



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING MARCH 20, 2024, AT 9AM

“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 videoconference and in person at:

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: !BW1EJ7&

MINUTES SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Tiffany Alston, Chair, Patrice Gardner, Vice-Chairs, Subcommittee Co-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 C
- Carrie Paldi- Seat H
- Abbey Bernhardt- Seat O
- Julie Houchins- Seat M
- Elysa Arroyo- Seat R
- Lori Ann Malina-Lovell – Seat E
- Jennifer Butler – Seat R
- Julie Houchins – Seat A
- Edith Farmer – Seat A
- Tami Conn – Seat B
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano – Seat L
- Arielle Newell-Rollins – Seat Q
- Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell – Seat C



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Members Not in Attendance:

- Joan Jackson – Seat D
- Stephanie Vega – Seat I
- Tina Springmeyer – Seat M

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.
- Brenda Morales seconded the motion.
- All agreed.

4. Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2024

Nevada ECAC Meeting Minutes – Page 3 (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:

- Jennifer Butler motioned to approve the minutes from January's meeting.
- Julie Houchins seconded the motion.
- All agreed and the motion was approved.

5. Review ECAC Bylaws Proposed Amendment

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

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston proposed amendment to the bylaws, focusing on allowing partners to be chairs for ECAC subcommittees.
- Patrice Gardner outlined Section C of the desired amendments to the bylaws, which includes new membership additions to subcommittees such as parents of children under eight and representatives from public schools and tribal organizations.
- Patrice Gardner discussed the next bylaw amendment proposal, which would make it non-mandatory for subcommittees to have co-chair positions. Non-members permitted as co-chairs if a member appointed by the governor serves as chair.
- Patrice Gardner opened up to the attendees for any questions regarding the language in the bylaws.
- Rachel Stepina made a public comment to ask for clarification that the language in the AB114 (2023) fiscal note that is subject to change is regarding the need for *at least* one member that has to be a parent.



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- Tiffany Alston asked Sabrina Jones to edit the language to say “*at least* one member” to the bylaws.
- Jennifer Butler noticed a typo in the bylaws that indented a double lettering of Section C, incorrectly lettering the sequential order of sections.
- Sabrina Jones clarified that the double lettering of Section C was intentional per the previous meeting minutes, and offered to separate the section into two, named Section C and Section C.1 respectively.
- Rachel Stepina commented that the main difference between both Section Cs is the words *elect* and *select*, clarifying the distinction between both sections.
- Sabrina Jones defined the first Section C as having one member as a voting member and one that's not a voting member, while the other Section C explains who would be the person that was selected that co-chair.
- Tiffany Alston requested to clarify the language in Section C by merging the two Section Cs into one Section C.
- Jennifer Butler recommended removing the first Section C and changing the language in the second Section C to include language from the first Section C, effectively merging both sections into one.
- Sabrina Jones asked for clarification that the desired language in Section C is to be read as: “Each subcommittee shall have one co-chair who is a voting member of the council and an option to elect a co-chair from the subcommittee who is not a voting member of the Council selected by a co-chair.”
- Elysa Arroyo suggested adding clarification to Section C by adding “regardless of membership status” to elect a co-chair from the subcommittee.
- Rachel Stepina pointed out that this language suggested by Elysa Arroyo may mistakenly imply “regardless of subcommittee membership”.
- Elysa Arroyo revised her suggestion to clarify Section C by rewording it to read "regardless of voting status".
- Tiffany Alston asked Elysa Arroyo to restate her comment for clarity.
- Elysa Arroyo suggested eliminating the initial sentence in Section C.
- Elysa Arroyo also suggested adding a period at the end of “each standing committee shall have at least one co-chair who is a voting member of the council” in Section C, and adding a new sentence that states that the second co-chair can be a “member of the committee who is not a voting member of the council”.
- Patrice Gardner voiced her concern by saying that the language Elysa Arroyo is suggesting for the Section C could hinder the business of the subcommittees if positions remain vacant.
- Patrice Gardner recalled that Marty Elquist also made the same suggestion at the last General ECAC meeting in January in which she didn't want the language locking a subcommittee into needed two chairs.
- Tiffany Alston asked Sabrina to capture the edits in Section C so that the language includes “the option to *select* a co-chair from the committee with a non-voting member of the council”.
- Sabrina Jones verified for the committee that the suggested edits to Section C have been made.
- Patrice Gardner vocalized Rachel Stepina's message in the chat in which she suggested adding “each standing subcommittee shall have at least one chair who is a voting member of the council. The chair has an option to select a co-chair who is a voting member of a subcommittee for the voting council.
- Elysa Arroyo expressed concern that the new edits to Section C sound like it precludes any voting members from being co-chairs.
- Tiffany Alston clarified that the co-chair could be a voting or non-voting member.
- Rachel Stepina requested Elysa Arroyo to vocalize a comment she left in the chat regarding wording to the revision to Section C that Rachel Stepina liked.
- Elysa Arroyo vocalized her suggested revision as “each subcommittee will have one co-chair who is a voting member of the council and *an option* to select a co-chair from the committee regardless of voting status”.
- Tiffany Alston objected to the wording, deeming it redundant as subcommittee members are already not required to be voting members of the council.
- Patrice Gardner suggested revising the re-wording to Elysa Arroyo's edit to say “regardless of *member status*”.



