



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE **PUBLIC MEETING** **SEPTEMBER 27, 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 Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Julie Houchins called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.
- Members in Attendance:
 - Anna Marie Binder, Parent Representative
 - Ashely Dines, Family Leadership Coordinator (South), The Children’s Cabinet
 - Cynthia Magaña, Childcare and Development Chief, Nevada Division and Welfare and Supportive Services
 - Dr. Diane Nicolet, Board Vice President, Washoe County School District
 - Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Associate Professor, Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 - Julie Houchins, Senior Director of Early Education, United Way of Southern Nevada
 - Patrice Gardner, Educations Programs Supervisor, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
 - Tina Springmeyer, Child and Family Services Director, Washoe County School District (Partial Attendance)
- Members Not in Attendance:
 - Anna Severens, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning Development
 - Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 Grant Manager, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
 - Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet
- Public in Attendance:
 - Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Program Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
 - Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Consultant, The Children's Cabinet
 - Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
 - John Giammona Wilber, ECAC Administrative Assistant, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
 - Karen Chessell, Family & Consumer Sciences Consultant, Nevada Department of Education
 - Rosa Tamayo, Family Leadership Coordinator (North), The Children’s Cabinet



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- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development

2. Flexible Agenda Motion

(Discussion/action)

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

- Dr. Diane Nicolet motioned to approve the use of a flexible agenda.
- Ashley Dines seconded the motion.
- All members present voted to approve the motion; none opposed.
- The motion passed.

3. Review and approval of August 30, 2023 Minutes

(Discussion/action)

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

- John Giammona Wilber screenshared the August 30, 2023 meeting minutes. He noted a typo in Rachel Stepina's name.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet noted a few instances of a typo in her name.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet motioned to approve the minutes with the noted edits.
- Ashley Dines seconded the motion.
- Six members voted in the affirmative; none opposed; Anna Marie Binder abstained from the vote as she was not present at the August 30, 2023 meeting.
- The motion passed.

4. Public Comment #1

- No public comment was given.

5. Definitions of Early Childhood Systems & Sectors

(Discussion/Possible action)

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

- Julie Houchins explained that previous potential meetings to discuss early childhood systems and sector definitions had been cancelled due to potential conflicts with Nevada open meeting law. She invited subcommittee members present to discuss their thoughts on the definitions.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward asked for clarification on where the discussion about definitions stood and where a good starting point for the subcommittee would be.
- Julie Houchins explained that the subcommittee had previously decided to first define "early childhood systems" and that definitions of the sectors as subcategories within the systems definition would come afterwards.
- John Giammona Wilber reiterated that the August meeting's discussion had prioritized a systems definition over the sector definitions.
- Sabrina Jones commented that she had shared the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee's related work on definitions with the Systems Alignment subcommittee co-chairs.
- Sabrina Jones shared some data points that the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee would be using in their own sector definitions. She also shared elements that the Systems Alignment subcommittee has already identified to use in their own systems definition.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet commented that she saw a hierarchy of "sectors" existing within the umbrella of "systems." She added that these "sectors" could be further divided into subsections.



