



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2023 9:00 AM

“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

Tiffany Alston, Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Vice Chair

- Patrice Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:11AM.
- Members in Attendance:
 - Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
 - Dr. Linda Young, Communications and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - Julie Houchins, Systems Alignment/ Policy and Finance Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - Karissa Loper Machado, Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
 - Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Members not in Attendance:
 - Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Systems Alignment Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - Jennifer Butler, Communications and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative
 - Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Public in Attendance:
 - Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Program Specialist at The Children's Cabinet
 - Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
 - John Giammona Wilber, ECAC Administrative Assistant, Office of Early Learning & Development, Department of Education
 - Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Manager Birth - 5, Office of Early Learning & Development, Nevada Department of Education
 - Rosa Tamayo, Northern Nevada Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet



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- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning & Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Valieria Koss, Director Head Start/Early Head Start, Community Services Agency
- Vivian Bolanos, Birth through 3rd Grade Education Specialist, Office of Early Learning & Development, Nevada Department of Education

2. Public Comment #1

- No public comment was provided.

3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve the usage of a flexible agenda.
- Dr. Linda Young seconded the motion.
- All members present voted in favor of the motion; none opposed.
- The motion passed unanimously.

4. Minutes from September 5, 2023

(Discussion, For Possible Action) The Subcommittee will discuss and approve the minutes.

Patrice Gardner and Tiffany Alston, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Rachel Stepina noted that an indent was needed to delineate a list on page three and that her position should be noted as part of the Nevada DOE.
- Karissa Loper Machado noted a typo in her own name.
- Ashley Dines voted to approve the minutes with the noted corrections.
- Dr. Linda Young seconded the motion.
- Four members present voted to approve the motion; none opposed; Julie Houchins and Karissa Loper Machado abstained as they were absent from the last meeting.
- The motion passed.
- Rachel Stepina commented that an action items section had been added to the minutes.

5. Update on ECAC Funding Opportunity

(Discussion, For Possible Action) The subcommittee will discuss suggested projects that may be used for the available funding. Possible blending options with PDG funds and discuss requirements and guidelines for the use of these funds.

Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2

- Patrice Gardner noted that Tiffany Olivas was absent from the meeting. She asked if anybody else present could provide a funding update.
- Sabrina Jones answered that she could provide an update.
- Sabrina Jones explained that the funds in question were from local ECAC grant dollars. She added that \$3,000 had been spent on e-gift cards (priced at \$50 apiece.) She added that a VistaPrint order has been placed and materials had been distributed and delivered to offices in the north and the south. She explained that this order included: 70 cotton tee shirts, 1000 postcard, 1000 buttons, two canopy and tablecloth sets, 1000 folders, and 1000 pens. This order totaled \$6,884.15.
- Sabrina Jones commented that the manifesto for race and equity parent leadership training had been scheduled. Two trainings each in Reno and Las Vegas would be held (one session in Spanish and the other in English.) She added that the total cost of the manifesto was \$12, 880.
- Anna Villatoro shared the link to register for the manifesto trainings: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/nevada-early-childhood-family-leadership-council-necflc-71235944313>.



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6. Discussion and Updates about Fiscal Mapping Project

(Discussion, For Possible Action) The Council will discuss and be reminded on how they can provide feedback about the Fiscal Mapping project.) Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant

- Denise Tanata mentioned that the Children’s Funding Project would be incorporating feedback and updating the fiscal mapping tool.
- Denise Tanata added that the Children’s Funding Project was planning a national release of the initial cohort in November. She commented that she would be providing information regarding the launch event as it became available.
- Denise Tanata explained that the main question facing the leadership subcommittee about the fiscal map would be where to house it. She mentioned that there had been previous support for housing the tool on the ECAC website.
- Karissa Loper Machado commented that she had no concerns about housing the tool on the ECAC website, but she asked if it could be housed in other places as well.
- Denise Tanata answered that it should be fairly easy to house the tool on multiple sites.
- Denise Tanata clarified that right now the fiscal mapping tool showed data for the 0-24 age range. She explained that the creation of an early childhood specific component was an ongoing project.
- Denise Tanata screenshared the tool.
- John Giammona Wilber asked if there was any rule against housing the tool on multiple sites.
- Denise Tanata answered that the tool was not limited to being housed on any specific number of sites. She added that a search function was in the process of being added to the tool.
- Denise Tanata clarified that eventually an early childhood specific page would be added to the fiscal mapping tool; this would specify the early childhood funding streams.
- Denise Tanata requested an action item to add the tool to the ECAC website before the launch.
- Patrice Gardner requested that an agenda item be added to next month’s meeting for Denise to update the meeting on the rollout plan.
- Denise Tanata added that more work was needed on aligning the gap analysis and early childhood funding streams in the fiscal mapping tool. She added that once a formula was in place, more funding streams could be added to the tool.
- Denise Tanata explained that the gap analysis determined sub-sets of EC programs and their respective funding streams. The current list included the following:
 - Child Care Subsidies (CCDG/CCDP; TANF-Child Care; CCAMPIS)
 - Early Head Start & Head Start (Head Start Grants)
 - PreK Programs (OELD; PDG; Special Ed PreK)
 - Early Intervention Services (Part C; NEIS; Hearing Screening/Surveillance)
 - Home Visiting (MIECHV 7 State Match)
 - Nutritional Assistance (SNAP, WIC, Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program, CACFP Child Care)
 - System/Infrastructure Supports (No or limited current funding sources: ECAC Admin, ECIDS, First5Nevada Outreach/Marketing, Governor’s Office/Department)
- Denise Tanata added that other potential programs included the following:
 - group prenatal care
 - comprehensive screening and connection program
 - infant and early childhood mental health
 - workforce programs
- Denise Tanata asked if there were any additional programs or funding streams that the subcommittee felt should be added to the list.
- Patrice Gardner asked for clarification on the meaning of “CCAMPIS.”