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- Tiffany Alston noticed a comment made by Rachel Stepina in the chat, so Tiffany Alston asked Rachel Stepina to vocalize it.
- Rachel Stepina vocalized her comment which states that each standing committee shall have at least one chair who is a voting member, but also has the option to select a co-chair from the committee regardless of their membership status.
- Tiffany Alston agreed with Rachel Stepina's comment because it gives the subcommittee chairs flexibility.
- Tiffany Alston asked Jennifer Butler and Elysa Arroyo if Rachel Stepina's suggested edit captures the level of flexibility in selecting a co-chair that they were looking for.
- Jennifer Butler expressed that she liked the change.
- Elysa Arroyo asked for clarity as to if the co-chair could be a council member or not a council member, or as a wider council member as opposed to subcommittee membership.
- Tiffany Alston clarified that at least one of the subcommittee co-chairs must be a governor appointed council member, but the second co-chair could be either governor appointed or someone who is a member of the subcommittee.
- Rachel Stepina added public comment to emphasize the importance of the distinction with the voting members of the council and expressed that it needs to be clear.
- Tiffany Alston asked the council if they are in agreement with the suggested wording made by Rachel Stepina.
- Brianna Cambra added public comment expressing concern over Section D in the bylaw revisions and asked if the selection of a non-voting member by the chair is automatically approved or if it required approval from leadership.
- Brianna Cambra supposed a scenario where multiple individuals are interested in the co-chair position, and inquired if this could lead to favoritism taking place.
- Tiffany Alston appreciated Brianna Cambra's concern but also made clear that there needs to be further revision made to the bylaws in general because of the challenged that the council has faced recently with subcommittees not being able to meet for months due to the lack of co-chairs.
- Tiffany Alston shared a story of Tiffany Olivas who volunteered to co-chair one of the subcommittees with a newer ECAC council member, and expressed that Tiffany Olivas would be a great fit to train this new individual so that the subcommittee can start working towards its goals.
- Tiffany Alston expressed to Brianna Cambra that the council is taking her comments into consideration, but unfortunately, they have not been able to put together an ad hoc committee to do a deeper dive in the bylaw revisions.
- Tiffany Alston clarified that all they seek to accomplish in this meeting is getting flexibility in place for chairs to select a co-chair from the committee that does not necessarily have to be a member.
- Tiffany Alston asked if the new language edited live in the bylaws is wording from the chat that the council wanted.
- Rachel Stepina deferred to a council member to answer that question since hers is a public comment.
- Elysa Arroyo asked for a repeat of Tiffany Alston's question regarding the wording in the chat.
- Tiffany Alston added clarification that the screen shows an edited version of Section C of the bylaws and asked if Elysa Arroyo and Jennifer Bulter can review it and approve.
- Elysa Arroyo approved the new wording in Section C of the bylaws but wanted there to also be clarification in the wording that changes "committee" to "subcommittee".
- Jennifer Bulter approved the edit.
- Tiffany Alston presented the two edits made in the bylaws and asked for approval.
- Rachel Stepina revisited the concern that Brianna Cambra had about the unknown process of approving a co-chair.
- Tiffany Alston suggested adding this public comment surrounding guidance to how a subcommittee selects a co-chair in the next agenda for the leadership subcommittee.
- Tiffany Alston opened up the meeting for a vote.
- *Someone* made a motion.
- Elysa Arroyo seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor, none opposed.



