



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) FINANCE & POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 1 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 videoconference:

#### MINUTES SUMMARY

##### 1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

*Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

Elysa Arroyo called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

##### • Members in Attendance:

- Anna Marie Binder, Council Member, Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Developmental Specialist Supervisor, Aging and Disability Services Division
- Brianna Cambra, Regional Quality Director, The Children's Cabinet
- Elysa Arroyo, School Success Manager, ThinkCERCA
- Lela Arney Gonzales, ARP Project, The Children’s Cabinet
- Marty Elquist, SEED Director, The Children’s Cabinet
- Patti Oya, Office of Early Learning & Development Director, Nevada Department of Education
- Brian Cullen, Fiscal and Data Manager, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare & Development Program

##### • Members Not in Attendance:

- Katarina Jackson, Director, Lullaby Nursery
- Nicole Martin, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare & Development Program

##### • Public in Attendance:

- Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
- Tiffany Olivas, ECCS Manager, The Children's Cabinet
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Jake Matthews, Government Affairs Manager for Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Annette Dawson Owens, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Rosa Tamayo, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Sabrina Jones, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Systems Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Rachel Stepina, PDG-5 Grant Manager, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Sabrina Schnur, Belz & Case Governor Affairs

### 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.*

- No Public Comment

### 3. Approval of a Flexible Agenda

(Discussion for Possible Action)

*Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales- Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Brenda Morales motioned to approve a flexible agenda.
- Marty Elquist seconded the motion.
- No opposition was made.
- Motion carried.

### 4. Approval of [Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2024](#)

(Discussion for Possible Action)

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 8th.
- Brianna Cambria seconded the motion.
- No opposition.
- Motion carried.

### 5. Children Advocacy Alliance Policy Recommendations

(Discussion for Possible Action) The subcommittee received a presentation on Early Childhood Policy Recommendations.

*Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance*

- Jamelle Nance introduced Jake Matthews, the new Government Affairs Manager for Children's Advocacy Alliance



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Jamelle Nance acknowledged Annette Dawson Owen’s role in community outreach and in the Winter Policy Summit.
- Jamelle Nance gave a Brief recap of the Winter Policy Summit, the first in-person event. The event was a successful event with over 150 participants. She expressed the importance of partner collaboration and policy discussions and the refinement of policy priorities considering partner input.
- Jamelle Nance presented policy recommendations; the following key points were made:
  1. Education as a key tactic: Building coalitions, educating the public and lawmakers on important areas for children and families, aligning messaging with partner groups, engaging in community civic engagement, disseminating evidence-based research.
  2. Convening stakeholders: Focusing on equity coalition and community-based organizations to bring important issues to the table, empowering individuals with knowledge on legislative process, organizing parent advocacy group and early childhood champions.
  3. Three pillars of the Children's Advocacy Alliance: Health, school readiness, child safety
  4. Systems and sectors: Need for a governance structure supporting early childhood comprehensive system, equitable distribution of funding streams, integrated and timely data, improving early childhood programs through the Office of Early Childhood Systems, upper-level position overseeing early childhood systems, clarity on roles and functions, alignment with Early Childhood Advisory Council
  5. Childcare: Proposal for general fund investment in Childcare Development Fund to support wage increases and expand access, monitoring new updates to CCDF, tax credits for businesses providing childcare, reducing barriers for community and home-based childcare, waiving business licensing fees, long-term goal of universal pre-K, investments in pre-K infrastructure
  6. Health: Exploring Medicaid reimbursement for group prenatal care, increasing access to developmental screenings through early intervention services, expanding WIC access through integration with social support systems, expanding home visitations to include postpartum checkups, maximizing Medicaid expansion for parents' needs
  7. Economic well-being: Supporting affordable housing via rent stabilization and joined efforts with Health and Justice Alliance, supporting elimination of summer evictions, paid family leave coalition led by Assemblywoman LaRue Hatch, advocating for paid family leave bill based on existing state employee policy, advocating for child tax credit based on Tax Relief for American Family Workers Act passed by the House on January 31st

### 6. Policy Recommendation

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee discussed Nevada Early Childhood System Summary of Potential Policy Priorities

