



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

FINANCE & POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

1PM

“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 will be held via Zoom videoconference:

<https://ndezoom.zoom.us/j/86707377682?pwd=dG9oMHAxYTJSOUhQbUVVQ3VvWXBMUT09> MEETING ID: 867 0737 7682

PASSCODE: 851310

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

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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 at sabrina.jones@doe.nv.org



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Minutes Summary

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

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

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.
- Members in Attendance:
 - Elysa Arroyo, Co-Chair
 - Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Co-Chair
 - Marty Elquist, SEED Director, The Children's Cabinet
 - Patti Oya, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development, Director
 - Brianna Cambra, Quality Manager, The Children's Cabinet
 - Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
 - Anna Marie Binder, Parent Representative
 - Brian Cullen, DWSS CCDP
- Members Not in Attendance:
 - Katarina Jackson, Provider Representative
 - Nicole Martin, DWSS CCDP
- Public in Attendance:
 - Anna Villatoro, ECCS Program Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
 - Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Systems Consultant, The Children's Cabinet
 - Elyse Monroy, Government Affairs Manager, Belz and Case Government Affairs
 - Hector Mendoza, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
 - Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
 - Rosa Tamayo, Family Leadership Coordinator (North), The Children's Cabinet
 - *Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development*
 - Sabrina Schnur, Belz and Case Government Affairs
 - Victoria Hernandez, Family Services Coach, Sunrise Children's Foundation

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)



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The subcommittee will motion to approve a flexible agenda.

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

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve a flexible agenda.
- Ashley Dines seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor of the motion; none opposed.
- The motion passed.

4. Approval of [March 14, 2024. minutes](#)

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee discussed approval of the March 14th meeting minutes.

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

- Elysa Arroyo caught some misspellings of her name in the March 14, 2024 minutes in Item #8.
- Elysa Arroyo made a motion to approve the minutes with the selected change.
- Brianna Cambra seconded the motion.
- The motion passed.

5. Subcommittee Workplan Review

The subcommittee reviewed and acted upon and/or updated their workplan. The subcommittee discussed prioritizing Early Childhood Policy Recommendations.

(Discussion for Possible Action)

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

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano reintroduced that in the last meeting there was discussion surrounding potentially implementing a Google form for policy suggestions or addressing existing ones.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano sought input to update the work plan.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked Sabrina Jones to pull up the subcommittee work plan.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano pointed out the focus of the meeting will surround some of the language included in the work plan that addresses compiling policy changes for early childhood systems, collaborating with ECAC committees and partners, continuing list for full ECAC discussion, and assessing Nevada's national ranking.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked Denise Tanata to verify if that section of the work plan has been resolved due to Denise Tanata's Nevada Early Childhood System Potential Policy Priorities that she shared in the last meeting.
- Denise Tanata recommended looking at the intention behind the work plan in order to assess if the issue has been resolved, and believes it is up to the committee to determine the answer to Brenda Morales-Solorzano's question.
- Denise Tanata further explained that the Nevada Early Childhood System Potential Policy Priorities provides a good jumping off point to review policy issues.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked whether the work plan drives the content of the annual report or if they are developed simultaneously by a subcommittee, while also expressing concern about the approaching deadline for the annual report and wants clarity on what will be included in it.
- Denise Tanata suggested that the subcommittee should thoroughly explore policy considerations and then present recommended policy priorities to the full ECAC, so that way the full ECAC would review and



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select the priorities they want to advance and ultimately including them in the annual report.

- Denise Tanata acknowledged that this process may not always align with how things actually operate but emphasizes that it was the intended structure as outlined in the work plan.
- Marty Elquist agreed with Denise Tanata's suggestion.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano mentioned that in the previous meeting, there was a discussion about the structure for processing recommendations, indicating that it's a main priority.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano referred to the content of the 2023 annual report, highlighting topics like infrastructure, coordination between systems, and connecting families with early childhood systems equitably, while also questioning whether they should continue from the themes outlined in the previous report or if they need to create an entirely new report for the upcoming year.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano invited input from anyone who can provide insights on how to efficiently move forward with drafting the next annual report.
- Marty Elquist suggested that the annual report should reflect progress in alignment with Nevada's current strategic plan for early childhood development, indicating it's a continuation of existing efforts, and the points in the annual report should align with the new strategic plan.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano inquired if the eligibility portal in the work plan has been completed through First 5 Nevada.
- Denise Tanata confirmed that the eligibility portal in the work plan is complete through First 5 Nevada, and suggested the subcommittee to continue reviewing it and providing recommendations for it moving forward.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano expressed praise for First 5 Nevada and shared a comment from a colleague saying they wish this resource was around earlier.
- Anna Marie Binder added she will be sending emails to people from UNLV medical school about First 5 Nevada because she misinformed them by not knowing it had already launched.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano suggested that the committee should discuss additional priorities beyond infrastructure outlined in the work plan and sought input from everyone on what areas they want to focus on for recommendations, referencing the availability of last year's annual report for review and asking for suggestions to move forward.
- Sabrina Jones expressed that she had uploaded recommendations on the website for this meeting agenda and advised the subcommittee to begin discussion on that.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano acknowledged the recommendations on the website but also asked for feedback from the subcommittee to get their expertise weighed in.
- Anna Marie Binder mentioned that the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) office has been responsive in providing data on national trends to the committee, and suggested that after reviewing the provided data, the committee should send an email to the LCB office requesting similar information specifically for the ECAC.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked for more input regarding what additional area the subcommittee should prioritize focus.
- Elysa Arroyo emphasized the need for a more organized and streamlined approach to address these issues concerning determining which items should be included in the work plans and how they relate to creating a list of priorities.
- Elysa Arroyo also mentioned the upcoming 2024 annual report and questioned what are the committee's responsibilities in it, especially since both she and Brenda Morales-Solorzano are new and unsure about the