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- The motion passed.

6. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council Updates

(Information/Discussion) The Council heard updates from the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council.

Ashley Dines, The Children's Cabinet

Rosa Tamayo, The Children's Cabinet

- Tiffany Alston introduced Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo who will be providing updates
- Ashley Dines expressed that Rosa Tamayo may be late as she is hosting another meeting.
- Ashley Dines announced that the NECFLC will be doing a Facebook Live session soon and encouraged attendees to follow them on social networks.
- Ashley Dines also announced plans to involve parent leaders in a discussion, emphasizing the significance of parent leadership in relevant spaces. Ashley Dines mentioned ongoing outreach efforts, providing a link for the application in the chat, and introduced a newly created general email address.
- Ashley Dines mentioned ongoing outreach efforts, providing a link for the application in the chat, and introduced a newly created general email address for general inquiries.
- Tiffany Alston asked Ashley Dines for a date for the Facebook Live stream, and for the email address for NECFLC.
- Ashley Dines shared that there is currently no date set up yet for the Facebook Live stream, however, she provided links in the chat for the NECFLC's social media accounts and email address.
- Tiffany Alston asked if there are any questions for Ashley Dines or the NECFLC.
- Tiffany Alston expressed that she could not see the newest chat and asked for information regarding that.
- Patrice Gardner clarified that the new message in the chat in question is a link to the NECFLC application.

7. Parent Voice and Updates

(Information/Discussion) The Council heard updates or share outs from parents attending the ECAC meeting, including but not limited to parent representatives or groups such as the Children's Advocacy Ambassadors program, Nevada Family Engagement Framework Advisory Committee, etc.

- Tiffany Alston introduced a NECFLC parent in the meeting who is leaving the meeting to join the time-conflicting NECFLC meeting.
- Ashley Dines expressed that they would like to recognize all the parents in attendance, and listed Guadalupe (Lupita) Gonzalez from Northern Nevada and Erica Barkley from Southern Nevada.
- Ashley Dines prefaced a video by reminding the council that this is a safe space for parents and they are simply sharing their own experiences in the video.
- Ashley Dines asked Anna Villatoro to share the video on the screen.
- Anna Villatoro encountered technical difficulties but thought of sharing the video through SharePoint.
- Nayesdi Badillo added a public comment to ask if she could provide an update about the Birth Through 12 Family Engagement Framework.
- Tiffany Alston approved Nayesdi Badillo sharing an update.
- Nayesdi Badillo shared plans to update the early childhood family engagement framework, involving families, community partners, educational partners, and organizations in the process. She mentions the next meeting on March 28th, focusing on tools, resources, and principles related to family engagement.
- Nayesdi Badillo highlighted the involvement of various parent groups, such as NECFLC parents and CAA parents, emphasizing the ongoing effort to improve and retain family engagement. She also addressed the challenge of maintaining engagement and mentioned exploring platforms to make content accessible beyond ECAC meetings.
- Tiffany Alston asked for any questions regarding Nayesdi Badillo's updates.