*Denise Tanata, Early Childhood System Advisor, The Children’s Cabinet*

- Denise Tanata clarified that the Where We Stand document, she shared is not policy recommendations but policy opportunities. She explained that the document provides an overview of national reports ranking Nevada in different areas of the early childhood system.
- Denise Tanata highlighted indicators where Nevada is doing better than average (blue), average (black), and more poorly compared to other states (red). She provided information on potential policies or strategies identified in national reports that align with these indicators.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Denise Tanata provided an explanation of Summary of Potential Policy priorities document, and that this document provides an opportunity for discussion with this subcommittee.
- Denise Tanata also mentioned policies or strategies already implemented in Nevada. She offered to send a cleaner version of the document to anyone interested.
- Anna Binder commended Denise for putting together a helpful document.
- Denise Tanata confirmed that the document is available on the website but may have formatting issues.
- Anna Binder asked if the policy recommendations should be incorporated into the subcommittee's work plan.
- Denise Tanata suggested including the recommendations and mentioned the importance of reaching out to all sectors within the early childhood system. She also emphasized the need to collaborate with other subcommittees and align priorities with the ECAC's responsibility to submit policy recommendations.

### 7. Winter Policy Summit Highlights

(Discussion) The subcommittee heard outcomes and highlights regarding the Winter Policy Summit

*Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance*

- Jamelle Nance expressed gratitude to everyone who attended the Winter Policy Summit. She acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Annette Dawson Owen in organizing the event.
- Jamelle Nance mentioned that the event had a high attendance and was well-received. The evaluations from the summit will be reviewed to improve future events. She encouraged feedback and suggestions for future summits.
- Anna Binder praised the collaborative effort and expressed appreciation for the event.
- Annette Dawson Owen thanked everyone who was involved, participated and everyone for their team efforts in the Winter Policy Summit. She reported that they are thinking of doing another event. We are taking feedback for future events.

### 8. Subcommittee Workplan Review

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee reviewed and discussed activities on the Combined Subcommittee workplan.

*Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Anna Binder requested clarification on the process for soliciting policy recommendations.
- Elyssa Arroyo mentioned we are looking for a way to streamline the process for gathering recommendations.
- Elyssa Arroyo suggested using a Google form to put together a list. Elyssa asked for clarification.
- Denise Tanata explained that the subcommittee should reach out to all sectors within the early childhood system to identify policy priorities and barriers. The subcommittee should also collaborate with other subcommittees to align priorities. The policy recommendations should be submitted to the full ECAC for inclusion in the annual report.
- Brianna Cambria expressed the need to concentrate attention on specific policy recommendations.
- Marty Elquist expressed alignment of the policy and recommendation with ECAC.
- Brianna Cambria suggested using a Google form to gather feedback from subcommittee chairs to prioritize policy priorities.
- Marty Elquist also emphasized the importance of establishing a dedicated home that is responsible for the work. We need people to do the work.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Elyssa, we need to put Assembly Bill 114 as the priority and all other recommendations will fall under this.

### 9. Discuss Agenda Items and for Upcoming Finance & Policy Subcommittee meeting.

(Discussion for Possible Action) The subcommittee discussed agenda items for the next subcommittee meeting.

*Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- The agenda item for the next meeting will include and focus on the prioritization process and the item prioritization for policy recommendations.

### 10. 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.*

- No Public Comment

### 11. Adjournment

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned the meeting at 2:12pm

#### Action Items:

1. Prioritize the existing list of policy recommendations and establish a system for sharing policy issues.
2. Create a Google form to gather input from members and prioritize the policy recommendations.
3. The subcommittee acknowledged the various lists of policy recommendations that have been presented, including those from CAA and the national data points in rankings presented today. It was agreed that these lists would serve as a starting point for identifying policy priorities.
4. Identify key policy priorities by the next meeting and explore ways to collect input from the broader community.
5. Creating a system for receiving input from the broader community about issues or barriers they are experiencing.
6. Embed a feedback mechanism within the new website launch and utilize the existing channels such as CAA and the ECAC's website.
7. It was agreed that a streamlined process and procedure for sharing and receiving input should be developed to ensure efficient communication.

#### One Sentence Meeting Summary

The subcommittee discussed Early Childhood Policy Recommendations, Updates on the Winter Policy Summit, and plans to move forward on prioritizing future Early Childhood Policy Recommendations.