

## **Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)**

### **DRAFT Policy Recommendations for Consideration for Inclusion in 2023 Annual Report**

The Nevada ECAC Policy & Finance Subcommittee is submitting the following policy recommendations for consideration by the Nevada ECAC to be included in the 2023 Nevada ECAC Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature. The recommendations are categorized to align with the Nevada ECAC Goals outlined in the 2022-2024 Strategic Plan.

#### **Goal 1: Early Childhood Leadership Infrastructure**

- Establish a Governor's Office for Early Childhood Systems (use language from 2022 Annual Report and add reference to AB113)

#### **Goal 2: Increase Coordination and Alignment Between Systems of Care for Young Children and Families**

- Early Childhood Governance Structure: Review and potentially implement the early childhood governance structure recommendations from the upcoming Guinn Center Report. Request a meeting or presentation upon completion of the report to review recommendations for consideration.
- ECAC Administrative Support: Provide funding, as recommended by NDE in the AB114 (2023) fiscal note to sustain administrative support the Nevada ECAC in the amount of \$251,520 for the upcoming biennium.
- Food Handling Policies for Child Care Providers: Review and revise provisions for food handling and safety for child care providers to reduce administrative and fiscal burdens while still ensuring food safety. Would enable more providers to offer food and potentially be eligible for CACFP program. Would require some coordination with local health districts. (Recommendation from Child Care Provider Action Committee)

#### **Goal 3: Increase Capacity to Equitably Connect Families with the Early Childhood System Continuum of Care and Community At Large**

- Coordinated Intake and Referral System: Support and provide resources necessary to develop, implement and sustain a coordinated intake and referral system that includes a broad range of cross sector early childhood programs and services, creating a centralized location for parents, providers and community organizations to provide referrals and streamline access to needed resources.
- Presumptive Eligibility for Child Care Subsidy: DWSS/CCDP – establish self-assessment process for eligibility that allows a timeframe (30-60 days) to complete and submit required paperwork to make funding assistance available immediately. DWSS/CCDP reports that this may become a federal mandate; potentially involves state funding as federal funding would only be allowed for participants who meet federal eligibility requirements once all documents/paperwork have been submitted. (See CLASP Fact Sheet, May 2023)
- HOA Barriers for Home-Based Child Care Providers: Enact policies that prevent HOAs from restricting the operation of home-based child care businesses in common interest communities (CAA/Pritzker Policy Priority; Wonderschool and Access Community Capital have data/stories of impact).

#### **Goal 4: Identify Budget and Finance Strategies to Drive Policy Goals and Objectives**

- Early Childhood Fiscal Mapping: Review and adopt fiscal strategies included in the Children’s Funding Project Nevada Early Childhood Fiscal Map Report to expand equitable access to high quality programs and services in Nevada. Request a meeting or presentation upon completion of the report to review recommendations for consideration.
- Medicaid Funding to Expand Home-Visiting: Create category of home-visitors to be eligible service providers (with specified supervisory authority), similar to CHW provisions from last two legislative sessions. Potentially will be included with EC Fiscal Mapping recommendations. May also need to look at eligible services, plan amendment or waiver and/or development of a billing service hub or support services to enable smaller community based organizations (who are operating home-visiting programs) to bill for Medicaid. DPBH/MIECHV Program and DHCFP would need to be engaged – some discussions and research currently underway.
- CACFP Reimbursements: Request state investment to enhance CACFP reimbursements for child care providers, as current rates are not sufficient to meet rising food costs. Alternatively (or concurrently) request Legislature to submit letter to congressional delegation to address this issue at the federal level (Recommendation from Child Care Provider Action Committee)

#### **Goal 5: Execute Data Collection and Integrated Systems to Increase Equity and Accountability**

- Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS): Support and provide resources necessary to develop a Nevada ECIDS that includes cross sector data to inform decision-making and accountability across the early childhood system.

#### **Other Potential Policy Recommendations for Consideration:**

- Prenatal to Three Policy to Impact Center:
  - Paid Family Leave Program – Enact a statewide paid family leave program of at least 6 weeks.
  - Reduce Administrative Burden for SNAP – Increase recertification period from 6 months to 12 months.
  - Comprehensive Screening & Connection Program – Invest in an evidence-based comprehensive screening and connection program (Dulce, HealthySteps, Family Connects)
  - Group Prenatal Care – Provide financial support and enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rates for group prenatal care programs.
  - Evidence-based Home-Visiting Services – Create general fund investment to expand access to home-visiting programs (beyond federal resources – new federal funding will require match).
  - Early Head Start – Create general fund investment to expand access to Early Head Start Programs.
  - Early Intervention Services – Increase eligibility for children and/or maximize the use of Medicaid to pay for early intervention services.