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- Tiffany Alston asked Sabrina to put everyone on mute and to play the video.
- Guadalupe Gonzalez, in the video, shared her personal experience regarding the challenges of obtaining medical insurance for her children, particularly highlighting the inequality faced by children who were not born in the United States and the financial burden this places on their families. She expressed a hope for equal opportunities for all children and thanked the Children's Cabinet for providing a platform for parents to voice their concerns.
- Ashley Dines thanked Guadalupe Gonzalez for sharing that information in her video, and invited Erica Barkley to share her story.
- Erica Barkley shared her extensive journey navigating the healthcare system for her twin boys, who suffered significant trauma as infants, resulting in various medical issues and challenging behaviors. Despite facing numerous obstacles, including a lack of case management and difficulty finding appropriate psychiatric care, she persisted in advocating for her children's needs, eventually finding help at Children's Hospital in Cincinnati. Through years of rehabilitation and support services, her boys have made remarkable progress, highlighting the importance of early intervention and parental advocacy for children with complex medical and behavioral needs. She concluded by raising important questions about the support and advocacy needed for children in similar situations.
- Ashley Dines thanked Erica Barkley for sharing her story.
- Tiffany Alston also thanked Erica Barkley and opened it up for the ECAC to comment.
- Tiffany Alston voiced some sentiments in solidarity that Erica Barkley received in the chat.
- Patrice Gardner expressed sentiments over Erica Barkley's story, and mentioned that her story was especially touching for her as a former early intervention specialist.
- Patrice Gardner raised a question to see what the ECAC can do to help support parents going through what Erica went through.
- Erica Barkley answered that she needed someone to connect her to available services to help her and expressed that she does not want another parent to go through what she went through.
- Erica Barkley expressed gratitude for the Children's Cabinet bringing attention to those services through First 5 Nevada.
- Patrice Gardner thanked Erica Barkley for answering her question and asked around for additional comments or questions.
- Arielle Newell-Rollins expressed empathy and admiration for Erica's journey, acknowledging the challenges she faced and the strength it took to advocate for her children, and emphasized how it resonated with her as a parent, underscoring the importance of providing support and care for children, especially those with complex needs.
- Arielle Newell-Rollins expressed hope for her own children's well-being and thanked Erica again for her courage and resilience.
- Erica Barkley thanked Arielle Newell-Rollins for her empathy and comments.
- Kathy Yoder Bass expressed gratitude to Erica for sharing her story and highlighted the importance of involving Nevada PEP in discussions concerning children with special needs, noting their valuable resources and support network.
- Kathy Yoder Bass drew from her own experience as a special needs parent, and emphasized the challenges families face in accessing necessary services and navigating the system, and urged the ECAC to provide support in accessing these resources and suggested improving information-sharing to better assist families in need.
- Erica Barkley added to Kathy Yoder Bass's comment by saying that Nevada PEP helped her immensely in the process.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward thanked Erica Barkley for sharing her story and emphasized the importance of family narratives in both celebrating successes and identifying areas for improvement within the system.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward acknowledged the lack of coordination within the system, noting that families shouldn't bear the burden of organizing services themselves.
- Abby Bernhardt expressed appreciation for Erica Barkley's story, describing it as touching and enlightening. She thanked Erica Barkley for advocating for her children.
- Abby Bernhardt shared a personal connection, revealing her own diagnosis of bipolar disorder at age three and the challenges her mother faced in seeking help for her, and highlighted her dedication to changing policies and advocating for early intervention to support children's independence.



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- Abby Bernhardt emphasized the importance of not placing limits on children's capabilities, citing her own journey as evidence that rehabilitation and achieving dreams are possible.
- Tiffany Alston shared with Erica Barkley that there is a lot of support being shared in the chat.
- Tiffany Alston thanked Dr. Linda Young for her sticking around to keep the meeting in quorum and shared that she is mindful of her time.

8. Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

(Information/Discussion)

The council received an update regarding the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health *Jacqueline Kleinedler, Executive Director of the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health*

- Tiffany Alston invited Jacqueline Kleinedler to give an update regarding the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.
- Tiffany Alston noted that Jacqueline Kleinedler's last name was misspelled in the agenda but assured it would be corrected in the minutes.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler introduced herself as the Executive Director for the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. She expressed gratitude for being in this field, highlighting the collaborative nature of working with infants and young children compared to her previous work with adolescents, where she often had to justify the need for intervention.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler acknowledged the collective effort of those in the meeting and beyond, spanning decades, that laid the foundation for the association's work.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler also commended the group for their work on bylaws, drawing from her experience with the Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium, and appreciated the careful deliberation and conversation involved in crafting bylaws.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler provided an overview of the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health through a presentation, and began with announcing that the association was officially formed last spring and launched its work in the fall of the same year.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler introduced the association's mission to serve as a hub and connection point for professionals working with families from prenatal through age six (with potential expansion to age eight), and emphasized that the association welcomes anyone interested in early relational health, not just mental health professionals.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler further discussed the association's role in bringing the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement to Nevada, highlighting its importance in recognizing providers' knowledge and skills and identifying gaps in understanding.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler presented a map showing states with similar endorsement processes and noted Nevada's uniqueness in offering both early childhood and infant endorsements simultaneously, and encouraged attendees to join the association, emphasizing that membership is free in 2024, and provided information on how to do so on the slide.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler asked for comments or questions.
- Tiffany Alston shared gratitude for Jacqueline Kleinedler's presentation, and expressed excitement for Jacqueline Kleinedler's work.
- Dr. Linda Young commented her acknowledgement in the critical importance of the information being shared regarding early learning and mental health.
- Dr. Linda Young highlighted ongoing efforts within various organizations and affiliations, such as the Nevada Association of School Administrators, The Village Foundation, the Nevada Department of Education, and Clark County School District, to address early learning needs.
- Dr. Linda Young expressed a specific interest in ensuring that mental health issues in infants and young children are addressed early to prevent later challenges, such as bipolar disorders, and sought recommendations on how organizations like hers could support early learning efforts more effectively.



