



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 17, WEDNESDAY, 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 Locations:

Las Vegas

Child Care Services Center – Training Room
1771 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 200B
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Reno

Child Care Services Center – Training Room
961 Matley Lane, Suite 110
Reno, NV 89502

Virtual

[Zoom Videoconference Link](#)

ID: 815 9023 7818

Passcode: 308879

1-669-900-9128

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby noticed that the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council reserves the right to take agenda items out of posted order (except that public hearings will not begin earlier than posted times); items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time; and items may be combined for consideration. A time for public comment is provided at the beginning and at the conclusion of the meeting. A time limit of three minutes may be imposed by the Subcommittee Co-Chairs for public comments, in order to afford all members of the public who wish to comment, with an opportunity to do so within the timeframe available to the Council. The Subcommittee Co-Chairs reserve the right to call on individuals from the audience or to allow for testimony at any time.

The Subcommittee Co-Chairs reserve the right to call items of the agenda out of order as needed.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodation or assistance at the meeting. Please contact John Giammona Wilber (john.giammonawilber@doe.nv.gov), at least five business days in advance so that arrangements can be made.

This public notice has been posted at the offices of the Department of Education in Carson City and Las Vegas; Department of Health and Human Service in Carson City; and at the Nevada State Library and Archive in Carson City. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada ECAC website at <http://nvecac.com>.

The support materials to this agenda are available, at no charge on the Nevada ECAC website at: <http://nvecac.com/> (under the meeting date referenced above) or by contacting,

sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

MINUTES SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Tiffany Alston, Chair, Patrice Gardner, Vice-Chairs

Members in Attendance:

- Dr. Diane Nicolet- Seat F
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward- Seat G
- Tiffany Alston- Seat J
- Patrice Gardner- Seat K
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Seat L
- Marty Elquist- Seat N
- Tina Springmeyer- Seat R
- Dr. Linda Young- Seat R
- Karissa Loper Machado- Seat R
- Carrie Paldi- Seat H
- Abbey Bernhardt- Seat O
- Julie Houchins- Seat M
- Elysa Arroyo- Seat R

Members Not in Attendance:

- Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell- Seat E
- Jennifer Butler- Seat R

Vacant Seat During this Meeting A, B, C, D I, Q, P

2. Public Comment #1

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 Council Chair of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council will impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control or advisory power.

- No public comment.

3. Motion to Approve a Flexible Agenda

For Possible Action) The Council will approve a flexible agenda. The Board may take agenda items out of order; combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair.

- Patrice Gardner motioned to approve a flexible agenda.
- Marty Elquist seconded the motion.
- All agreed.

4. Approval of Minutes



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*(Discussion, For Possible Action) The Council will discuss and approve the minutes. Nevada ECAC Meeting Minutes – Page 2
Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council
Vice Chair Materials:*

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve the minutes.
- Diane Nicolet seconded the motion.
- All agreed and the motion is approved.

5. Contextualization

(Discussion) A brief clarification of the purpose of the council and the meeting will be given for new members and guests.

- Tiffany Alston asked Marty or Denise to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the ECAC as an advisory board and council.
- Marty Elquist suggested that each subcommittee review their charter for clarity.
- Denise Tanata mentioned the changes made to the purpose language in the bylaws, which now includes early childhood systems.
- Marty Elquist suggested the council creation of an ad hoc committee to review and amend the bylaws according to the new assembly bill.
- Tiffany Alston agreed that the bylaws should be revised by the ad hoc committee and brought back to the full council for review.
- Marty also suggested that at least one subcommittee chair should be an ECAC member, while the second co-chair could be a member of the public.

6. Review of ECAC Bylaws

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) The Council and or the leadership subcommittee will review and potentially amend the ECAC bylaws.

- Tiffany Alston discussed with the council the need for revisions to the bylaws.
- Diane Nicolet motioned for the council subcommittee to review and potentially amend the bylaws.
- Patrice Gardner revised the motion that the bylaws be reviewed and revised related to the co-chair position by the leadership subcommittee and brought back to the full council for approval at the next meeting.
- Diane Nicolet seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved.