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process.

- Brianna Cambra explained her idea to approach organizing tasks within the committee, focusing on finding consolidated efforts that the entire ECAC can support, and suggested sending out requests for subcommittees to rank policy priorities, identifying common themes among their responses to determine key focus areas for the year.
- Brianna Cambra emphasized the need for buy-in on a few select strategies and invited input from others on their thoughts regarding this approach.
- Marty Elquist agreed with Brianna Cambra's proposed approach of aligning priorities with the ECAC's work plans and goals, while emphasizing the importance of understanding the biggest policy asks and barriers from the committees.
- Marty Elquist expressed that she believes that the annual report to the LCP is not solely the responsibility of this committee, but rather, a task for the Leadership subcommittee, and asked if Tiffany Alston was on the call to provide input regarding that.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano agreed with Marty Elquist and Brianna Cambra, while also inquiring about next steps regarding proper protocol to send out the priority ranking system out to General ECAC.
- Sabrina Jones confirmed that the committee will submit the ranking system to the Chair and Vice Chair for a specific committee to be added to the agenda.
- Marty Elquist suggested that Brenda Morales-Solorzano and Elysa Arroyo include a discussion about the committee's work and the importance of gathering input from other subcommittees regarding policy priorities in their committee updates, while also proposing announcing this at the next ECAC meeting and preparing all subcommittee chairs to add this item to their upcoming meeting agendas for further discussion.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked for clarification regarding a section in the annual report that says each subcommittee submits their own agenda or priorities.
- Marty Elquist suggested that there isn't a clear separation between priorities and the work outlined in the work plan, while also stating that the entire annual report should be organized around advancing the strategic plan, with each subcommittee's report representing their efforts to advance their section of the plan.
- Marty Elquist emphasized that policy priorities should be closely aligned with the strategic plan, because she sees the strategic plan as the guiding document for their work, and opened to hear other committee members' input.
- Rachel Stepina thanked the committee for their forward thinking in what needs to go into the annual report, and how the committee's actions inform the development of the annual report.
- Rachel Stepina acknowledged Marty Elquist and Denise Tanata's work in writing the annual report many times and referenced that support will be provided by Sabrina Jones and Hector Mendoza, the systems specialist and new administrative coordinator respectively, in assisting the chair and vice-chair in creating the report.
- Rachel Stepina explained that Sabrina Jones and Hector Mendoza connect with other subcommittees and incorporate data entered into the strategy, as well as minutes, into the annual report's development.
- Rachel Stepina emphasized the complexity of the process and appreciates forward-thinking approaches to avoid last-minute scrambling, ensuring the report is driven by its contents.
- Marty Elquist thanked Rachel Stepina for her comments.
- Marty Elquist suggested that it might be beneficial to include the topic of the priority ranking system on the agenda for the leadership subcommittee's meeting, which would allow for a potential discussion at the full ECAC.