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- Anna Marie Binder asked if the subcommittee was trying to put together language for the broad definition of systems which could further be broken down into specific sector definitions.
- Julie Houchins and Sabrina Jones answered that such was their understanding.
- Anna Marie Binder suggested starting the systems definition with the broad language of, “any and all resources that are provided for early education through the state to our families and children.”
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward suggested consulting the strategic plan, and, while acknowledging that there was already a lot of alignment, recognize that specifically defining age should be a priority.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward commented that the strategic plan broke systems down into federal/state/local/community services and health/education/social services, and health and wellness/early learning and development/ family and leadership services.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet commented that her personal thoughts conceptualizing systems highlighted funding sources, services offered, and data collection and interpretation within the system.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward responded that both funding streams and policies/procedures would affect different sectors in different ways, so it would make sense that those elements would be included at the level of systems definition. She explained that, from her professional perspective, research/ higher education/ professional development & training were also integral elements of a systems definition that affected sectors different ways.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet agreed that folding in laws and regulations would be vital. She suggested breaking down the systems definition by the categories of funding/ data/ laws & regulations/ education.
- Denise Tanata shared the HRSA ECCS Definition of "Early Childhood System":
- An organized, purposeful group that consists of interrelated and interdependent partners and subsystems working together to develop seamless systems of care for children from the prenatal period to kindergarten entry and their families. An early childhood system brings together health, early care and education, child welfare, and other human services and family support program partners - as well as community leaders, families, and other stakeholders - to achieve agreed-upon goals for thriving children and families.
- Patrice Gardner commented that the systems definition should include language about supportive services as well as quality assurance measures such as the QRIS program.
- Sabrina Jones asked for clarification on if the elements being suggested were to be used in the systems or sectors definition.
- Patrice Gardner clarified that her suggestions had come from Head Start’s collaborative systems definition of early learning systems.
- Denise Tanata commented that she had just given a presentation/discussion with the Southern Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council regarding “what is the early childhood system.” She offered to share the presentation with the subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata shared her presentation and explained that it was based off of the new BUILD early childhood system model. She explained that this model centered Children & Families with the system broken down into 4 direct service program areas families engage with:
 - Economic Well-Being: Credit Counseling, SNAP/TANF, Housing Assistance, Job Placement & Training
 - Early Learning: Head Start & Early Head Start, PreK, Child Care Subsidy, Special Education
 - Family Supports: Family Resource Centers, Home-Visiting Programs, Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention, Faith Communities.
 - Health, Mental Health & Nutrition: Medicaid/ Check Ups, Early Childhood Mental Health, WIC, Maternal & Prenatal Care.
- Denise Tanata explained that the BUILD initiative also outlined 5 system components (infrastructure pieces through which the direct services pieces could be achieved):
 - Leadership and Governance: Decision-making, Agency Structure, Collaboration & Partnerships, Inclusion of Parents/Families



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- Stakeholder Engagement: Communications, Engagement of Key Stakeholders, Working Together, Alignment of Programs/Services
 - Financing and Budgets: Federal, State, and Local Funding, Funding Decisions, Blended Funding, How Funding is Used
 - Policies & Standards: Laws & Statutes, Regulations & Administrative Codes, Agency & Program Policies
 - Technology & Infrastructure: Data collection & Sharing, Reporting, Data Informed Decision Making, Applications and Enrollment.
- Denise Tanata explained that it had been suggested that the language used in this model be changed to be more digestible by families. She noted that the version of this breakdown currently housed on the BUILD website was definitely aimed at a professional audience in contrast to being family oriented.
 - Dr. Diane Nicolet asked, given that the ECAC had previously identified consistency of terms as a priority, if BUILD used the language presented nationally.
 - Denise Tanata answered that the model was adjusted state-by-state. She added that some of the direct service programs utilized by Nevada families already straddled the program area categories given.
 - Denise Tanata commented that the priority in fitting this model to the needs of Nevada should be being mindful of the inclusion of relevant programs & services utilized by Nevada families. She added that systems components had been edited/added/subtracted for different contexts in the past.
 - Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward commented that the BUILD initiative and their work was used across the United States in different ways according to the needs of different early childhood organizations. She added that the BUILD initiatives' model was extremely similar to those used by other industry leaders.
 - Denise Tanata invited those present who were interested in a copy of her slide deck to request one directly.
 - Sabrina Jones commented that at the August subcommittee meeting, Tiffany Olivas had alluded to a Padlet used by The Children Cabinet's ECCS team. She explained that there had been discussion about creating padlets for ECAC subcommittees. She asked if there was still interest in that proposition.
 - Dr. Diane Nicolet asked who the audience for the ECCS leadership padlet was.
 - Denise Tanata answered that the padlet was set up as a resource for the ECCS team. She explained that it was a place to share documents, meeting recordings, and other resources easily.
 - Anna Villatoro added that the padlet allowed the ECCS leadership team to quickly share resources without being concerned about access.
 - Julie Houchins asked if the thought was to add ECAC subcommittee tabs to the ECCS leadership padlet.
 - Sabrina Jones answered that the thought was to create a ECAC padlet with channels for each subcommittee, or, to create ECAC subcommittee specific padlets.
 - Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward commented that if a padlet were to be used for ECAC purposes and shared publicly, the ADA accessibility of the program would need to be examined. She added that padlet itself as a program was not ADA compliant.
 - Denise Tanata clarified that, per Nevada open Meeting Law, any documents or resources used to make decisions would need to be made available and ADA accessible to the public at the same time they are available to members. She reiterated that the primary purpose of open meeting law was public access and accessibility to decision making.
 - Sabrina Jones asked if John Giammona Wilber could inquire about the accessibility of padlet.
 - John Giammona Wilber answered that he could, but he added that typical ADA remediation practices for ECAC meetings pertained to individual documents rather than the accessibility of new platforms such as padlet. He offered to bring the question to ADA liaisons with the DOE.
 - Julie Houchins commented that next meeting's agenda could include a padlet piece as well as further thoughts about the systems and sector definitions after consideration of the BUILD examples Denise Tanata shared.



