Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
DATA & EVALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, 03/21/2024
1:00 PM - 3:00 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."

This meeting was held via Zoom:

Minutes Summary

1. **Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call**
   Marty Elquist, Subcommittee Co-Chair
   Marty Elquist called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

- **Members in Attendance:**
  o Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Executive Director, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy
  o Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator (South), The Children's Cabinet
  o Justin White, Founding Partner, Data Insight Partners
  o Latisha Brown, Childcare Licensing Manager, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
  o Matthew Hoffman, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

- **Members not in Attendance:**
  o Elvira Weintraub, Provider Representative
  o Karissa Loper Machado, Manager, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare and Development Fund
  o Anna Marie Binder, Council Member, Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

- **Public in Attendance:**
  o Emily Weinberg, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research
  o Erick Maeding, Senior Technical Manager, Stanfield Systems Incorporated.
  o Matt Kegal, Software Developer, Stanfield Systems Incorporated
  o Ken Barnett, Senior Software Engineer, Stanfield Systems Incorporated
  o Rosa Tamayo, Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
  o Smriti Neupane, Research Analyst, Nevada Institute for Children Research and Policy
  o Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
  o Matthew Silver, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
  o Jamie Mendez Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
  o Kathryn Bervin Mueller
  o Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant, The Children's Cabinet

- o Hector Mendoza, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Administrative Assistant, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- o Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Manager Birth - 5, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
- o Sabrina Schnur, Governor Affairs Associate, Belz & Case Government Affairs
- o Sabrina Jones, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Systems Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning & Development
- o Tiffany Alston, Chair of Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Sunrise Children Foundation Director, Sunrise Children Foundation
- o Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet

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 the agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Co- Chairs may impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, control, or advisory power.
Marty Elquist, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- No public comments

3. **Review and Approved Minutes February 15, 2024**

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes for February 15th, 2024, minutes.
Marty Elquist, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Justin White motioned to approve the minutes for February 15, 2024.
- Latisha Brown seconded the motion to approve the minutes.
- The motion was approved with no corrections.

4. **American Institutes for Research (AIR) Early Childhood Data Portal Interface Demonstration and Feedback.**

(Discussion and Feedback to AIR)

The Committee reviewed and gave feedback on the Nevada Early Childhood Data Portal Interface.
Erick Maeding, Senior Technical Manager, Stanfield Systems, Inc., Ken Barnett, Senior Software Engineer, Stanfield Systems Incorporated; Emily Weinberg, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research

- Marty Elquist acknowledged the presence of special guests from the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and Stanfield Systems Incorporated.
- Marty Elquist reported that the Children's Cabinet is working with the partners from AIR and Standfield to create a data dashboard to look at population demographic and participation in publicly funded childcare programs such as subsidy programs and pre-k.
- Marty Elquist specifically recognized Matthew Hoffman for his help with the Pre-K data with AIR.
- Marty Elquist introduced Emily Weinberg, Senior Researcher from American Institute for Research (AIR) and partners from Stanfield Systems Incorporated, including Eric Mating and Ken Barnett.

- Emily Weinberg provided an overview of the California LNAT (early learning needs assessment data tool), which serves as the model for the Nevada tool. The California LNAT is a web-based tool that allows users to create reports by geographic areas such as by county and zip code regarding the supply and demand for early learning and care programs. The purpose of this tool is to provide a source of information for estimating needs for early learning and care programs. This tool allows stakeholders across the states to make comparisons. The data included in the LNAT comes from a variety of sources. The American Institutes for Research analyzes data from each source and bring them together in this tool. The enrollment data included in the tool comes from the California Department of Social Services, California Department of Education, Federal office of Head Start of information reports. In California, AIR also conducts surveys of Head Start and Early Head Start grantees.
- Marty Elquist reiterated Emily's purpose to solicit feedback from the Data Committee regarding the California LNAT to determine if these features would be preferred in the development of the Nevada's data tool.
- Emily Weinberg demonstrated the California LNAT's features, including selecting the year of data, choosing an area to view a report, selecting standardized or custom variables, and generating reports.
- Justin White asked if there is a way to disaggregate the data according to population.
- Emily Weinberg explained that California LNAT does not include some disaggregation features, however the Nevada tool will include some disaggregation features.
- Justin White asked who would use this tool and why they would use this tool.
- Marty Elquist replied to the tool usage specifically regarding childcare subsidy programs led to the discussion about creating this tool with AIR, to help understand where the most vulnerable population reside. We can do target enrollment to make sure that we are providing accessible services to the childcare subsidy programs.
- Emily Weinberg explained that the California LNAT is a subscription-based tool, and the plan is that Nevada tool would be publicly available.
- Matthew Hoffman asked if the tool allows for year-to-year comparisons.
- Emily Weinberg added that we are developing the Nevada tool with one year of data and will work with Matthew to determine what is needed.
- Emily Weinberg explained that the tool was designed to estimate needs rather than compare year-to-year, as the population data used in the tool are estimates based on American Community Survey data with a two-year delay.
- Marty Elquist welcomed any additional feedback from the subcommittee or from the public.
- Matthew Hoffman raised concerns about the margin of error in population estimates for rural counties.
- Emily Weinberg acknowledged this issue and highlighted the cautions associated with using estimates in counties with smaller populations.
- Marty Elquist again welcomed additional feedback, she thanked the subcommittee for their help and welcomed Emily and partners to ask further questions if needed.

5. **Vulnerable and Underserved Population Definitions**
   (Discussion for Possible Action)
   The Committee revisited and amended the Vulnerable and Underserved Population
   Definition. The Committee heard updates regarding the Environmental Justice Screening Mapping Tool.

