



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

September 3, 2024

11:00am-12:30pm

This meeting held via Zoom video conference

“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.”

Minute Summary

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

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

- Tiffany Alston called meeting to order at 11:05am
- Sabrina Jones conducts roll call

Members Present (6):

- Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Abbey Bernhardt, Systems and Alignment Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair

Members Not Present (4):

- Jennifer Butler, Communications and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Ashley Dines, Parent Representative, The Children’s Cabinet
- Karissa Loper Machado, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
- Kathy Yoda-Bass, Family Home Care Provider

Public in Attendance (12):

- Nayesdi Badillo, Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Karen Chessel, Nevada Department of Education, Nevada High School ECE Programs of Study
- Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development Education, Nevada Department of Education
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jacquelyn Kleinedler- Executive Director, NV Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Janice Lee
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Nevada Department of Education
- Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Manager Birth - 5, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

- Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez, Systems Alignment Subcommittee
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
- Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Specialist, The Children's Cabinet

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 comment

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

The subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair

- Abbey Bernhardt moved to motion approval of flexible agenda
- Tiffany Olivas seconded motion
- Motion carries, flexible agenda approved

4. Minutes from August 6, 2024 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee approved the August 6, 2024 minutes.

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

- Abbey Bernhardt motioned to approve the minutes from August 6, 2024
- Brenda Morales seconded motion
- Motion carries, Minutes approved

5. Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Continued Discussion (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed updates, next steps, and Ad Hoc agenda for Strategic Planning 2025-2027

Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair

- Rachel Stepina- Reports due 8/09 and received by NDE
 - Evaluations scheduled to be reviewed
 - After approved, successful vendor will have contract by mid-October
- Denise Tanata- What is the timeline to have Strategic Plan completed
- Rachel Stepina- Request for proposals included the vendor presenting their plan by January meeting
 - Vendors had option to include description of how long they would need and what meeting they would attend to present their presentation
- Tiffany Alston- Questioning if we are adopting the current Strategic Plan, need to vote on that still
- Patrice Gardner- Didn't we have to vote on this at the General ECAC meeting?

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

The Subcommittee heard and discussed how the Nevada Self-Sufficiency Standard dashboard can be accessed, used and its relevancy to the early childcare system.

Marty Elquist, Department Director, The Children's Cabinet

- Marty Elquist- gave short presentation on Calculator housed on the ECAC website



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

- Used Child Care Development Funds to update the Calculator on website
- Shows how much money families need to make to meet basic needs
- Majority of funding goes to childcare costs, second is housing costs
- Parent would need to make \$41/hour to make ends meet
- Compare costs and rate standards over past couple of years it went from \$23 to \$41 an hour needed to survive.

7. First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee heard ECAC Assistance Request

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

- Denise Tanata- Looking for support from Executive Leadership Subcommittee as we have received requests on our website for inclusion.
 - Seeking help to create an “appeals” process
 - Advisory Committee
 - Meets once per month
 - Have First5 and ECAC build or partnership/relationship
 - Requesting to keep this as a standing Agenda item for ECAC Executive Leadership Subcommittee
- Brenda Morales- Interested in helping, is there a foreseeable timeframe?
- Tiffany Alston- Clarified with Denise that they are needing help with recommendations/prioritize programs who want to be included, help with appeals and decision making on denials
- Brenda Morales- Supports Subcommittee helping
- Patrice Gardner- Supports Subcommittee helping
- Marty Elquist- ECAC represents ECE as a whole, First5 also supports ECE as a whole, this request would be temporary until we had an official Gov't office
- Tiffany Alston - offered for this to stay as a standing item on the monthly agenda, no opposition

8. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) Coordinators Updates

(Information/Discussion)

The Subcommittee was updated regarding the work of the NECFLC, such as but not limited to the rubric, mentorship program, events, and meeting recaps.

Rosa Tamayo-Rodriguez, Ashley Dines, and Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet

- Rosa Tamayo-Rodriguez – Family Leader present at General ECAC meeting in September
 - Have interpreter for Spanish speakers, remember to speak slow enough for interpreter to interpret
 - Next week NECFLC, we are providing orientations to show families what our program is all about.
 - Meeting is 3rd Wednesday of each month
 - Facebook Live: 2 family leaders will share with us, in Spanish, about their experiences
 - Celebrating Spanish Heritage month
- Tiffany Olivas- Ashley Dines still doing family Outreach in Southern Nevada, if you know anyone in need, please email her



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

9. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) Family or Parent Updates