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- Dr. Linda Young expressed her intention to join the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and to encourage others to do the same. She requested recommendations on how her organization, the Village Foundation, and similar groups could collaborate and promote awareness of the valuable services provided by the association.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler emphasized the willingness of the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health to collaborate and support existing initiatives related to early childhood mental health, and encouraged inviting the association to relevant discussions and meetings where they could contribute expertise or provide presentations.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler mentioned ongoing efforts to develop training curriculum aligned with competencies for infant and early childhood mental health. Jacqueline highlighted the association's collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education to create materials for early education professionals, including those working in preschools, kindergartens, and first grade.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler suggested ways for organizations and individuals to engage with the association, such as joining the mailing list, becoming members, and inviting them to participate in curriculum development or training opportunities, and emphasized the importance of integrating early relational health into existing work and offered support to help individuals understand how to incorporate these principles effectively.
- Dr. Linda Young thanked Jacqueline Kleinedler for her answer and emphasized the significance of early childhood development not only for children but also for families and communities and highlighted the challenges faced in working with infants as young as six or seven months old, underlining the importance of the association's efforts.
- Dr. Linda Young indicated her willingness to support the association's initiatives, mentioning her involvement in community events and programs aimed at promoting early learning.
- Dr. Linda Young shared her own journey of realizing the importance of early learning, having been a high school teacher and later understanding its significance through her work with high school principals and individuals at the secondary level.
- Dr. Linda Young expressed gratitude to Jacqueline and expressed her intention to contact her to explore opportunities for collaboration, such as presenting at the Early Learning Institute and identifying ways to partner with the association.
- Jacqueline Kleinedler expressed interest in Dr. Linda Young's idea of collaborating with her work.
- Tiffany Alston agreed with Dr. Linda Young's suggestion of having Jacqueline Kleinedler collaborate with the Early Learning Institute.
- Tiffany Alston asked around for questions, of which, there was none.

9. Nevada Preschool to 3rd -Leadership Academy

(Information/Discussion)

The council will receive updates regarding Nevada P-3 Recruitment Cohort

Rachel Stepina, Office of Early Learning & Development

- Tiffany Alston announced that they would combine Agenda Item 12 and 13, and skip Agenda Item 11.
- Rachel Stepina asked Sabrina Jones to share the Nevada P3 Recruitment Cohort engagement flyer on the screen.
- Rachel Stepina discussed the Nevada P-3 Recruitment Cohort, a program hosted by the National P-3 Center aimed at supporting elementary and early childcare administrators or directors.
- Rachel Stepina clarified that "P3" stands for "preschool to third grade" and is not to be confused with "prenatal to three years old."
- Rachel Stepina explained that the program spans 10 months and involves both national and Nevada-specific components, and that the program is funded through the Department of Education and Title II-A funds, with a \$2,500 tuition fee.
- Rachel Stepina further explained that the participants may also receive a \$1,000 engagement participation stipend upon completion of the program, as well as \$3,000 in action plan funding to complete a project based on their interests and application of knowledge.
- Rachel Stepina provided information on how to apply, including live hyperlinks in the document and access to the



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application flyer on the Nevada ECAC website.

- Rachel Stepina encouraged interested individuals to apply before the window closes on April 14th, and mentioned the option to join a waiting list in case the current cohort is filled and for future recruitment for subsequent cohorts.
- Rachel Stepina highlighted that the program is fully online and involves a significant time commitment but is well worth the effort. She emphasized the opportunity for collaboration and networking among colleagues and peers working in early childhood education settings in Nevada. Finally, she offered to address any questions about the program and provided access to the flyer on the Nevada ECAC website.
- Tiffany Alston thanked Rachel Stepina and asked for confirmation if the flyer is available to be handed out.
- Rachel Stepina confirmed that it is publicly available on the Nevada ECAC website.