Marty Elquist, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Amanda Haboush Deloye, Executive Director, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy

- Marty Elquist opened the discussion on the Vulnerable and Undeserved Population definition. As noted from the last minutes regarding, reaching out to a representative for the Environmental Justice Screening mapping Tool (EJ Screen Tool), (https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen).
- Smriti Neupane reported that she had contacted the regional EJ screen tool coordinator but did not receive a response.
- Amanda Haboush recommended reaching out again. However, she added that relying on a meeting with the representatives should not determine the subcommittees' future decisions to move forward.
- Marty Elquist agreed, she mentioned that everyone was to look at the tool prior to the meeting. She provided some links for supplemental and demographic index tools for further reference to social economic indicators.
- Marty Elquist asked if anyone had any variables to include in the vulnerable communities' definitions.
- Matthew Hoffman expressed confusion about the EJ Screen tool's percentiles and the differences between comparisons and asked for further clarification.
- Justin White suggested reaching back out to the EJ Screen tool representative for a meeting or for technical documentation or maybe the subcommittee can send them some questions to answer.
- Marty mentioned some technical reports within EJ Screen tool. She added some links to the technical reports to the chat.
- Amanda Haboush referred to a user guide and a video within the EJ Screen tool.
- Rachel Stepina shared the impact and challenges of trying to use the EJ Screen tool.
- Marty Elquist asked how we define the vulnerable population and how do we move forward.
- Matthew Hoffman and Amanda suggested that the EJ screen tool be used for supplemental use.
- Marty Elquist added that the purpose of this definition and its application is for grants and program funding. Disaggregating data based on this definition was seen to ensure equity in programs.
- Matthew Hoffman agreed with Marty and suggested presenting it to the leadership committee first, which would then present it to the full council.
- Latisha Brown raised concerns about potential flaws in the definition and suggested reaching out to subject matter experts (SMEs) from other agencies for input.
- Latisha Brown proposed contacting DCFS, Child Protective Services, and relevant homeless organizations for information.
- Latisha Brown mentioned that perfection may not be possible, but utilizing the tool may open the door to what needs to be approved upon.
- Matthew Hoffman agreed with Latisha Brown to possibly test the definition.
- Amanda Haboush expressed frustration with the search for a perfect answer and acknowledged the limitations of mapping tools. She emphasized the need to be careful in selecting the right tools for specific questions.
- Marty Elquist agreed with Amanda and recognized the complexity of the issue. She suggested focusing on allocating resources and programming based on the available data rather than trying to achieve a single measurement.
- Jamie Mendez asked if children whose parents who are incarcerated could be added.
- Marty Elquist replied to Jamie yes, incarcerated parents of children are already included in the vulnerable definition.

- Rachel Stepina referred to a previous version of the definition and mentioned that the communications and engagement subcommittee had worked on it.
- Marty Elquist requested the relevant document to remind the group of the previous discussions and definitions.
- Rachel Stepina shared the previous version of the vulnerable definition.
- Rachel Stepina highlighted the importance of considering previous conversations and comments on this topic during the May 17th meeting.
- Marty Elquist recommended keeping page one of the current definition, replacing page two with the previous bullet points, and keeping page three.
- Rachel Stepina raised concerns about missing elements if the current page is simply replaced.
- Marty Elquist proposed a motion to swap the current page with the highlighted portion presented by Rachel.
- Ashley Dines made a motion to approve the swap to go back to the previous vulnerable definition, and Amanda Haboush seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Marty Elquist checked in with Sabrina Jones to see if she had enough information to make the changes. She added that the definition will then be presented to the leadership subcommittee.
- Sabrina Jones concluded that she has the information needed to make the changes and will ask for further clarification if more information is needed.

6. **Identify Gaps Between the Data Dictionary and Research Questions and Data Points Draft**
(Discussion, For Possible Action)
The Committee will compare what has been collected in the "Data Dictionary" to the data points that the Committee would still like to collect. The Committee will also discuss whether the data can further be disaggregated by the Vulnerable Populations definition.
Amanda Haboush Deloye, Executive Director, Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy
Justin White, Founding Partner, Data Insight Partners

- Marty Elquist and the subcommittee agreed to table this item for the next Data & Evaluation Subcommittee

7. **Subcommittee Workplan Review**
(Discussion for Possible Action) The subcommittee will review and possibly amend the workplan activities.
Marty Elquist, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Marty Elquist reviewed the workplan with the subcommittee and re-visited the updates discussed from the last meeting for key activity 5.1.
- Marty Elquist entertained a motion to approve adding to the workplan regarding key activity 5.1(To Integrate key messages regarding data collection and utilization into an informative document for Nevada's policymakers for 2025 – Timeline Q3 2024) as previously discussed with the subcommittee.
- Ashley Dines approved the motion.
- Amanda Haboush seconded, all agreed, and the motion was approved.
- Sabrina Jones noted that the key activity is added.

8. **Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
(Discussion for Possible Action)
Marty Elquist, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Marty Elquist and the Subcommittee agreed to focus on Identifying Data Gaps.

9. **Public comment #2**
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- Rachel Stepina introduced Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council New Administrative Assistant Hector Mendoza.
- Hector Mendoza said hello to everyone and added that he looks forward to working with everyone.

10. **Adjournment**

- Marty Elquist adjourned the meeting at 2:53pm

Action Items

1. The subcommittee will review the Data dictionary for follow-up at the April Meeting
2. Add to key activity 5.1, (Integrate key messages regarding data collection and utilization into an informative document for Nevada's policymakers for 2025 – Timeline Q3 2024)

One Sentence Summary

- The subcommittee gave feedback on the California Learning Needs Assessment Tool data systems, Established the Vulnerable and Underserved Population definition, and added a key activity to section 5.1 of their work plan.