(Information/Discussion) NECFLC parents or family members present to share their experiences in the early childhood system

- NECFLC families not present

10. Subcommittee Work Plan Review and Next Executive Leadership Subcommittee Agenda Items

(Discussion for Possible Action)

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

- *Executive Leadership Subcommittee – Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs*
 - No comment
- *Systems Alignment Subcommittee – Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs*
 - Tiffany Olivas- Overview of Systems in this state, children’s initiative, PDG B-5,
 - Funding, needs assessment
 - Next meeting will go over findings
 - Going over workplans to see what overlaps
- *Communications and Engagement Subcommittee – Jennifer Butler Co-Chair, (Co-Chair vacancy)*
 - No update as Jennifer Butler is absent
- *Policy and Finance Subcommittee – Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Co-Chairs*
 - Brenda Morales- Survey sent out to ECAC members
 - Responses showed 4 main goals, below:
 - Relevant to workplan
 - Establish Governors Office for Early Childhood to align policy and legislation
 - Establish Support System and resources to ensure equitable decision making
 - Data collection and Implementing Early Childhood Data system
 - The Subcommittee will hear an update regarding the Policy recommendations from survey results
- *Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – Marty Elquist and Karissa Loper Machado, Co-Chairs*
 - Mary Elquist Sept 19 we will be updating the Vulnerable & Underserved definition and discussing the creation of our playbook
 - We are focused on addressing parents first, plan to use parent leadership groups and gage how to best communicate data and information to parents effectively.
- *Update on Subcommittees/ Co-chair Vacancy/Orientation- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist*
 - Sabrina Jones discussed subcommittee updates in general.
 - Orientation in August went well, next one is 10/16/24
 - Survey going out to Orientation participants
 - Final Vote on Communication and Engagement Co-Chair, one new member just joined, Subcommittee’s are growing
 - Openings for ECAC Subcommittee seats are as follows:
 - Nonprofit seat open
 - Tribal Seat open
 - Couple of interested parents for Parent Seats



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

- **Include on next Executive Leadership Agenda:**

- *Standing item-*

- **First Five Nevada Program Inclusion** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

- The Subcommittee will discuss ECAC Assistance Request

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

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

The Subcommittee discussed agenda items for the upcoming General ECAC meeting.

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

- Tiffany Alston- Add having a vote on approval of using Current Strategic Plan until new one in place
- Marty Elquist- Take off the 9/18 Vulnerability Agenda Item and add to November General ECAC Meeting
- Tiffany Alston- Does anyone think we should offer Voting Registration resources at the next meeting as families will be present and it is close to voter registration deadlines?
 - Patrice Gardner- Open to adding Voter registration resources
 - Tiffany Alston- Is this something Family Engagement committee would be interested in?
 - Tiffany Olivas- I'm leaving that to Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo-Rodriguez to decide
 - Tiffany Alston- Tiffany Olivas please bring that decision back to us.
- Tiffany Alston- We need to invite a Community Leader to our meeting to share voting resources with families who may be present, Tiffany Olivas, Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo-Rodriguez will you all let us know if you find a community member?
 - Tiffany Olivas- Yes

12. Upcoming Meetings (*Information*)

September 2024

Meeting September 10th 9:00am - 10:30am, Communication & Engagement Subcommittee

Meeting September 12th 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Policy and Finance Subcommittee

Meeting September 18th 9:00am - 12:00pm, General ECAC

Meeting September 19th 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Data and Evaluation Subcommittee

Meeting September 25th 1:00pm - 2:30pm, Systems Alignment Subcommittee

October 2024

Meeting October 1st, 11:00am - 12:30pm, Executive Leadership Subcommittee

Meeting October 10th, 1:00pm - 2:00pm, Finance and Policy Subcommittee

Meeting October 17th, 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Data and Evaluation Subcommittee

Meeting October 22nd, 1:00pm - 2:30pm, Systems Alignment Subcommittee

Upcoming ECAC New Member Orientations

ECAC New Member Orientation October 16, 2024, 11:00am

ECAC New Member Orientation December 18, 2024, 11:00am



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

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

Public comment offered during this agenda item on any matter within the Council's 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

14. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting at 12:04pm

One Sentence Summary:

The Subcommittee reviewed all subcommittee's progress, heard about the new Calculator on the ECAC website and discussed upcoming ECAC General Meeting items such as having community Leaders present to support Voter registration.

Action Items:

1. Keep First5 on agenda from now on
2. Final Vote on Communication & Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
3. Receive updated definition of Underserved Population from Data and Evaluation Subcommittee once it is complete.