10. Nevada Early Childhood Educator of The Year

(Information/Discussion)

The council will receive an update on the status of the Nevada Early Childhood Educator of the Year award and information about how to nominate an early childhood educator.

Patrice Gardner, Vice Chair

- Patrice Gardner introduced the fourth annual Nevada Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award, a prestigious recognition organized by the Nevada Department of Education's Office of Early Learning and Development, which aims to honor educators who are dedicated to supporting the youngest learners, including those from birth through Pre-K, encompassing various educational settings such as general education and special education programs, early learning centers, community-based centers, infant-toddler programs, and home-based child care centers.
- Patrice Gardner emphasized the importance of sharing the information about the award within the community and highlighted that nominations are due by April 28th, with the application process beginning afterward.
- Patrice Gardner encouraged the audience to share the information, providing a QR code that links to the applications for all Teacher of the Year awards, including the specific one for early educators.
- Patrice Gardner expressed the hope for many applicants and the intention to highlight as many deserving individuals as possible.

11. Subcommittee Updates and Workplan

(Information/Discussion)

Discuss updates, recommendations and workplan progress from ECAC Subcommittees and priorities for 2024.

Material: ECAC Combined Work Plan

- *Leadership Subcommittee – Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs*
- *System Alignment Subcommittee – Vacant*
- *Communications and Engagement Subcommittee – Jennifer Butler, Co-chair*
- *Finance and Policy Subcommittee – Elysa Arroyo, and Brenda Morales-Chairs*
- *Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – Marty Elquist and Karrissa Loper, Co-Chairs*

- This agenda item was skipped for time.

12. Local ECAC Updates

(Information Discussion)

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.

Materials: March 2024 Local ECAC Summary Report



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- *Carson/Douglas ECAC – Tiffany Olivas*
- *Elko County ECAC – Kelly Melendez*
- *Southern Nevada ECAC – Amanda Haboush-Deloye*
- *Tri-counties ECAC – Ashleigh Baker*
- *Washoe County ECAC – Kacey Edgington, Anna Severens*

- Tiffany Alston asked Local ECAC members to share updates.
- Joyce Bumagat shared that there were updates regarding the various initiatives at the Southern Nevada ECAC, including the Nevada Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Plan, Strong Start activities, and the Nevada Afterschool Network. The library district also presented its resources and offered a tour.
- Joyce Bumagat also shared that the library district presented its resources and offered a tour, and also added that the discussions were held regarding the 2024 Step Up for Kids event scheduled for October 12th. The Strong Start Youth Mayor attended the Nevada Afterschool Showcase and participated in the closing panel titled "Elevating Youth Voice."
- Joyce Bumagat also shared that in a strategic planning meeting held in October, it was decided to host a local Children's Day at a city government, and outreach was conducted to city governments in February, and North Las Vegas and Henderson expressed interest.
- Joyce Bumagat also shared that they planning discussions for both the Children's Day event and other initiatives will continue during the next two Southern Nevada ECAC meetings, and that the next Southern Nevada ECAC meeting is scheduled for October 17th at the Las Vegas City Hall.
- Kacey Edgington from the Washoe County ECAC shared that on March 9th, there were 115 attendees from Pre-K through 3rd grade community-based and public educators who came together to learn about social-emotional learning.
- Rachel Stepina showed enthusiasm over Kacey Edgington's update and added that she has heard a lot of praise from her son's school about this event.

13. State Agency and Partner Updates

(Information/Discussion)

Relevant informational items from state agencies and departments on programs, services, initiatives and/or issues relevant to the ECAC Strategic Plan and work of the Council. Partners submit their reports in advance. When no update is provided in advance, listed partners will be given the opportunity to share a brief update verbally if a representative is present. Summary reports are provided in the Partner Summary Report document.

