



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
POLICY AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 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 will be held via Zoom videoconference.

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call – Meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm.

Tiffany Alston Early Child Advisory Council Chair

Members in Attendance:

- Julie Houchins, Senior Director of Early Education United Way of Southern Nevada
- Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet
- Patti Oya, OELD Director, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
- Lela Arney, The Children’s Cabinet
- Ashley Dines, The Children’s Cabinet
- Brian Cullen, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Nicole Martin, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Briana Cambra, The Children’s Cabinet

Guest in Attendance

- Tiffany Alston, Chair, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council
- Patrice Gardner, Co-Chair, Early Childhood Advisory Council
- Rachel Stepina, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Sabrina Jones, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Byron Dondoyano, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Katie Gilbertson, Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Arielle Newell Rollins, Parent, Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council.
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children’s Cabinet
- Jamie Mendez, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager, The Children’s Cabinet

2. Public Comment #1



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Co-Chairs may impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, control, or advisory power.

No Public Comment

3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Marti Elquist made a motion to approve the flexible agenda.

Ashley Dines second the Motion to approve a flexible agenda.

All in favor; none-opposed.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 8, 2023

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Patti Oya made a motion to approve the minutes without correction.

Brianna Cambra seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

All in favor; none opposed.

Materials: [JUNE 8 2023 Policy and Finance Sub MINUTES.docx](#)

5. Presentation: Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation Childcare Policy Report and Recommendations

(Discussion, For Possible Action) Representatives from the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation (GOWINN) will present key findings and policy recommendations from their Child Care Policy Report, released in February 2023. Katelin Gilbertson and Lisa Levine, Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation Materials: [GOWINN Childcare Report](#), [GOWINN Policy Report Brief](#) and [GOWINN_Childrens_Cabinet_July2023](#)

- Katie Gilbertson-

Presentation GOWINN Childcare report:

I am sharing our findings on Governor's Workforce Development Board, Childcare Work Group, Childcare Policy Report. The Governor's Office of Workforce is aimed at developing a skilled diverse aligned workforce. One of the ways we do this is through the workforce development board in which is required by workforce innovation opportunity act. In our 2022 timeline we started looking at childcare due to the huge workforce shortage in Nevada. We heard from Department of welfare and supportive services and the Children's Cabinet following the board voted to establish a childcare working group. The childcare working group is core group who purpose is to focus on childcare workforce. This group created this GOWINN and a policy brief report. The goal for this work group was to get a document ready for 82nd legislative session and they got some really good feedback. We got a lot of press on this report.

The GOWINN report focuses on the current state of childcare in Nevada, national childcare research, best practice in Nevada and policy recommendation. You can break the data down by county, centers, and home base. You can find the survey response is in the full report. Policy recommendation include workforce and infrastructure information. The national childcare research is included in this report regarding the childcare



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

industry. Some of the recommendations in this report is that we need better wages for childcare workers and career pathway in the state of Nevada. Overall recommendation is to get everybody more aware and get workforce involved. Spreading the word is the biggest take away for the Policy report and the childcare working group.

- Denise Tanata-

Addressing next step:

What are the next steps with GOWINN on any of those policy recommendations? Are there efforts currently under way with any of those policy recommendation? Are they looking to putting anything forward in the 2025 session? I think primarily I just want to make sure that we are aligned or if there is opportunity the ECAC as really the group of early childhood experts in this state to provide any support, feedback, or recommendation to GOWINN on what might be needed.

- Katie Gilbertson-

The next step is to create a Pilot program. The public partnership, kind of model that the stations uses. They want to make this report a reality and into something in Southern Nevada. Then their goal is to make it statewide as well.

- Denise Tanata-

Do you know if there's anything specific that you guys are looking at doing around workforce? Would there be openness into support the recommendation that are coming out of the workforce framework setting?

- Katie Gilbertson-

In terms of workforce, I guess more of those changes would come through legislation.

- Marty Elquist-

Responding to workforce framework:

We do have a workforce framework completed by SRI. It is about a year in the works. The good news is the framework is completed and we are just giving our Division of Welfare and Supportive Services partner Karissa Machado a chance to review the report and then we will send it out to everyone. The report does have recommendations and strategies for elevating and stabilizing the workforce in Nevada.

This was a collaborative effort of all the faces you see on the screen-- most of them were involved.

- Brian Cullen -

There are federal policies that we do have to abide by. Whether a childcare center is licensed or unlicensed. It would be very helpful to have somebody from a child development program involved in those decisions when you are trying to create a childcare center. To get our funding we do have to report on both licensed and non-licensed facilities. So, whether they receive subsidy or not it would be a good idea to have our input into that exercise.

- Rachel Stepina-

How can we continue to learn? So, what are other opportunities for collaboration between these two groups?

