



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 2, 2024 11:00AM

*“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 tele-video.

### Minutes Summary

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

*Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Alston welcomed Hector Mendoza, ECAC New Administrator Coordinator and everyone following roll call.

#### **Members in Attendance:**

- Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
- Elysa Arroyo, Policy, and Finance Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative
- Abbey Bernhardt, System and Alignment Subcommittee Co-chair

#### **Members Not in Attendance:**

- Marty Elquist, ECAC Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Jennifer Butler, Communications and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Karissa Loper Machado, Data and Evaluation 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 Advisor, The Children’s Cabinet
- Joan Jackson, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education
- Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet
- Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Manager Birth - 5, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Hector Mendoza, Early Childhood Advisory Council Administrative Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education Office of Early Learning and Development.
- Rosa Tamayo, Northern Nevada Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Sabrina Schnur, Government Affairs Associate, Belz and Case Government Affairs
- Sarah Karat, QRIS, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Jamie Mendez, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Nayesdi Badillo, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Jamille Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children Advocacy Alliance
- Bernard Sands, Social Service Program Specialist, DCFS - Children's Behavioral Health Systems
- Annette Owens Dawson, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Darlene Anderson, Member of the Public
- Lupita Gonzalez (Guadalupe), Parent Member, Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council

### 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.

- Abbey Bernhardt announced that she is a new board member for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), she is trying to push hard to get more youth involved. Currently they serve youth 10-14years old. She reported that they have a youth advocacy committee, warm line, connections, work groups, and other resources. If anyone can connect more youth or has something to offer, please reach out to her.
- Ashley Dines responded to Abbey, I work directly with families with small children. I would love to connect, collaborate, and assist with anything we can do.

### 3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee approved a flexible agenda. The Subcommittee 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 ECAC Leadership Subcommittee Meeting Agenda – Page 1 ECAC Leadership Subcommittee Meeting Agenda – Page 2, and 3 of the agenda at any time.

*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair*

- Ashley Dine moved to approve a flexible agenda.
- Patrice Gardner second the motion to approve a flexible agenda.
- None opposed.
- The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Minutes from March 5, 2024

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee discussed and approved the March 5, 2024, minutes.

*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair*



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Tiffany Alston asked for a motion to approve the minutes with corrections suggested by public comment (acronyms BDR and QUINN and change any names to include last names not mentioned).
- Kathy Yoder Bass motioned to approve the minutes with the mentioned corrections.
- Patrice Gardner seconded the motion.
- None opposed.
- The motion to approve the minutes with corrections carried.

### 5. Bylaws Revision Updates and Follow up.

(Discussion for Possible Action as discussed at the March 20, 2024, ECAC meeting)

The subcommittee may select co-chairs for subcommittees as adherence to ECAC Bylaws.

*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair Materials:*

Tiffany Alston opened the discussion regarding the ECAC Bylaws being changed and approved at the General ECAC meeting. Tiffany Alston appointed Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt as co-chairs for the System and Alignment meeting as recommended by the General council.

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt as co-chairs for the Systems & Alignment Subcommittee.
- Kathy Yoder Bass seconded the motion.
- None opposed.
- Motion carried.

### 6. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) Updates

(Information Discussion)

The subcommittee heard updates regarding the work of the NECFLC (such as but not limited to the mentorship program, events, and meeting recaps).

*Rosa Tamayo and Ashley Dines, Family Leadership Coordinators, The Children's Cabinet*

- Ashley Dines expressed her gratitude to this leadership subcommittee for collaborating with her and her team.
- Rosa Tamayo introduced a family member, Lupita Gonzalez (Guadalupe), who will present to the committee again, as her video story captions were translated from Spanish into English since her participation in the General ECAC meeting on March 5, 2024.
- Guadalupe's video story shared her involvement with Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council and the benefits she has received from it.
- Guadalupe's video story explained how being a part of NECFLC has allowed her to share her experiences with healthcare and well-being. Guadalupe moved to Nevada with her children and enrolled them in school. A few days later, a health promoter visited the school and gave an insurance presentation. However, she discovered that her child, born outside of the United States and Nevada, would not be eligible for medical insurance. Instead, she was informed that her child would only qualify for low-cost insurance.
- Guadalupe's video story expressed her disappointment and frustration at the inequity of not all children qualifying for health coverage and hospital care. She mentioned that other families were facing the same



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

issues. Guadalupe emphasized the importance of providing medical coverage to children in Nevada, as many parents cannot afford the cost of treatment if their child falls ill. She mentioned she must travel to take her children for treatment.