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- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward asked if the HRSA grant included a systems map that could be used to align the subcommittee's definitions.
- Denise Tanata answered that most ECCS resources could be found in the ECCS leadership padlet. She suggested that the subcommittee come to the next meeting with a systems draft, including the programs and services that had been identified. She offered to condense HRSA systems definition materials to have available for the next subcommittee meeting.
- Julie Houchins suggested revisiting this agenda item at the next meeting.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward requested that a record of the current conversation and systems definition and alignment materials discussed be made available for the next subcommittee meeting.

6. Early Childhood Comprehensive System Collaborations and Development Updates

(Discussion/Possible action)

Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet

- Julie Houchins acknowledged that Tiffany Olivas could not make the meeting. She asked if anybody else had updates to give in her stead.
- Anna Marie Binder commented that she didn't have any ECCS updates, but she added that her email contact had been changed to annakicks2000@yahoo.com.
- Denise Tanata commented that there was a meeting of the maternal and child health cohort about the strategic plan on September 28, 2023.

7. Subcommittee Work Plan Review

(Discussion/possible action)

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

- John Giammona Wilber shared the combined subcommittee workplan.
- Sabrina Jones commented that she and John Giammona Wilber were recording subcommittee workplan progress in OnStrategy. She requested that if any progress has been made by the subcommittee but not documented, that she be alerted.
- Julie Houchins commented that the document appeared to be missing headers.
- John Giammona Wilber commented that he'd noticed the same, and that there must have been an issue in encoding the pdf.
- Sabrina Jones pinpointed the key activity, "review identified agencies and defined terms- conceptually & contextually." She asked if any progress had been made on the activity.
- Denise Tanata commented that a lot of the work in the activity had already been accomplished by the HRSA SAGA.
- Julie Houchins commented that Objective 2.2 of the workplan should have been completed.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward added that it was her understanding that the subcommittee was addressing objective 2.2.
- Sabrina Jones commented that elements on objective 2.1, such as public surveys, had not been initiated.
- Julie Houchins clarified that it was the specific key activity mentioned that had been completed.
- Denise Tanata offered to clarify alignment as she was reviewing the HRSA SAGA.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward commented that she may have had a different version of the workplan.
- John Giammona Wilber closed the screenshare and offered to share the live version of the workplan.
- Sabrina Jones answered that she'd like to see the version Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward alluded to make sure the live version was in alignment and to update progress documentation in OnStrategy.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward offered to do an alignment review of separate workplan drafts to make sure John Giammona Wilber and Sabrina Jones had access to the most current information.

8. Discuss agenda items for next meeting



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(Discussion)

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

- Julie Houchins asked if there were any additional agenda items that the subcommittee wanted to include for next meeting.
- John Giammona Wilber reminded the co-chairs about their request for a padlet discussion.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward suggested that since so many subcommittee members would be unavailable for the October 25 meeting, that the next meeting be postponed to November 29 at 1 PM.
- John Giammona Wilber confirmed that the next meeting for the Systems Alignment subcommittee would be held on November 29, 2023, at 1 PM.

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.

- No public comment was given.

10. Adjournment

- Julie Houchins adjourned the meeting at 2:03 PM.

Action Items:

- Denise Tanata will condense HRSA systems definition materials for assistance in solidifying systems and sectors definitions.
- John Giammona Wilber will inquire about the ADA accessibility of the Padlet.
- Denise Tanata will investigate alignment between the work of HRSA/ SAGA and the subcommittee workplan.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward will ensure that the ECAC support team has the latest version of the updated workplan.

One Sentence Summary:

- The subcommittee discussed systems and sector definitions and identified irregularities in their workplan.