We can continue to look at those action steps and what is upcoming and the next steps. We can integrate our work together so that it is all moving forward on behalf of the children in our state.

- Marty Elquist-

I suggested appropriate renovation for high quality childcare.

- Nicole Martin-

Funding cannot be used for renovation that is not an allowable expense.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Tiffany Alston-
I encourage the use of QRIS matrix as a good resource in the childcare developmental stages.
- Patrice Gardner-
Tiffany, and I have tangible experience working with the on-site childcare programs in the past. We could bring valuable experience and knowledge to the table as well.

6. Discuss Development of Early Childhood Programs Eligibility Portal

(Discussion, For Possible Action) Members will continue to discuss the establishment of an Early Childhood Programs Eligibility Portal, similar to 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 Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Materials: [EC Program Eligibility Portal Document](#)

Sample: First 5 South Carolina - <https://first5sc.org/>

- Julie Houchins-
Review of First Five website:
The focus is to look at the eligibility portal and see how this relates to us here in Nevada and what we could do to implement it. Denise, do you have any thoughts or any other feedback on what this looks like or does anyone else?
- Denise Tanata-
At the last meeting we started the discussion regarding the eligibility portal, and we were talking about the programs and services that can eventually be included. We provided the link to First 5 South Carolina as an example of an existing portable and what this looks like. We included the document that was submitted with the meeting materials just some updates based on our last discussion. We are looking at who are all the primary contacts. What are the specific eligibility criteria so we can start putting this together. Rachel and Patti might want to talk about how PDG-5 relates.
- Patti Oya-
Addressing the eligibility portal:
The eligibility portal is an optional activity in the grant application. This is one of my favorites the vision of having a family call or contact one place and get the resources and not just a resource line. But really know what information is in your neighborhood: What and who's available and what you are eligible for without filling out 10 applications is just amazing. I love the project. I think there maybe a little confusion between what DWSS is doing in their terms of work, what we can do within infinite campus, what kind of tracking children we need internally, what we need for the department for early childhood data bases and then more. We need a way bigger early child comprehensive integrated database system. I think, you know there is still a lot of work to be done in terms of who is responsible for what and how can all this fit together.
- Rachel Stepina-
The First 5 website is our inspiration for our eligibility portable. So, with this inspiration in mind, we wanted to figure out how we can fund this. We have buy- ins and funds not just through the PDG-5 but also through our collaborative partners. Including the Division of Welfare and Supportive services and our CCR&R. The



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

work of this subcommittee can continue to guide our very first list of which agencies, programs and services necessary from day one. As the funding allows eventually and long term for sustainability, we will probably be a hybrid of some of our quality dollars and then also different funding sources coming from our Division of Welfare and Supportive Services. Really it is leveraging the existing dollars to launch the work, while including all the critical partners. Including what our sustainability and maintenance look like. Also, having our families contribute and share their voices. We are all critical partners, which is why we want to consistently have this on the agenda as part of the Councils work and embedded in our work plan regarding Item 7. The Children's Cabinet has a strong connection already to the work ongoing with the CCR&R, and then additional funding from the relief dollars.

- Brian Cullen-
- Our administrators had already started talking about this at a higher level with our director of human services to get something similar going. They already have the buy-in from the director of Health and Human Services.
- Marty Elquist-
We have the funds; we have the will, let's make it happen. Whatever role The Children's Cabinet needs to play to make this happen, we are all ears.
- Denise Tanata-
This (eligibility portable) was brought up as one of the things that might be helpful for that campaign to draw more people in as benefit to them to get more information. I just wanted to bring up that there is a potential connection to the broader marketing outreach campaign as we move forward.
- Tiffany Olivares-
PDG, OELD and The Children's Cabinet is building and strengthening relationships with some critical partners in the health, paternal and child health and the early intervention sectors. I just wanted to align and let everyone know that there is work being done here.

During the conversation, Rachel Stepina updated the EC Portal List with feedback from the council regarding the eligibility criteria and access to agencies information.

- **Discuss Subcommittee Workplan**

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Julie Houchins, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Materials – [Nevada ECAC Workplans Document.docx](#); [PN3 Policy to Impact Center Strategies.docx](#)

This item was pushed to August meeting. Co-Chair will develop agenda items in the interim.

- 7. **Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting, Including Presentation or Discussion Requests from EC Systems Partners**

(Discussion, For Possible Action)

Julie Houchins Subcommittee Co-Chairs

This item was pushed to August meeting. Co-Chair will develop agenda items in the interim.

- 8. **Public comment #2**



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

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- Rachel Stepina-

We are still in the transition between The Children's Cabinet and NDE. Sabrina Jones and John, our new administrative assistant will be helping with the work of ECAC behind the scenes.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:34pm