



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

FINANCE & POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 9TH

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.”

This meeting was held via Zoom video conference.

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 1:05 PM
- Members in Attendance:
 - Elysa Arroyo, Finance and Policy Co-Chair
 - Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Finance and Policy Co-Chair
 - Marty Elquist, SEED Director, The Children’s Cabinet
 - Patti Oya, Office of Early Learning & Development Director, Nevada Department of Education
 - Lela Gonzales, ARP Project Manager, The Children’s Cabinet
 - Brianna Cambra, Quality Manager, The Children’s Cabinet
 - Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
 - Brian Cullen, Fiscal and Data Manager, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare & Development Program
 - Anna Marie Binder, Parent Representative
- Members Not in Attendance:
 - Katarina Jackosn, Director, Lullaby Nursery
 - Nicole Martin, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Childcare & Development Program
- Public in Attendance:
 - Abbey Bernhardt, Public Policy & Advocacy Committee, National Alliance on Mental Illness Nevada
 - 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
 - Sabrina Schnur, Belz and Case Government Affairs
 - Sabrina Jones, Systems Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
 - Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Nevada Department of Education, Office of



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Early Learning and Development

- Holly Welborn, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance of Nevada
- Jamelle Nance, Director of Strong Start Initiatives, Children's Advocacy Alliance of Nevada
- Rachel Stepina, PDG-5 Grant Manager, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Tiffany Olivas, Chief Operations Officer, The Children's Cabinet
- Kathy Yoder-Bass, Family Advocate, Sunrise Children's Foundation
- Jake Matthews, Government Affairs Manager for Children's Advocacy Alliance

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)

The subcommittee motioned to approve a flexible agenda.

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

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Lela Gonzales seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor of the motion.
- The motion passed.

4. Approval of [April 11th, 2024, minutes](#)

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee discussed approval of the April 11^h meeting minutes.

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

- Hector Mendoza addressed that Rachel Stepina and Lela Gonzales will be added to the attendance and grammatical errors would be fixed.
- Marty Elquist made a motion to approve the minutes with the addressed changes.
- Brianna Cambra seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor of the motion.
- Lela Gonzales abstained because she was not in attendance in the last meeting.
- The motion passed.

5. Policy Recommendation Update and Follow-Up.

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The subcommittee discussed prioritizing Early Childhood Policy Recommendations.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

The subcommittee discussed alignment strategies with representatives from NICRP and CAA.

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

- Elysa Arroyo introduced that the goal for this agenda item is to determine the subcommittee's top three priorities
- Sabrina Jones announced that Amanda Haboush-Deloye is not in attendance and will not be able to present from NICRP.
- Elysa Arroyo opened for discussion on the top three priorities of the subcommittee with the intention of bringing them to the next full ECAC meeting and the next Policy and Finance subcommittee meeting.
- Elysa Arroyo suggested prioritizing the need for a governance structure.
- Brianna Cambra added that addressing HOA restrictions as a priority.
- Anna Marie Binder revealed that addressing HOA restrictions would be difficult considering it's in every homeowner policy in Clark County.
- Anna Marie Binder added that there is no way to really govern the HOA restrictions, and listed in-home daycares and more than 20% of houses in an HOA being rentals as evidence.
- Marty Elquist added that it would be difficult to list three priorities without seeing a list informed through the subcommittee's scope of activities through CAA, NICRP, and Nevada AEYC.
- Holly Welborn presented that they developed the policy agenda for the Children's Advocacy Alliance through collaboration with the Strong Start Coalition, funded by the Pritzker Children's Initiative, leveraging the expertise of coalition members and reflecting on past legislative sessions to create a viable and ambitious plan through the guidance of early childhood sector research experts.
- Holly Welborn mentioned that CAA is working on building infrastructure for Universal Pre-K, establishing an Office of Early Childhood Systems, securing general fund investment in the Child Care Development Fund to support increased wages and access to affordable quality care, implementing HOA reform to allow home-based child care centers, and waiving state business license fees for new child care providers.
- Holly Welborn explained that other states have used their state appropriations through CCDF funds in various creative ways to enhance wages and increase access by using large appropriations to backfill subsidies, directly applying funds to wages, raising eligibility thresholds to benefit more families, and offering early learning scholarships.
- Brianna Cambra suggested to the subcommittee that they implement a state business licensing fee waiver because it is a capacity builder with minimal upfront fiscal impact.
- Marty Elquist expressed support for a strategy that emphasizes the need for a comprehensive governance structure to manage policy and finance efficiently.
- Marty Elquist highlighted that while the governor is hesitant to create more government, it's important to focus on the efficiencies gained through coordination.
- Marty Elquist added that the subcommittee should emphasize the benefits of coordinated policy, fiscal mapping, and continuous data collection, ensuring these efforts are sustained within a structured system rather than being one-shot projects.

6. 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

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano asked Brianna Cambra if she is willing to present at the next meeting.
- Brianna Cambra answered that there is currently no finalized policy agenda in development through Nevada AEYC.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Brianna Cambra ensured to report any updates on a finalized policy agenda through Nevada AEYC.
- Marty Elquist suggested having Denise Tanata do a deep dive into the fiscal map for the next agenda.
- Denise Tanata agreed to the possibility of presenting the fiscal map in the next meeting, while reminding the subcommittee that the gap analysis and the revenue plan are still in development.
- Marty Elquist recommended making the fiscal map as the only agenda item for the following meeting so members can learn how to use it.
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano confirmed that the next agenda will focus on the fiscal map.

7. Public comment #2

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- Kathy Yoder Bass mentioned that special programs are getting their budget cuts without notice, so it will be difficult to bring in child care providers into the meetings to have their voices heard.
- Jamelle Nance announced that the Children's Advocacy Alliance will be hosting a virtual press conference on Monday, May 13th, at 10am to support the Day Without Child Care advocacy.

8. Adjournment

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano adjourned the meeting at 1:57 PM.

Action Items

1. The subcommittee will dive into the fiscal map and learn how to use it as a tool.
2. The subcommittee will determine its top three priorities.
3. The subcommittee will gather the top three priorities from the other ECAC subcommittees.
4. The subcommittee will provide guidance on bringing in child care providers into meetings during the summer budget cuts.

One Sentence Summary

- The subcommittee learned best practices and strategies that the Children's Advocacy Alliance uses, as well as other states, and determined that their next priority is to dive deep into the fiscal map.