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- Denise Tanata answered that it stood for “Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools.” She clarified that these were grants that went directly to institutions of higher education to support child care for students.
- Patrice Gardner asked if there were any additional questions or comments.
- Anna Villatoro asked if the list included children’s CHIP programs.
- Denise Tanata answered that CHIP and Medicaid were not included on the list due to their immense scale, but she added that she would bring that suggestion to the Children’s Funding Project.
- Dr. Linda Young asked if there were any elements that included parent inmates.
- Denise Tanata answered no. She added that the addition of parent inmate programs was feasible, but would require identification of agencies and budgets involved. She added that she would be interested in adding that element.
- Dr. Linda Young thanked Denise Tanata and added that she would be sharing some contact information of people running parent inmate programs.
- Denise Tanata clarified that the fiscal mapping tool primarily concerned federal funding streams. She added that the Children’s Funding Project was interested in adding local funds and private dollars analysis in the future.
- Patrice Gardner added that Head Start was doing a project with incarcerated women in northern Nevada and that the program was included in the Head Start funding.
- Dr. Linda Young added that incarceration of parents was not solely a woman’s issue.
- Rachel Stepina asked, given that PDG funds were not only supporting PreK programs and that they did support a home visiting program for incarcerated parents, if they should be included on multiple line items.
- Denise Tanata answered that funding streams could support multiple programs.
- Rachel Stepina asked if services for children experiencing homelessness should be added to any of the specific programs listed.
- Denise Tanata answered that this piece was currently being addressed in the gap analysis alignment. She added that while the idea was to keep the list manageable, additional programs could and would be added. She added that the gap analysis work would be looking at the programs listed through a vulnerable populations lens.
- Patrice Gardner commented that that using this lens was important, as evidenced by Early Head Start’s data showing that Nevada youth could be facing comparatively high rates of homelessness.
- Denise Tanata suggested that the discussion about vulnerable populations fed into the “factors for consideration for inclusion in the gap analysis:”
 - identified goals to achieve desired outcomes (what do we hope to achieve with additional resources: serve more current eligible; expand eligibility, improve quality, improve infrastructure, etc.)
 - ability to assess funding levels/needs for target population (do we have data/information to identify how much currently going to this and how much is needed, can we calculate per capita, admin/infrastructure, quality improvements, etc.)
 - demonstrated or high potential impact/outcomes (is the program effective and would increasing funding have a significant impact on outcomes for target populations)
- Denise Tanata explained that this initial gap analysis was meant to test and set templates for future gap analyses to be built on.
- Denise Tanata commented that the last part of the Children’s Funding Project’s work in this space concerned EC Revenue Options & Recommendations:
 - revenue options research & feasibility analysis
 - stakeholder conversations & development of final recommendations
- Denise Tanata asked the subcommittee if there were any additional questions or comments.

7. Discussion- Policy Recommendations from the Finance & Policy Subcommittee



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(Information/Discussion)

Discuss list of policy recommendations.

Julie Houchins, Finance & Policy Subcommittee Co-Chair

Elysa Arroyo, Finance & Policy Subcommittee Co-Chair

Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant

- Denise Tanata shared a draft of potential policy recommendations.
- Julie Houchins explained that the policy recommendations listed were categorized by where they fit into the strategic goals.
- She explained the recommendations as:
 - Goal 1:
 - Establish a Governor’s Office for Early Childhood Systems (use language from 2022 Annual Report and add reference to AB113)
 - Goal 2:
 - 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)
- Denise Tanata commented that she wouldn’t include all of the recommendations presented in the ECAC’s annual report to the governor. She explained that it was the role of the leadership subcommittee to decide what recommendations to include in the report.
- Julie Houchins continued presenting the policy recommendations including:
 - Goal 3:
 - 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).
- Karissa Loper Machado suggested using broader language on this last point, perhaps “housing barriers and restrictions.” She suggested following the example of other states which have introduced state-level law regarding providers, which supersedes local zoning codes.
- Julie Houchins and Denise Tanata continued presenting:



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- Goal 4:
 - 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 DHCFCP 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 the Child Care Provider Action Committee)
- Goal 5:
 - 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.
- Denise Tanata commented that, while the ECIDS work would take considerable time, it would be helpful to have awareness and initial investment in getting the system up and running.
- Denise Tanata presented some additional policy recommendations from the 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.
- Julie Houchins asked Tiffany Alston what her preferred next steps for condensing the recommendations into the national report would be.
- Tiffany Alston asked Denise Tanata if voting on the recommendations would impede the ECAC’s ability to make additional edits before including them on the annual report.
- Denise Tanata commented that the functional deadline would be the November ECAC meeting presenting the full annual report. The subcommittee could elect to narrow down the recommendations before then if they desired.
- Denise Tanata asked the subcommittee if they had any immediate suggestions regarding deletions, additions, or edits to the policy recommendations listed.
- Patrice Gardner asked how many policy recommendations were typical to include in the annual report.
- Denise Tanata answered that there was no set number, but that the list was typically shorter than what was currently being presented. She added that the list included in the annual report should be structured to reflect the priorities of the ECAC.



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- Patrice Garder suggested consolidating the list before presenting it to the full ECAC.
- Tiffany Alston asked the subcommittee for suggestions regarding consolidating the list.
- Patrice Gardner suggested dropping the food handler item.
- Karissa Loper Machado suggested prioritizing the government structure and zoning related pieces.
- Patrice Gardner and Julie Houchins both commented that the list felt very complete and that it would take some work to identify cuts.
- Karissa Loper Machado asked for clarification on how the process of consolidation would go and what sort of lens the subcommittee should use when trying to reduce the suggestions.
- Karissa Loper Machado suggested that some of the items presented could be addressed without legislative action. She suggested that the food handling piece could be addressed by collaboration between DWSS and the Department of Agriculture.
- Denise Tanata reminded the subcommittee that categorizing the list by ECAC goals was an internal decision. She noted that the structuring presented did not have to be utilized in the annual report.
- Denise Tanata suggested using a survey to collect members' feedback on the recommendations.
- Tiffany Alston, Dr. Linda Young, and Karissa Loper Machado voiced enthusiasm for sending out a policy recommendation prioritization survey.
- John Giammona Wilber commented that he would draft a survey.
- Tiffany Alston asked the subcommittee if they thought the agenda item regarding planning for the next meeting should be moved up in the agenda.
- Patrice Gardner answered yes.

8. Discuss Agenda Items for November 7, 2023 Meeting

(Information/Discussion) Council will discuss recommendations for agenda items for the upcoming meeting.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston asked Karissa Loper Machado asked if her presentation on alternative subsidy rates for providers should be included in the next leadership subcommittee meeting.
- Karissa Loper Machado answered that regardless of if it would be presented during the leadership subcommittee meeting, the presentation would need to be given in front of the full ECAC.
- Tiffany Alston decided to save the presentation for the general ECAC meeting.
- Tiffany Alston suggesting moving fiscal mapping project updates to the standing subcommittee updates agenda item.
- Tiffany Alston suggested an agenda item to address survey results.
- Patrice Gardner suggested presenting an annual report draft at the next meeting.
- Denise Tanata clarified that although there was no mandate that ECAC members be included in the approval of the annual report, doing so was considered best practice.
- Tiffany Alston suggested moving the new member orientation strategies agenda item to the next meeting.
- Denise Tanata noted that since AB114 had taken effect, the new ECAC seats would count against quorum in the November general ECAC meeting.
- Tiffany Alston asked if any sitting members could be moved into new seats.
- John Giammona Wilber and Patrice Gardner answered that the only member who would fit eligibility requirements to potentially move seats was Karissa Loper Machado.
- Sabrina Jones and John Giammona Wilber commented that the current ECAC roster from Boards and Commissions didn't properly include the AB114 seats.
- Sabrina Jones added that she was waiting to speak with the Boards and Commissions Liaison.
- Tiffany Alston asked the subcommittee if the ECAC funding discussion should be left on next month's agenda.



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- Patrice Gardner answered no.
- Tiffany Alston suggested adding a strategic planning discussion agenda item.
- Denise Tanata suggested adding a calendaring and scheduling agenda item.
- Patrice Gardner suggested a standing agenda item to discuss alignment with Holly Welborn at the Children's Advocacy Alliance, if she was available.
- Denise Tanata requested moving discussion of Underrepresented and Underserved Populations to next meeting due to time.

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

- Tiffany Alston adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.

One Sentence Meeting Summary:

The leadership subcommittee primarily discussed the rollout of the fiscal mapping tool and a list of policy recommendations to potentially include in the ECAC's annual report to the governor.

Highlighted Action Items:

- Adding the fiscal mapping tool to the nvecac.com website.
- Drafting a survey for member input on policy recommendation prioritization.
- Adding the presentation on alternative subsidy rates to general ECAC agenda.