

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
Executive Leadership Subcommittee
PUBLIC MEETING
August 6, 2024
11:00 am-12:30pm

“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 video conference

Minutes Summary

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Alston called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM
- Sabrina Jones started recording and conducted roll call

Members in Attendance: (8)

- Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
- Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
- Abbey Bernhardt, Systems and Alignment Subcommittee Co-chair
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Jennifer Butler, Communications and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair

Members Not in Attendance: (3)

- Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative
- Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Karissa Loper Machado, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair

Public in Attendance:

- Jamelle Nance, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Kelissa Plett-Merritt
- Joan Jackson, Nevada Department of Education
- Wendy Madrigal
- Sasha Canales, TNTF
- 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
- Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Manager Birth - 5, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Nayeddi Badillo, Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

- Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

2. Public Comment #1

Public Comment 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.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- No Public Comment

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- 3 of the agenda at any time.

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

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve Flexible Agenda
- Abbey Bernhardt moved to second the motion
- Discussion offered, no comments
- All members voted in favor- the motion was passed

4. Minutes from July 2, 2024 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The subcommittee discussed and approved the July 2nd, 2024, minutes.

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

- Sabrina Jones shared screen for minutes from last meeting
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano motioned to approve July 2nd minutes
- Jennifer Butler seconded the motion
- All members voted in favor- the motion was passed

5. Nevada Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Continued Discussion (*Discussed or Possible Action*)

The subcommittee discussed next steps and Ad Hoc agenda for Strategic Planning 2025-2027

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

- Patrice Gardner explained vendor applications, added that submissions closed on Friday Aug. 10, 2024
 - Development of Ad Hoc is for assisting Strategic Planning, once vendors selected by Reviewing Committee
 - Following State Procedures, Vendors from RFB are serving on reviewing committee with Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner.

6. Self- Sufficiency Standards Data Set (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed Self- Sufficiency Standards and dashboard

Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair

- Tiffany Alston suggested having this item on September's Agenda as both Data Subcommittee members are absent from meeting
- Sabrina Jones to leave item #6 on September Leadership Meeting agenda
- Tiffany Alston moved to item #7

7. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) Coordinators Updates (*Information/Discussion*)

The subcommittee heard updates regarding the work of the NECFLC

Ashley Dines and Anna Villatoro, of The Children's Cabinet

- Anna Villatoro shared screen to view Council updates via PowerPoint
- Ashley Dines introduced herself, explained the group is meant to give parents and families a voice
 - After parents join ECAC meetings, the goal is to have parents come back to NECFLC to see what supports and/or programs are available for them.
 - Asking us to share information to NECFLC if they know of families who need supports
 - First5 rolling out newsletter, have space to highlight local Nevadan's and their stories, posting JEDI trainings, have ability to receive requests to submit an article
- Ashley Dines part of the ECCS Podcast and NECFLC trainings are posted on website & Recruitment opportunities
- Tiffany Alston- Be conscious of how we are getting information out to families, be coordinated and do more personal handing out of information. Should we create a Generic form for people who are on a call or chat to understand how to be intentional with family's needs.
- Denise Tanata- suggested ECAC members to listen to stories and hear the barriers or systematic issues as leaders do not always know what they are identifying or what problems families and Child Care providers face.
- Denise Tatana-ECAC Leadership Subcommittee can bring questions if they hear problems with access or identifying services for equitable access, based on this we need to look at or address these issues.
- Ashley Dines- Agreed with Denise Tanata, added to have conversations and dialogue with people who do not know how the system works can be vital to us helping families in need.
- Patrice Gardner- Suggested having resources ready ahead of time so that items were on hand as needed. Example- knowing they are grandparents you may know some resources they would need just based on age (help with technology as an example).
- Patrice Gardner brought attention to members that when presenting try not to use acronyms as not everyone knows what that means.
- Ashley Dines: JEDI is Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion
- Nayeddi Badillo - I love having standard form across the board, can we add how they ended up in their position, what is their background or barriers met? Should use Data from Communication and Engagement subcommittee information throughout all subcommittees.
- Tiffany Alston- To be transparent.... Re-thinking Kids Conference Form
- Tiffany Olivas- YES! We can add information about the families when meeting with us Patrice, we have some coordinators already doing this.
- Tiffany Olivas- it is hard for families to share their stories in a public forum/spotlight... However, this does help us as we can hear the parents view so we can see the real experiences families face and their experience with our agencies.
- Tiffany Alston- 20,000 ft perspective caring, heart is in it... 50,000ft perspective how can we support ECE communities, families.... Be intentional and be mindful of who we are inviting to these meetings... invite Leaders who may need to know what is happening in agencies/community

8. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) Family or Parent Updates *(Information/Discussion)*

NECFLC parents or family members were to share their experiences in the early childhood system.

- Ashley Dines- We are not anticipating families to be present for Leadership Meetings
- Tiffany Alston- We have this on the agenda as we want to grow this to be intentional about creating space for Family Advocates to represent families in the community.
- Ashley Dines- Thanked Tiffany Alston for clarification
- Nayesdi Badillo- Communication and Engagement should reach out to families as they speak to and invite them to join us in this forum.
- Tiffany Alston -a year ago we had this conversation and asked do we provide this service? We concluded that there should be a specific subcommittee's responsible for providing this information.