- Ashely Dines thanked Guadalupe for sharing her story again and for her efforts to raise awareness about this issue. She encouraged Guadalupe to continue sharing her story with others and expressed her appreciation to ECAC and NECFLC for providing a platform for parents to discuss such matters.
- Rachel Stepina thanked Guadalupe for sharing her story as well and added that she is valued in this space, while also adding that the committee is looking to improve ways for all voices to be added.
- Rachel Stepina asked Sabrina Jones to turn on the 'interpretation channel' on Zoom so Guadalupe can hear the meeting in Spanish and requested permission from Tiffany Alston to do so.
- Tiffany Alston granted Sabrina Jones permission to open the interpretation channel.
- Ashley Dines asked Rosa Tamayo to see if the interpretation feature was working for Guadalupe.
- Nayesdi explained that interpretation feature only works if someone is assigned as an interpreter, sending both the interpreter and Guadalupe to a new 'Spanish Interpretation Channel'.
- Nayesdi volunteered herself to be Guadalupe's interpreter in the Spanish Interpretation Channel on Zoom.
- Patrice Gardner expressed her gratitude on behalf of herself and Tiffany Alston, the Chair of ECAC. She emphasized the need to find opportunities to advocate for medical care for all children and to encourage legislators to support this cause.

### 7. Targeted Recruitment Discussion

(Information/Discussion for Possible Action)

The leadership subcommittee discussed ECAC membership vacancies to develop strategies for targeted membership recruitment more broadly.

*Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development*

- Sabrina Jones updated the committee on the ongoing membership applications for the ECAC. She has spoken with the Board and commission representative, who will work to approve the current applications; Sabrina mentioned that we are still looking to fill the tribal seat.
- Jamie Mendez informed the committee that she has a potential candidate in mind for the position.
- Sabrina Jones said she would follow up with Jamie Mendez for more information about her lead.

### 8. Subcommittee Workplan Review and Future Agenda Items

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee discussed updates, progress and needs related to the Combined Subcommittee Workplan document. The subcommittee used this discussion to inform agenda items for the next Leadership subcommittee meeting and/or the next General ECAC Meeting

- *Leadership Subcommittee – Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs*
- *System and Alignment Subcommittee – Chair Vacancy, Tiffany Olivas, Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs*
- *Communications and Engagement Subcommittee – Jennifer Butler Co-Chair, (Co-Chair vacancy)*
- *Finance and Policy Subcommittee – Elysa Arroyo, Brenda Morales-Solorzano Co-Chairs*
- *Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – Marty Elquist and Karissa Loper Machado, Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Alston initiated the discussion on the work plan.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- ECAC Systems Specialist Sabrina Jones suggested reformatting of the work plan for easy remediation with each update.
- Tiffany Alston appreciated the proposal and agreed to discuss it in the next ECAC meeting.
- Tiffany Olivas shared regarding the workplan that the team uses the rubrics to ensure they are valid before sharing them. She also expressed the team's readiness to share the information they have gathered so far, highlighting their competence and trustworthiness.
- Tiffany Alston welcomed Tiffany Olivas to present the rubrics at the next leadership meeting.
- Tiffany Alston confirmed that a Family Childcare Association presentation would be held during the upcoming General ECAC meeting.

### 9. Nevada's Prenatal to Age 3 ECCS Strategic Plan

(Information/Discussion)

The Subcommittee heard a brief overview of Nevada's Prenatal to Age 3 ECCS Strategic Plan

*Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet*

- Tiffany Olivas provided an overview of the Nevada Prenatal to Age 3 Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) Strategic Plan. This plan has been in development for over a year and a half, with the assistance of an Early Childhood Comprehensive System leadership team. It is the first strategic plan in Nevada that focuses specifically on the prenatal to age three population, and it is an exciting development.
- Tiffany Olivas expressed gratitude to the parents who participated in the presentation and invited them to ask any questions they may have. She also provided access to the plan via a QR code and the Children's Cabinet website.
- Tiffany mentioned that the ECCS Leadership and core teams offered support, as did Denise Tanada, who helped develop the plan. The strategic plan includes information on an Early Childhood system, programmatic elements, governance support and elements, and what the ECCS aims to achieve. It also includes a page on key activities, each of which is aligned with systems. The plan also includes photos solicited from the ECAC. For each goal and objective, systematic and programmatic objectives have been identified. There are three goals, each with three objectives.
- Tiffany Olivas reviewed these goals and objectives during the presentation. Goal 1 is to increase equitable access to programs and services using a targeted universalism approach. Goal 2 is to meet families' needs by developing a family-centered early childhood system. Goal 3 is to create a unified early childhood system across sectors.
- Tiffany Olivas noted that the ECAC and PN-3 goals are very much aligned.
- Tiffany Alston asked a question on who is currently using the PN-3 strategic plan.
- Tiffany Olivas, we want to make sure the strategic plan is for system leaders, programmatic leaders who are serving young children and even parents. We develop a snapshot of what we can do and what we are not able to do. I would love for everyone to read the strategic plan and provide feedback,

