



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

POLICY AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 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

*Julie Houchins and Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Julie Houchins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.
- Members in Attendance:
  - Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet (Partial Attendance)
  - Brianna Cambra, Quality Manager, The Children's Cabinet
  - Elysa Arroyo, District & School Success Manager, ThinkCERCA
  - Julie Houchins, Senior Director of Early Education, United Way of Southern Nevada (Partial Attendance)
  - Lela Arney ARP Project Manager, The Children’s Cabinet
  - Marty Elquist, SEED Director, The Children’s Cabinet
  - Nicole Martin, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare & Development Program
- Members Not in Attendance:
  - Anna Marie Binder, Council Member, Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities
  - Brian Cullen, Fiscal and Data Manager, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare & Development Program
  - Katarina Jackson, Katarina Jackson, Director, Lullaby Nursery
  - Patti Oyo, Office of Early Learning Development Director, Nevada Department of Education
- Public in Attendance:
  - Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
  - Annette Dawson Owens, School Readiness Policy Director, Children’s Advocacy Alliance
  - Byron Dondoyano, Data Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
  - Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
  - Jerek Hough, District Manager, Source Academy and Early Learning Center
  - John Giammona Wilber, ECAC Administrative Assistant Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development



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- Lea Case, Belz & Case Government Affairs
- Mary Regan Child Care Resource & Referral Manager, Las Vegas Urban League Early Childhood Connection
- Rosa Tamayo, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
- Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet

### 2. Public Comment #1

- Tiffany Olivas shared that the Nevada Family Engagement Leadership Council was accepting applications for ECAC members to become family engagement mentors. This would function to support parent and family leaders in the ECAC. Link for application: <https://forms.office.com/r/tAsyZ8sJgr>

### 3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve a flexible agenda.
- Elysa Arroyo seconded.
- All members voted in favor of the motion; none opposed.
- The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2023

*(Discussion, For Possible Action)*

- Brianna Cambra motioned to approve the minutes as presented.
- Lela Arney seconded the motion.
- Six members voted to approve the motion; none opposed; Marty Elquist abstained as she had not been present at the last meeting.
- The motion passed.

### 5. Share Updates on Policy Recommendations for 2024 Interim & 2025 Legislative Session to present in Annual Report by December 1st. Committee will develop a list of potential policy recommendations for the ECAC to review/approve in the September ECAC meeting to include in Annual Report to the Governor.

*(Discussion, For Possible Action)*

*Julie Houchins and Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Denise Tanata presented a list of policy recommendations that she organized by ECAC strategic plan goals.
- Denise Tanata explained that these recommendations were to be considered to include in the ECAC's annual report to the governor.
- Julie Houchins asked if the recommendations had to be voted on individually or if the document could be shared to leadership as recommendations from the subcommittee as a whole.
- Denise Tanata answered that it was up to the co-chairs, but that she recommended narrowing it down to present to the full ECAC as final recommendations from the subcommittee.
- Julie Houchins requested a motion to accept the recommendations as presented, to give to the full ECAC.
- Marty Elquist commented that some of the recommendations listed underneath the "other" section could be incorporated into the goal structure. She noted that presumptive eligibility could fall under goal 2.



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- Denise Tanata agreed and added that while the “other” policy recommendations didn’t fit as cleanly as the ones presented under strategic goals, there was overlap.
- Marty Elquist commented that she encouraged grouping by goal area and that the recommendations showed alignment with relevant outside organizations.
- Marty Elquist motioned to approve the recommendations with reformatting of applicable “other” goals into the strategic goal structure.
- Marty Elquist commented that she felt the “Prenatal to Three Policy to Impact Center” goals could be left in their own section.
- Denise Tanata commented that she would reorder the recommendations without changing language and get the updated document to John Giammona Wilber for posting.
- Elysa Arroyo seconded the motion to approve the recommendations with the discussed reformatting.
- All members present voted to approve the motion; none opposed.
- The motion passed.

### 6. Discussion/Presentation – Nevada Children’s Fiscal Mapping Project

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Presentation and discussion on the Nevada Children’s Fiscal Mapping Project. Contacts: Denise Tanata, The Children’s Cabinet, and Amelia Vaughn and Natalie Mudd, The Children’s Funding Project

