regarding quorum.



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- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward refers to stakeholders from outside organizations that have been discussed throughout the meeting. She wonders whether representatives from some of those stakeholders should be invited to subcommittee meetings to join as guests or if some relevant people from outside organizations should join the subcommittee.
- Julie Houchins points out that Tiffany Olivas has expressed a willingness to join the subcommittee. She also suggests that the current agenda item continue into next month's meeting.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward suggests to Patrice Gardner that a renewed call for joining subcommittee membership (and retainment of current members) come from the Leadership Subcommittee.
- Patrice Gardner suggests that those calls be tailored to the actual representation needs of ECAC subcommittees.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward offers that a renewed call may attract people who are not aware that they are eligible to join certain subcommittees.
- Rachel Stepina contends that the partnership of general ECAC members and community representatives is a major function of the various subcommittees' existences.
- Patrice Gardner suggests integrating an annual renewal for subcommittee meetings. She suggests that over time, some subcommittee members may want to join different subcommittees engaging in different work.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward summarizes the plan to address subcommittee membership in the next Leadership meeting.

6. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

(Discussion)

Julie Houchins, Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Julie Houchins asks that the members act on John Giammona Wilber's request to clarify the scheduling of upcoming meetings. She inquires about Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward's teaching schedule.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward states that the previously established schedule of Wednesday's should work. She puts it to an informal vote of subcommittee members.
- Julie Houchins clarifies that this would be the last Wednesday of the month at 1 PM.
- Julie Houchins vocalizes the decision to meet on the last Wednesday of the month apart from December.

7. 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 given.

8. Adjournment

- Julie Houchins adjourns the meeting at 2:06pm.