Materials: March 2024 NECAC Partner Summary Report

- Department of Education
 - Office of Early Learning & Development – Patti Oya
 - Early Childhood Special Education
 - Office of Student & School Supports –
- Department of Health and Human Services
 - Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program – Karissa Loper
 - Division of Child and Family Services, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Rhonda Lawrence
 - Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Childcare Licensing – Edith Farmer
 - Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health – Tami Conn
 - Director's Office, Aging and Disability Services, Part C and NEIS – Lori Ann Malina-Lovell
- Pyramid Model Update – Janice Lee
- Research and Needs Assessments – Amanda Haboush-Deloye
- NevAEYC Update – Carrie Paldi
- Nevada Child Care Provider Action Committee – Carrie Paldi
- Pritzker PN3 Initiative and Strong Start Update – Janelle Nance/Annette Dawson-Owens



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- HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Update –Tiffany Olivas
- ECE Workforce Plan – Jamie Mendez
- NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council – Ashley Dines/Rosa Tamayo
- New or Potential Grants and Funding – All
- Training & Professional Development Opportunities – All
 - Tiffany Alston asked for updates from state agencies and partners.
 - Crystal Johnson shared that all is going well with the CCSC.
 - Tami Conn shared that her name was in the wrong spot in the agenda, it should be under Child & Adolescent Health.
 - Tiffany Alston assured Tami Conn that the misstep in having her name in the right spot on the agenda would be corrected on the minutes and asked Tami Conn for an update from Maternal Child and Adolescent Health.
 - Tami Conn shared that her department is working on their Title V Maternal Child Health Five-Year Needs Assessment.
 - Tiffany Alston acknowledged how many are working on needs assessments at the moment, and supposed a potential collaboration in helping Tami Conn with her department's needs assessments.
 - Tiffany Alston asked Tami Conn how far into the needs assessments they are.
 - Tami Conn shared that they are in early stages because it is due in 2025, so they are planning on starting with focus groups surveys and key informant interviews in June.
 - Tiffany Alston asked for more input from the Department of Health and Human Services.
 - Lori Ann Malina-Lovell shared updates on their approved presentations at upcoming conferences in Reno and New Orleans regarding their PB Center, offering a curriculum for developmental specialists to fulfill alternative certification requirements, expressing gratitude for support in its growth.
 - Tiffany Alston asked Lori Ann Malina-Lovell if she was able to connect with Nevada Alliance for Infant Early Childhood Mental Health.
 - Lori Ann Malina-Lovell said they had the Nevada Alliance for Infant Early Childhood Mental Health present at their recent Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting, even hiring a new staff member with a certification through the alliance who will be participating in professional development with them.
 - Tiffany Alston asked for an update from Pyramid Model, Strong Start, and the Pritzker Initiative.
 - Jamelle Nance reported that there are no further updates aside from what's already been submitted.
 - Rachel Stepina announced that there would be an opportunity April 8th and 10th to develop the early childhood action steps and priorities, and encouraged the council to connect with Jamie Mendez for meeting information.
 - Tiffany Alston encouraged the council to find the hyperlink in the chat to participate in the early childhood workforce meetings that Rachel Stepina suggested.
 - Tiffany Alston announced that Sabrina Jones updated the new ECAC schedules live on the Nevada ECAC website.
 - Tiffany Alston announced that John Giammona Wilber, an ECAC Administrative Assistant, is no longer with the ECAC, and that they have identified a new team member named Hector Mendoza..
 - Sabrina Jones expressed that she's looking forward to Hector Mendoza's contribution and added that he will make a great fit to the team.
 - Tiffany Alston asked for participants who wanted to give updates to do so now.

14. 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.

- Tiffany Alston vocalized Kathy Yoder-Bass's reminder she messaged in the chat stating that the cost of care survey was closing that day.



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- Rachel Stepina informed the council about a newly received report on children experiencing homelessness, particularly highlighting a Nevada snapshot within the report, emphasizing the importance of this issue as a priority within the strategic planning subcommittee's work, offering to share the document's hyperlink, and suggesting consideration of the strategies outlined in the report to advance support and resources for this vulnerable population.

15. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned the meeting at 11:23am.

Selected Action Items

- The Council will seek guidance and discuss how a subcommittee selects co-chair.
- The Council will work with its subcommittee to update and add recommendation for the workplan.
- The Council will seek an updates from Frist Five Nevada.
- The Council will continue to discuss the definition for Early Childhood System.

One Sentence Summary

- The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council added adjustments to improve its bylaws by granting flexibility in giving subcommittees the ability to select co-chairs who don't necessarily have to be voting members in order for the subcommittee to be able to conduct business.