- Denise Tanata presented the Nevada Early Childhood Fiscal Mapping Project overview document. She explained that here were two phases to the project:
  - Phase One: Working with the Children’s Funding Project, as part of a national cohort, to map out federal and state funding streams supporting children and young adults ages 0-24.
  - Phase Two: Early Childhood Fiscal Mapping Gap Analysis: another tab will be added to the tool which will focus on funding streaming for ages 0-5 specifically. Completion was anticipated for the first quarter of 2024.
- Denise Tanata explained that the tool would be officially made available during a national rollout in November. She noted that there would also be a gap analysis done focused on prenatal to age 5.
- Denise Tanata noted that while some funding streams were early childhood specific, other included a broader age range. Part of the analysis would be determining how much of the broader funding streams would be allocated to early childhood.
- Denise Tanata explained that the project was looking for input regarding which funding streams would be appropriate to include in an early childhood gap analysis. She added that additional programs could be added after the initial analysis.
- Denise Tanata explained that future goals included: an ability to articulate goals and objectives for program expansion, demonstrated positive impacts for target populations (including prenatal to three), pinpointing programs for the project matrix.
- Denise Tanata noted that ongoing targets for the project included mapping for federal fiscal year 2022 as well as looking into the state biennial budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. She added that the project aimed to determine per capita costs for programs and services. That data would be used to determine program efficiency and build cost modeling.
- Denise Tanata explained that another goal for this project would be increasing eligibility for target populations.
- Denise Tanata reiterated that the project was looking for input regarding any program or service that the subcommittee felt could be added. She noted that the subcommittee had access to the funding tool and overview document, and she invited anybody to reach out directly to her with input.
- Brianna Cambra commented that she appreciated the targeted focus to include policy impact areas. She noted that if the ECAC was giving policy recommendations at the state level, it should have the gap analysis to support those recommendations. Specifically, she noted the need in Nevada’s home visiting programs.

### 7. Discuss Development of Early Childhood Programs Eligibility Portal



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*(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 and Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Denise Tanata explained that there had been discussion regarding the portal in the marketing and outreach campaign with Purdue, Marion and Associates. She clarified that the portal would be a focus of phase two of that campaign.
- Denise Tanata explained that the outreach team had connected with an early childhood outreach team in South Carolina which was already operating a common eligibility portal in their state.
- Julie Houchins requested clarification on the make-up of the outreach team.
- Denise Tanata answered that The Children's Cabinet was handling the fiscal piece and that the campaign was currently focused on the Nevada Childcare Fund. She added that a focus was birth- five, the broader early childhood system, and supports for that system.
- Julie Houchins asked if there was any way to join the committee working on this project.
- Denise Tanata answered that the wasn't a set committee, but that anybody on the call could reach out to her to get involved in the planning for the eventual rollout of the portal. She added that there would be updates to discuss by the next subcommittee meeting.

### **8. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting (November 9, 2023), Including Presentation or Discussion Requests from EC Systems Partners**

*a. October 14th Meeting Canceled for PN3 Policy Summit*

*i. 2023 Summit Registration Now Open - [Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center \(pn3policy.org\)](https://prenatal-to-3policy.org)*

*(Discussion, For Possible Action)*

*Julie Houchins and Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Julie Houchins reiterated that the October subcommittee meeting would be cancelled for the PN3 Policy Summit which she encouraged those present to register for and attend. She asked Elysa Arroyo to finish leading the meeting as she had to leave early.
- Nicole Martin commented that she would be unable to attend the November 9 meeting.
- Denise Tanata suggested an update based on the ideas and strategies discussed at the PN3 Policy Summit.
- Denise Tanata clarified that she'd be able to provide an update on the common eligibility portal at the next meeting, if the subcommittee pleased.
- Ashley Dines voiced agreement with the common eligibility portal suggestion.

### **9. Public comment #2**

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

- Nicole Martin commented that the Child Care and Development Program would be launching two new pilot programs. She invited those present to an informational webinar taking place on September 25. She explained that slots were for children and youth with special health care needs and children being served during non-traditional hours. She added that The



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Children's Cabinet, the Las Vegas Urban League, and Washoe County Licensing would send invites and that participation in the pilot programs would be based on mandatory participation in the webinar.

- Nicole Martin mentioned that she'd be presenting on potential policy updates regarding out of school time at the next general ECAC meeting. She added that the idea would be potentially adding a BDR to require OSTOS or providers to be licensed/ permitted.
- Lela Arney commented that the work Nicole Martin mentioned was aligned with that of the child care provider action committee.
- Marty Elquist commented that the Nevada After School Network had submitted similar action to the LCB in the past including licensure, quality benchmarking, quality assurance, etc. She recommended that the Nevada After School Network be included in the out of school/ licensure discussions.

### **10. Share Updates on Policy Recommendations for 2024 Interim & 2025 Legislative Session to present in Annual Report by December 1st. Committee will develop a list of potential policy recommendations for the ECAC to review/approve in the September ECAC meeting to include in Annual Report to the Governor.**

- Elysa Arroyo reopened the agenda item for policy recommendation discussion.
- Denise Tanata asked if there were any additional policy recommendations as she would be working on the revisions.
- Sabrina Jones commented that Nicole Martin's licensing/out of school discussion was on the general ECAC agenda.
- John Giammona Wilber added that there was a separate item on the general ECAC agenda for policy recommendations.

### **11. Adjournment**

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM.

#### **Highlighted Action Items:**

- Update list of policy recommendations for presentation to the general ECAC.
- Align OSTOS/licensing efforts with relevant educational partners.

#### **One Sentence Meeting Summary:**

- The Policy and Finance subcommittee discussed policy recommendations, updates on the status of the fiscal mapping tool project, and development of early childhood programs eligibility portal.