



Nevada Early Childhood  
Advisory Council

# NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

## PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024, • 9:00 to 12pm

This meeting was held as a Video Conference.

### Minutes Summary

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

Call Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory

Council Vice Chair

- **Tiffany Alston called the meeting to order**

#### Members in Attendance:

- Edith Farmer – Seat A
- Tami Conn – Seat B
- Karissa Loper Machado- Seat C
- Joan Jackson – Seat D
- Dr. Diane Nicolet- Seat F
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward- Seat G
- Carrie Paldi- Seat H
- Tiffany Alston- Seat J
- Patrice Gardner- Seat K
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Seat L
- Vacant- Seat M
- Marty Elquist- Seat N
- Abbey Bernhardt- Seat O
- Vacant- Seat P
- Tina Springmeyer- Seat R
- Elysa Arroyo- Seat R
- Jennifer Butler – Seat R

#### Members Not in Attendance:

- Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell – Seat E
- Stephanie Vega – Seat I
- Arielle Newell-Rollins – Seat Q
- Dr. Linda Young- Seat R

#### 2. Public Comment #1

- Hector Mendoza introduced himself as the new ECAC Administrative Coordinator. He indicated he was excited to be onboard and thanked everyone on the feedback for the minutes.

#### 3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Council approved a flexible agenda. The Board may take agenda items out of order; combine two or more



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

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*

- Diane Nicolet motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion
- No opposition or abstentions
- All Members voted in favor- the motion for a flexible agenda was approved

#### 4. **Minutes from March 20th, 2024** (Discussion, For Possible Action) The Council discussed and approved the minutes.

*Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair*

*Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*

- Denise Tanata asked for correction on page 4, no name of reference was mentioned.
- Patrice Gardner made a motion to approve the minute with the correction regarding capturing name on page 4
- Abbey Bernhardt seconded the motion
- All members voted in favor -the motion was approved with a correction.

#### 5. **Children's Funding Project** (*Information/Discussion*)

The Council heard an updated presentation regarding the Children's Funding Project.

*Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant, The Children's Cabinet*

*Nat Mud Brooks, The Children's Funding Project*

*Amelia Vonn, The Children's Funding Project*

- Denise Tanata invited Nat Mud Brooks, partner of the Children's Funding Project, to review the Fiscal Mapping Project. She referred to the Fiscal Mapping Project on the Nevada ECAC website and the revenue plan.
- Denise informed the committee that the presentation would include a discussion of the near completion of the fiscal gap analysis and the beginning of a revenue plan. She indicated that the aim is to evaluate Nevada's early childhood system funding, identify the required financing, and explore potential sources to cover gaps. She also mentioned introducing the early childhood fiscal map, which focuses on the 0 to 8 population and asked for feedback on featuring both maps on the ECAC website.
- Nat Mud Brooks introduced herself as a Children's Funding Project partner. She mentioned that she started the project with the Children's Funding Project two years ago.
- Nat Mud Brooks shared her screen of the Nevada Early Childhood Fiscal Map with the council. She explained the pages, gave instructions, and shared tips and tricks related to the Fiscal Map. She reviewed the summary page, how data is categorized, and funding streams supporting age ranges, sectors, and population breakdowns.
- Amelia Von introduced herself as the Director of Infrastructure at the Children Funding project. She expressed her gratitude for working on the fiscal map and indicated that the goal is to continue to update this map and possibly start to update the next fiscal year.
- Tiffany Alston thanked Nat Mud Brooks and Amelia Von and mentioned where this Fiscal Map is located.
- Denise Tanata mentioned that both Fiscal Maps will be on the Nevada ECAC website and expressed her desire for the tools to remain on the website. She shared the Fiscal Mapping link and perspectives on



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

funding streams and their alignment with the Early Childhood System Definition. She also mentioned that some interviews were conducted on the gap analysis and the final stages of pulling all numbers together and filling gaps.

- Tiffany Alston inquired about the steps to move the conversation forward regarding strategies.
- Denise Tanata suggested developing a revenue plan and mentioned that more information would be available. She also stated that the funding project representatives are working on this phase and expect to have a full report by the end of the year.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet explained the ongoing focus on early childhood education and the transition to K-12. She highlighted the ongoing discussions about incorporating 3-year-olds into the education system, underscoring the commitment to continuous improvement. She also stressed the importance of creating a seamless transition between different early childhood centers and preparing children and families for the broader school system, whether public or private.
- Denise Tanata mentioned that the fiscal analysis considers various factors. She explained that a review of the fiscal report conducted by the Department of Education to evaluate universal pre-K Costs is being conducted. She also clarified that the contract with the Children's Funding Project, a key player in this analysis, will continue until the end of the year. Part of the funding will be used to train the staff to update the fiscal map and to sustain and update the data with more recent fiscal information next year.
- Tiffany Alston suggested that the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), use trained staff, identify all partners and integrate the Fiscal Map into the early childhood system for sustainability.

### 6. **First Five Nevada Update** (*Information/Discussion*)

The Council heard an update regarding the eligibility portal website.

*Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant, The Children's Cabinet*

- Denise Tanata provided an update on the Nevada First Five website features. She mentioned that the website was launched last month as part of a statewide initiative, which includes a marketing website and an eligibility portal/screener.
- Denise Tanata discussed some website analytics from April 4th through May 29th, including the number of users, page monitoring, visits to the eligibility screeners, and mobile website monitoring. She also encouraged sign-ups to the First Five Newsletter and requested reviewers to streamline providers on the website. She explained that campaign outreach, media stories, and plans to launch the First Five Nevada website in Spanish are underway.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward recommended changes to the Nevada First Five website regarding special education services.
- Denise Tanata welcomed the recommendations and offered to meet with Dr. Jenna Ward offline.
- Tiffany Alston asked what information would be reviewed.
- Denise Tanata explained that they are looking for others with content expertise to review program inclusion requests and advise.
- Tiffany Alston thanked Denise Tanata for discussing the website.
- Carrie Paldi mentioned that she has been sharing the website and spreading the word.
- Denise Tanata strongly encouraged everyone to review the website for any needed revisions and to reach out to her.

### 7. **Early Childhood System Definition** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Council discussed and voted on the Early Childhood Systems Definition

*Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant, The Children's*

*Cabinet Tiffany Olivas, ECCS Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet*

- Denise Tanata briefly overviewed the Early Childhood Systems Definition document. She explained that one of the key goals was to align the early childhood definition with other ECAC projects, as this would



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

not only provide clarity but also ensure consistency and coherence in the council's initiatives. The definition was presented at the System Alignment Subcommittee meeting and was intended to be recommended to the full ECAC for use in the broader Early Childhood System. Denise requested the council to review and adopt the definition.

- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward recommended adding early intervention and special education to page 1 and including NEIS, Part B programs, and special education programs in the chart. She also suggested adding the Part C Interagency Coordinating Council in the advisory board area.
- Patrice Gardner suggested adding age ranges for clarity for parents and providers, as well as including the age ranges for HeadStart and Early HeadStart programs.
- Denise clarified that the objective was to get the first two pages of the Early Childhood System Definition adopted.
- Tiffany Alston suggested going back to review the first two pages.
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz- Ward and Dr. Diane Nicolet took a moment to acknowledge and praise the work on the Definition.
- Tiffany Alston opened a motion to approve the Early Childhood System Definition if there was no further discussion.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet motioned to approve the Definition, and Abbey Bernhardt seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion was agreed to adopt the Early Childhood System Definition with the noted changes.

### 8. 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, Parent Leadership Coordinator (South), The Children's Cabinet*

*Rosa Tamayo, The Children's Cabinet, Parent Leadership Coordinator (North), The Children's Cabinet*

- Ashley Dines provided an update on events-The NECFLC group conducted a Facebook live session with NECFLC parents. We look forward to hosting another Facebook live event in Spanish in Reno, Nevada. We will also host a paid focus group for parents through NICRP.
- Rosa Tamayo announced that a paid focus group will be held in person tomorrow through NICRP to encourage parents to seek support. Parents will be paid for their time and provided with lunch. The goal is to give parents an opportunity to share their voices.
- Ashley mentioned that another Focus Group Event will be hosted on June 5th in Las Vegas, Nevada with limited registration. She emphasized it's important to secure your spot early, we have already conducted one-on-one and group informational sessions, and anyone interested can reach out to Ashley Dines for more details.
- Tiffany Alston expressed gratitude to Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo and asked them to share more information in the chat.

### 9. Parent Voice and Updates *(Information/Discussion)*

*(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.

- No parent voice updates.

### 10. Subcommittee Updates and Workplan *(Information/Discussion)*

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

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

- No updates currently.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### ***System Alignment Subcommittee – Tiffany Olivas, Abbey Bernhart, Co-Chairs***

- Abbey Bernhardt reported that the System Alignment Meeting is coming up tomorrow at 1pm

### ***Communications and Engagement Subcommittee – Jennifer Butler, Co-chair***

- No updates currently.

### ***Finance and Policy Subcommittee – Elysa Arroyo, and Brenda Morales- Co-Chairs***

- Brenda Morales- Provide an update on the workplan to obtain feedback from other subcommittees on the top three policy recommendations. She explained that a form will be sent out to each subcommittee member to solicit feedback on policy recommendations.

### ***Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – Marty Elquist and Karrissa Loper Machado, Co-Chairs***

- Karissa Loper Machado reported no update for the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee.

## **11. Local ECAC Updates (Information Discussion)**

Discuss updates from Local ECACs.

- *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*
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- Tiffany Alston reported no verbal updates were given during this meeting, please review the website for documented updates.

## **12. State Agency and Partner Report Summary 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.

- Karrissa Loper Machado provided an update on working closely with the Las Vegas Urban League and The Children's Cabinet on provider funding and payments. She mentioned goals to set up newsletters and a listserv to improve communication between the Urban League and The Children's Cabinet.
- Tammi Conn provides updates on the Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health, discussing new hires, home visiting, recruiting, and grant applications. She mentioned the need for help with referrals and the upcoming release of recruitment cards to promote the early home-based program in Clark County.
- Edith Farmer provided an update from Childcare Licensing regarding the takeover of all Washoe County childcare facilities, new hires, and open positions. [Current State Job Openings \(nv.gov\)](#)
- Carrie Paldi gave an update for NevAEYC, discussing the NevAEYC conferences, the availability of scholarships, and the upcoming partnership with CAA for the Childcare Provider Action Committee.
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward shared a grant funding opportunity available and training opportunities [Grants | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#), [Professional Learning Institute | NAEYC](#)

## **13. Upcoming Meetings (Information)**

- Tiffany made note that the upcoming schedule will remain on the agenda moving forward.



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

### 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 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

### 15. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned the meeting at 11:14am

### Selected Action Items

- Update representative information for the partner summary report
- Add recommended changes to the Early Childhood System Definition Document

### One Sentence Summary

- The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council heard several updates including Children's Funding Project, First Five Nevada website, Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council, Local ECAC Summary and Partner report and adopted the Early Childhood Systems Definition.