7. Subcommittee Leadership Clarifications

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Leadership subcommittee will identify and potentially fill vacancies among subcommittee co-chair assignments. Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston discussed subcommittee chair vacancies, specifically for policy and finance and systems alignment.
- Brenda Morales volunteered to co-chair the policy and finance subcommittee.
- Brenda Morales is appointed as co-chair of the policy and finance subcommittee.
- Abbey Bernhart volunteered to join the systems alignment subcommittee and expressed interest in co-chairing the systems alignment subcommittee pending further information.
- Tiffany Olivas, a subcommittee member, expressed interest in co-chairing the systems alignment subcommittee.
- Tiffany Alston suggested having Tiffany and Abby co-chair the systems alignment subcommittee pending further discussions and confirmation of the change in Bylaws.



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8. Parent Spotlight Mentorship Program for Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Councils

(Information/Discussion) Discussion and recruitment regarding the mentorship program. Rosa Tamayo, The Children's Cabinet; Ashley Dines, The Children's Cabinet

- John Giammona Wilber, ECAC Administrative Assistant, mentioned that Rosa Tamayo and Ashley Dines communicated with him prior to the meeting and do not have any updates for the membership or parent spotlight and mentorship agenda item at this time.
- Tiffany Alston confirmed that this agenda item was moved passed with the understanding that it will continue as a standing agenda item for future meetings.
- Denise Tanata raised a point about the agenda item being specific to the mentorship program. She recommended making the agenda item more general to allow for broader discussion.
- Ariel Rollins introduced herself as a parent and member of the NECFLC membership group under Ashley Dines.
- Tiffany Alston explained the opportunity for parents to be appointed by the governor to serve on the ECAC.
- Ariel expressed interest in joining ECAC.
- Tiffany Alston recommended Ashley Dines as point of contact for Ariel Rollins to get more information about joining ECAC.
- Darlene Anderson shared that she is a parent in need of services for her 26-year-old son and expressed interest in receiving support and assistance.
- Tiffany Alston shared that the agenda item on support and services for parents/families was confirmed to continue in future meetings, and it was noted that feedback and email addresses will be collected for further communication.

9. Presentation of Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Standards, Revised 2023

(Information/Discussion/ For Possible Action) Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Nevada DOE, OELD, and Tina Springmeyer, ECE Program Director, WCSD

- Rachel Stepina and Tina Springmeyer presented the Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Standards Revised 2023. They discussed the timeline, purpose, domains, and indicators of the standards which included:
 1. The new domains of approaches to learning and technology and explained their relevance in early childhood education.
 2. Information on the executive summary of the standards and the plan for rollout and professional development, including an interactive website and training programs.
 3. Feedback and input from the early childhood workforce were requested on the standards and training program.
 4. The meeting minutes will be shared with agencies, including college and university educators, to ensure alignment and support for the new standards.
 5. Q&A and comments were opened for the group.
- Diane Nicolet offered her assistance in sharing the new standards with the Nevada Association of School Boards and proposed collaboration with other districts and education agencies.

10. Discussion – Nevada Children's Fiscal Mapping Project

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Brief discussion on the Nevada Children's Fiscal Mapping Project. Representatives from The Children's Funding Project Materials: Nevada Fiscal Mapping Tool

- Denise Tanata mentioned that there was no presentation from the Fiscal Mapping project at this time. However, she can schedule representatives to speak on this matter at the next meeting if requested.

11. Discussion- Subsidy Alternative Cost Model



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(Information/Discussion) Discuss the alternative cost methodology needed for federal approval. Marty Elquist, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Data & Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair Karissa Loper Machado, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Data & Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Karissa Loper Machado provided an overview of the Childcare and Development Program's plan to update the subsidy rates based on a new cost model study.
- Karissa Loper Machado explained that historically, the program has used a market rate survey to set rates. The new cost model study aims to understand the true cost of providing childcare to inform subsidy rates.
- Marty Elquist emphasized the importance of understanding both the price and cost of care when setting reimbursement rates.
- Carrie Paldi expressed excitement about the potential positive impact of the new cost model on providers and families.
- Patrice Gardner asked about the timeframe for the project, which Karissa explained would be completed by June 30th
- Karissa Loper Machado mentioned the possibility of having P5 fiscal strategies present evaluative research from other states that have implemented similar alternative methodologies.
- Denise Tanata emphasized the significance of having a standardized and unified definition for the early childhood system.

12. HRSA ECCS Gap Analysis

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant

- Tiffany Alston requested an update on the ECCS (Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems) gap analysis.
- Denise Tanata recommended to discuss this at the Systems Alignment Subcommittee for further review and recommendations.