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- Brenda Morales-Solorzano confirmed the committee can reach out to the leadership subcommittee and the General ECAC to add the topic of the priority ranking system in their agendas.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked Elysa Arroyo for potential additional to add to the topic of a priority ranking system.
- Elysa Arroyo affirmed that all items from her end have been addressed regarding the topic of a priority ranking system.
- Denise Tanata reminded the group that this is the final year of the current strategic plan and that there has been significant transition during this period, while also emphasizing that the work plan was designed to be flexible to allow subcommittees to adjust their activities based on relevance at specific times.
- Denise Tanata encouraged subcommittees to consider adjustments to the work plan to meet current needs, as only the goals and key objectives of the strategic plan are set in stone, while also suggesting assessing feasibility and alignment with the strategic plan, especially with the upcoming legislative session in mind.
- Marty Elquist agreed with Denise Tanata regarding adjusting the work plan to meet current needs, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that action plans are up-to-date before prioritizing tasks, as outdated plans may lead to irrelevant priorities.
- Marty Elquist appreciated Denise Tanata's comments and suggested discussing flexibility in updating plans to better meet objectives, highlighting the need to adapt if certain actions aren't effective.
- Marty Elquist recalled and brought up the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee's practice of regularly reviewing and updating their work plan to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in guiding their objectives.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano opted to begin looking at the work plan to determine updates on progress.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano inquired if the surveys needed to estimate the needed costs for all ECS programs were sent out in February.
- Marty Elquist confirmed that the surveys went out in February and they are estimated to complete June 30th, 2024 which lines up with the estimated completion date on the work plan.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano inquired if the Universal Pre-K WestEd was being set up by the estimated completion time of June 30th, 2024.
- Rachel Stepina shared that there is an update regarding Universal Pre-K WestEd, and that they developing a Nevada Pathway to Universal Pre-K.
- Rachel Stepina added that the scopes and estimated completion have been adjusted, and that there are deliverables that will be aligned to presenting that information with relevant interim committees that may need to be informed in the future.
- Rachel Stepina mentioned that WestEd is developing what could be described as “thought partnership interviews” related to Nevada’s pathway to Universal Pre-K, and they are also forming something that resembles a focus group in which they explore Nevada’s pathway to Universal Pre-K with providers and caregivers.
- Rachel Stepina expressed her willingness to share more specifics from WestEd’s scope, because their scope has not yet been approved by the board of examiners, rendering them unable to be published yet.
- Rachel Stepina highlighted that the opportunities provided by WestEd Universal Pre-K are available now through their “thought partnerships” and focus groups.
- Sabrina Jones shared the work plan document live for attendees to review and asked Rachel to send updates relating to Universal Pre-K so it can be added to the work plan.
- Rachel Stepina advised that her update should not be categorized as a status update under “Universal Pre-K” in the live workplan document because it is more of a separate key activity (WestEd is beginning to set up groups), and asked the committee to pitch in different wording to describe this note in the workplan.



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- Rachel Stepina advised that since each of the columns in the workplan have separate considerations for any of status updates, then that may be an indicator that they are related to an overarching key activity, warranting the need of a key activity section in an updated version of the work plan.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano suggested the committee to review wording and other changes focusing on Objective 4.1 and Objective 4.2 in the live workplan document.
- Denise Tanata suggested adding historical context for some of the key activities, specifically Objective 4.1, and added that the purpose surrounding it is due to the need at the time of its creation for cost modeling for other projects to inform the early childhood fiscal gap analysis.
- Denise Tanata shared that the fiscal gap analysis is expected to be completed in early May.
- Denise Tanata offered adding historical context for Objective 4.2 as well in the workplan due to the importance of needing policy issues that require attention at the time of its creation that would require input from stakeholders outside of the ECAC, but still relevant to the ECAC.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano noted that time is running out for the meeting, but offered space for anymore input.
- Brianna Cambra suggested including an ICRP under Objective 4.2 because they tend to do heavy campaigns right before legislative sessions in that area and suggested looking into potential intersection for embedding some information with First 5 Nevada.
- Rachel Stepina added to Brianna Cambra's point by advising including Nevada AEYC group of developers who also have the policy focus that they regularly include in their work.

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

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee will discuss agenda items for the next subcommittee meeting.

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

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked the committee to offer any potential agenda items for the next Finance & Policy meeting.
- Marty Elquist suggested inviting Amanda Haboush-Deloye from NICRP, and/or Jamelle Nance from CAA, and/or Holly Welborn from CAA, for the next meeting to discuss their process in their agendas.
- Marty Elquist advised adding an agenda item about alignment of strategies.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano agreed and offered reaching out to Marty Elquist' suggested guests to join the next meeting.
- Anna Marie Binder vocalized Brianna Cambra's message in the chat in which she mentioned she sits on the Nevada AEYC board and she is on the workgroup for drafting new policy imperatives so she can report back in the next meeting.
- Anna Marie Binder advised having Nevada AEYC representatives in the next meeting as well, highlighting that there are so many community partners that are willing to help, and expressed her enthusiasm in hearing from CAA.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked Brianna Cambra if she'd be willing to include Nevada AEYC representation in the next agenda item.
- Brianna Cambra approved the inclusion of having Nevada AEYC representation in the next agenda item, and offered to contact the executive director, John Cregg, to see if he wants to attend.
- Brianna Cambra offered to act as a proxy and provide updates in the case that Nevada AEYC executive director, John Cregg, cannot make it.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano thanked Brianna Cambra and decided to keep the number of upcoming agenda



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items to a couple or a few due to time constraints.

7. Public comment #2

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- No public comment.

8. Adjournment

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano adjourned the meeting at 1:58pm

Selected Action Items

The Policy and Finance Subcommittee will:

Review and update the current work plan
Clarify process for identifying policy priorities
Discuss flexibility in updating plans
Invite Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Jamelle Nance, Holly Welborn for next
Discuss alignment of strategies

One Sentence Summary:

The Policy and Finance Subcommittee discussed updating the work plan, refining the process for prioritizing policy initiatives, and ensuring alignment with the strategic plan, while also planning to invite external experts for insights in the next meeting.