### 10. Language Access Plan

(Information/Discussion)

The subcommittee heard a presentation on the initial progress of a Nevada-specific, cross-sector Early Childhood Language Access Plan, and discussed potential impacts or considerations to the work of the Nevada ECAC and Early Childhood Systems in general.

*Rachel Stepina, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development*



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Rachel Stepina gave a brief review of the Early Childhood Language Access Plan and plans to fully review the Language Access Plan at the next General ECAC meeting.
- Rachel Stepina shared that she was selected to represent Nevada as one of eight states and fellows participating in the 2024 National Association of State leaders in Early Education Leadership Academy (NASLEE).
  - The fellowship includes a job-embedded capstone project. Rachel Stepina has included her project to create an early childhood language access plan, examining cross sector language policy that includes or excludes young emergent, multilingual children and their families.
  - Through this project, Rachel Stepina will be working with partners across the state to develop the state's first unitary early childhood language access plan.
  - Senate Bill 318 passed in Nevada 2021 legislative session, requiring state agencies to create language access plans. Now Nevada state has about 20 language access plans at minimum and none of them focus explicitly on early childhood.
  - Language Access in early childhood has become very fragmented making it essential that early childhood spaces are equitable, linguistically equitable.
  - This work will affect the Nevada ECAC.
  - Language access during the earliest years is critically important because otherwise we're excluding large percentages of our early childhood population and their families.
- Tiffany Alston thanked Rachel Stepina for her presentation and noted that Rachel will do a continuation of sharing this Early Childhood Language Access Plan.

### **11. Discuss Agenda Items for Next General ECAC meeting.**

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee discussed agenda items for the upcoming General ECAC meeting.

*Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Leadership Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Alston asked the FCC partner to do a presentation about their new Association, including adding a language access plan, information, and discussion.
- Denise Tanata mentioned including the early childhood systems definition that we tabled; it would be the exact same one that is in the key three strategic plan that Tiffany Olivas just shared in her presentation. It's our plan to create alignment across a common definition.
- Tiffany Alston expressed wanting a presentation on National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) in May that Abby Bernhardt mentioned earlier in discussion in the first public comment, while also adding that they are a great organization, and that she had an opportunity to meet a few members from there last Friday.
- Abbey Bernhardt replied I will leave the contacts in the chat for follow-up with Robin or Laura Yanis Denise Tanata reported that she will be prepared to give a presentation on the updates for the Early Childhood fiscal map and gap analysis in May, or we can do it at a later meeting if that would be more appropriate. I would also like to see if we could have a little bit of time to talk about the First Five Nevada websites and particularly engagement of ECAC members and partners on some of the outreach and engagement activities perfectly.
- Tiffany Olivas suggested sharing the Nevada p3 strategic plan during the general meeting as well or, during July General Meeting.





## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Tiffany Alston replied we will reach out to you and let you know if we would like you to share at the May or July Meeting.

### 12. 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.

- Denise Tanata shared I am following up on my previous comment, regarding First Five Nevada. We're doing a soft- launch this week, open to partners only. If you go to [firstfivenevada.org](http://firstfivenevada.org). We encourage you to look and play around with it. Let us know if anything looks like it needs to be changed. The First Five Nevada website will be publicly launched next week. We encourage you to share it with your family and partners publicly next week.

### 13. Adjournment

Tiffany Alston adjourned the meeting at 12:44pm

#### Action Items:

- Reach out to National Alliance for Mental Health for a presentation.
- Add Early Access Language Plan presentation to a future General ECAC Agenda
- Add a discussion regarding updated workplan document remediation.

#### One Sentence Summary of the Meeting

The subcommittee received presentations on challenges faced by parents in medical insurance, Nevada's Prenatal to 3 Strategic Plan, and a brief overview of an Early Childhood Early Access Plan. In Addition, updates on recruitment, future workplan and agenda planning.