13. Early Childhood Systems and Sectors Definitions

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) The council will review the early childhood systems and sectors definitions from the systems alignment subcommittee. Sabrina Jones, Nevada ECAC Systems Specialist and or Denise Tanata

- Denise Tanata provided a context on the Early Childhood Systems and Sectors Definition document. The intent is to have a standard definition for the early childhood system and identify different sectors within it. System Alignment would like for the Leadership or Full ECAC to review and vote on the Early Childhood System and Sector Definition to align the definition across ECAC.
- Tiffany Alston suggested more time was needed with the Document and that the full ECAC will review and potentially approve the Early Childhood Systems and Sectors Definition document at the next meeting.

14. Subcommittee Updates and Workplan Discussion

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Discuss updates, recommendations and workplan progress from ECAC Subcommittees and priorities for 2023.

- Subcommittee updates and work plan discussion was moved to next meeting.

15. Local ECAC Updates

(Discussion/For Possible Action) Discuss updates from Local ECACs, including plans for the ARP Local ECAC Small Grants. Summary reports are provided in the Local ECAC Summary Report document.

- Tiffany Alston requested updates from local ECACs (Early Childhood Advisory Councils).
- Joycelene Bumagat shared regarding that Southern Nevada ECAC strategic planning meeting was in October and they are finalizing the plan, updates to SNECAC website, and the Annual Step up for Kids is coming up.

16. State Agency and Partner Updates



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(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) Relevant informational items from state agencies and departments on programs, services, initiatives and/or issues relevant to the ECAC Strategic Plan. Summary reports are provided in the Partner Summary Report document.

- Tiffany Alston requested that the State agency and partner share partner updates. Various agencies and programs shared, including the Office of Early Learning and Development, Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Health Integration, and more

17. Discuss Agenda Items for Next General ECAC Meeting

(Information/Discussion) Council will discuss recommendations for agenda items for the upcoming meeting. Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Denise Tanata mentioned presenting the gap analysis in March along with the early childhood fiscal map.
- Rachel Stepina also recommended having an agenda item dedicated to parent and family voice.
- Rachel Stepina recommended the need for future discussion on Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the state of Nevada to address any questions and provide clarification.
- Marty Elquist recommended providing an update on the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, including information about the alternative endorsement for infant and early childhood mental health.
- Denise Tanata mentioned a future presentation on the marketing and outreach campaign, including updates on the First Five Nevada website and the early childhood program eligibility portal.
- Patrice Gardner mentioned the need to review and vote on the systems and sectors documents during the next meeting.
- Patrice Gardner also highlighted the importance of reviewing and voting on the updated bylaws during the next meeting

18. Calendaring for 2024

(Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) The council will discuss and decide its meeting schedule for 2024. Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston confirmed March 20th for the next meeting at 9 a.m.
- Members confirmed that General ECAC meetings will remain at the same time, the second Wednesday, every other month at 9am.
- Tiffany Alston addressed the question whether to consider alternative meeting times to accommodate teachers and parents.
- Tiffany Alston brought up that plans were to be discussed alternative meeting times with the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee.

19. 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 the agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Council Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.

- Rachel Stepina thanked the Administrative Assistant and ECAC Systems Specialist for their work with ECAC and welcomed and thanked new members who joined ECAC.
- Darlene Anderson expressed her concern about collaboration, lack of public knowledge regarding partner preschool, preparation, data, and access.
- Tiffany Alston thanked Darlene and acknowledged Darlene Anderson comment. She referenced that this comment had been shared and addressed prior.

20. Adjournment

Tiffany Alston Adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am



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Selected Action Items

- The leadership subcommittee will review and potentially amend the bylaws and bring them back to the full council for approval.
- Update the agenda item on support and services for parents/families to be more general and inclusive.
- Systems Alignment Subcommittee to review the Systems and Sectors document and make recommendations to the ECAC.
- Schedule presentations for gap analysis, and early childhood fiscal map
- Marketing and outreach campaign update,
- Systems, and sectors document review and vote
- Bylaws review of redline draft from leadership subcommittee.
- Provide a schedule of dates for the ECAC 2024 meetings Schedules

One Sentence Summary

The Council discussed the context of ECAC, intended amendment to ECAC Bylaws and the process, subcommittee Leadership Clarifications, Nevada Ready Pre- K/Kindergarten Standards revision 2023, Subsidy Alternative Cost Model, Local and ECAC Reporting. In addition, they discussed the agenda for ECAC March meeting and 2024 scheduling.