9. Work Plan Review and next Leadership Subcommittee Agenda Items

(Discussion for Possible Action)

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

1. *Leadership Subcommittee – Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*
2. *System Alignment Subcommittee – Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs*
3. *Communications/Engagement Subcommittee – Jennifer Butler and Co-Chair Vacancy*
4. *Finance and Policy Subcommittee – Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Co-chairs.*
5. *Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – Marty Elquist and Karissa Loper Machado, Co-Chairs*

- Patrice Gardner- Update for Leadership Subcommittee: We are focused on getting RFP off the ground, Strategic Planning Session scheduled.
- Rachel Stepina – notify group overall that applications are due by Friday, around 2-month process when we, Department of Education, communicate who has been selected.
- Patrice Gardner- Introduced Brandi Hearst as new Administrative Coordinator with ECAC, assisting Sabrina Jones
- Brandi Hearst- Hello and short intro about background
- Jennifer Butler- Last Meeting in July as we are looking for a Co-Chair the meeting was based on this need. We need the orientation to better understand the process before we move ahead with deciding, we discussed incorporating family feedback while providers get more involved with the family communication loop, and Ad Hoc to look at Communication plans to work on to gain traction for the Communication committee.
- Elysa Arroyo- The Policy and Finance Subcommittee canceled meeting in July, meeting scheduled for Thurs 8/15 to go over Policy priority survey & Denise Tanata will be giving us in depth info from Fiscal Map
- Tiffany Alston- Are you looking at the ECE recommendations given for the Governor?
- Elysa Arroyo – Yes, we are using that and have added a space for “other”
- Tiffany Alston - would you like to share the survey results with us at the Leadership meeting?
- Elyssa Arroyo- Yes
- Sabrina Jones—Bylaw explanation re: Chair appointment for Communication & Engagement: Subcommittee Chair to vote to fill vacancy, Chair of ECAC appoints Chair or Co-Chair, Patrice Gardner would do so if Tiffany Alston is absent.
- Sabrina Jones to email the Bylaws to Tiffany Alston
- Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner to discuss who to appoint
- Denise Tanata- Have we appointed a parent for the parent engagement piece?
- Sabrina Jones- Yes, Arielle Rollins, but if you know of others, they can also apply, we can have more than one parent representative.

- Sabrina Jones- Orientation dates and meeting dates are on agenda for new ECAC members and those who have been with us.
- Tiffany Alston moved to Item #10

10. Discuss Agenda Items for the next General ECAC Meeting (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The subcommittee discussed agenda items for General ECAC meeting.

Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Leadership Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Alston- should we incorporate some mini trainings around “JEDI” for general ECAC? Not the whole meeting, but to prepare for our strategic plans.
- Patrice Gardner- this is a great idea as this is a priority focus for us. We should incorporate public meeting/training as well
- Jennifer Butler- have trainings to make sure everyone understands what we have going on here and to make sure we are all aligned, developing and supporting future leaders having a pipeline of people that can replace us in the future.
- Denise Tanata- Early Childhood Governor structure- wear can see if the timing is right and they could do a presentation if there is interest for that...?
- Tiffany Alston- Yes there is interest thank you for that
- Patrice Gardner- Going back to Jennifer’s idea of training and learning our system, when can others join in?
- Denise Tanata- First5 Leadership Academy, 16 ECE professionals go through 6-month program. This is our first cohort ending in October and we are waiting on funding updates and feedback so that we can see if we can start another one next year.
- Denise Tanata offered for ECAC members to join, and she is open to everyone’s feedback so that they can perfect it.
- Tiffany Alston- in full support of the First5 Leadership Academy.
- Tiffany Alston moved to item #11

11. Upcoming Meetings (*Information*)

Tiffany Alston, Committee Chair

August 2024

August 21, 2024, 11 am ECAC New Member Orientation
 August 28, 2024 System Alignment Subcommittee Meeting

September 2024

September 3rd 11 a.m. Leadership Subcommittee Meeting
 September 12th 1 p.m. Policy and Finance Subcommittee
 September 10th 9 a.m. Communication & Engagement Subcommittee
 September 19th 1 p.m. Data and Evaluation Subcommittee
 September 18th 9 a.m. General ECAC in person and virtual
 September 25th 1 p.m. System Alignment Subcommittee

ECAC New Member Orientation

October 16, 2024, 11 a.m. and December 18, 2024, 11 a.m.

- Tiffany Alston invited all members to join orientations, moved to item #12

12. Public Comment #2 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council’, 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.

Tiffany Alston, Committee Chair

- No Public Comment, moved to item #13

13. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned the meeting at 12:09 PM

Selection Action Items

- Continue the Strategic Plan discussion
- Vote / appoint candidate for Communication and Engagement Co-Chair

One Sentence Summary

- The Subcommittee discussed Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council updates, Subcommittee updates, First5 Leadership Academy, possibility of offering trainings to promote strategic plan and agenda items for upcoming meetings.