

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)  
SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Wednesday, August 28, 2024**  
**1:00pm to 2:30pm**

*“Nevada’s children will be safe, healthy, and thrive 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 videoconference.

## **Minute Summary**

### **1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call**

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Olivas called meeting to order at 1:05pm
- Sabrina Jones- Conducted roll call

### **Members in Attendance (10)**

- Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chair, NAMI Nevada
- Anna Binder, Parent Representative
- Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair, Head Start Collaboration Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dr. Diane Nicolet, Washoe County School District, School Board Trustee
- Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2, The Children’s Cabinet
- Anna Severens, Education Programs Specialist, PreK Nevada Department of Education
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District and Nevada Pre-K Standards.
- Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Rosa Tomayo Rodriguez, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet

### **Members Not in Attendance (1)**

- Cynthia Magana, Department of Welfare and Social Services, Child Care Development Program Chief

### **Public in Attendance (7)**

- Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Specialist at The Children's Cabinet
- Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Sabrina Jones, Early Childhood Advisory Council Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Brandi Hearst, Early Childhood Advisory Council, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Meghan McQuillan, QRIS 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

## 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.

- No comment

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

The Subcommittee motioned and approved a flexible agenda.

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Rachel Stepina motioned for approval of flexible agenda
- Patrice Gardner seconded motion
- Members unanimously voted, motion passed, flexible agenda approved

## 4. Approval of June 26, 2024, minutes *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee motioned to approve minutes from June 26, 2024

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Abbey Bernhardt moved to approve the June 26, 2024 minutes
- Diane Nicolet seconded the motion to approve the minutes
- Members unanimously voted, motion passed, June 26, 2024 minutes approved
- Patrice Gardner abstained, she was not at the last meeting

## 5. Systems Building Initiatives, *(Discussion for Information)*

The Subcommittee heard a presentation on Systems Building Initiatives from Rachel Stepina & Jamelle Nance

*Rachel Stepina, Grant Manager PDG-5, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development, Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance*

*Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet*

- Tiffany Olivas invited Rachel Stepina and Jamelle Nance to present on System Building Initiatives
- Rachel Stepina connections between:
  - PDG B-5, HRSA, ECCS, Health Integration, P-3 and Pritzker Children's Initiative P-3.
  - Discussed what systems building efforts members had engaged with before
  - Introduced Connections to ECAC System Building initiatives
- Tiffany Olivas- The Children's Cabinet was awarded a 5 year grant in 2021
  - August 1, 2024, enters 4<sup>th</sup> year
  - The Children's Cabinet initially wanted to serve as the grantee to:
    - Support State agencies and partners
    - Align with Pritzker PN-3, PDG b-5 and Nevada ECAC
  - Denise Tanata wrote the Grant application
    - Worked at The Children's Cabinet
    - Chair of Nevada ECAC.
  - Various early childhood verbiage and Asks
    - increase Prenatal to three initiatives
    - increase health care worker participation
      1. Family engagement at state and local levels.
      2. Increase capacity of families connecting to services
      3. Increase policy and funding Visibility
- Rachel Stepina-
  - NV Early Childhood Systems Building Initiatives

- Funding
  - Equity
  - Family Engagement and Leadership
  - Needs Assessment
  - Strategic Planning
- Connections to National Crosswalk
  - Disseminating Best Practices
  - Cross Sector/System Partnerships
  - Evaluation and Use of Data
  - Sustainability
- Connections to ECAC Systems Alignment Committee
  - Conduct assessment of strength, inequities, strategic priorities and goals
  - Produce and disseminate an early childhood system asset and gap analysis
- Tiffany Olivas presented HRSA ECCS Health Integration P-3
  - Alignment with NVECAC
  - Increase state level infrastructure
  - Increase coordination of P-3 Initiatives
  - Increase a capacity of families connected to services
  - Implement policies and funding that are stable
  - Advance Equitable and Improved Access
  - Fiscal Map completing Gap analysis
- Rachel Stepina- PDG B-5 Overview
  - Activities
    - Needs Assessment
    - Strategic Plan
    - Family Engagement
    - Workforce Supports
    - Quality Improvement
    - Subgrants to programs
  - Opportunities for continued systems engagement:
    - Public Canvas courses online
    - View project details, partners, connections
    - Getting involved, feedback
- Jamelle Nance- Presented on The Pritzker Children’s Initiative
  - The Pritzker Children’s Initiative (PCI) supports grantees nationwide
  - Key Focus areas:
    - Maternal and Child Health
    - Early Learning,
    - Economic Well Being
  - Goal: Bring new voices to decision making table
  - Implement comprehensive universal systems
  - Targeted strategies to reach families
  - Provide quality early childhood experiences for all children.
  - To increase investment in universal and targeted PN-3 services
  - To increase investment supports for prenatal, infants, toddlers
  - Funds *Strong Start* PN-3 coalition
  - Produces data driven policy recommendations
  - Strategizes and support the implementation of effective and equitable policies
- Rachel Stepina discussed PDG B-5

- Funding Source:
  - Federal Grant \$30 million over 3 year 2023-2025
- Tiffany Olivas added HRSA P-3 (Health Resources and Services Administration)
  - Funding Source: Maternal and Child Health Bureau approx. \$255,000/year over 5 years
  - Braided funding with Department of Welfare and Supportive Services and Child Care and Development Program for team expansion
- Jamelle Nance: Pritzker P-3 private funding
  - J.B and M.K Pritzker family foundation, established with a mission of fostering solutions in Early Childhood, community and women’s health.
- Patrice Gardner:
  - Is the grant continuous like Child Care Development Fund, or is it dependent on available funds?
- Tiffany Olivas-
  - HRSA typically awards multiple times once you receive a grant from them, we are hopeful we will be rewarded again.
  - Added that Equity, Family Leadership and Strategic Planning are the 3 topics to discuss with enough time to go over in depth at next meeting
- Abbey Bernhardt- Agrees- Keep those three on agenda for next meeting
  - Rachel Stepina- A Needs Assessment was done in 2019 at UNLV
  - Available on ECAC Website
  - Because of Covid, next Needs Assessment to be updated with how Covid affected youth
  - It’s an active Engagement activity
  - Needs Assessment is a snapshot while a *Continued Look Study* looks in depth at specific questions and data
  - Early Childhood Programming
    - Work Force
    - Family voice
    - Early Childhood Programming in connection to NV system of Higher Education
- Tiffany Olivas- Snapshot from 2023 Fiscal Map
  - Gave visual idea of where sectors and partnerships are aligned
  - Denise Tanata shared during previous meetings
- Jamelle Nance- Needs Assessment help us identify target groups for programs
  - Children’s Initiatives
  - Child Advocacy group is made of parents and ambassadors
    - Who should we reach out to?
    - Who is farthest away from opportunity
    - Reflective of Nevada’s issues
    - Assessments done organically by:
      - building relationships
      - communicating with families
      - what are parents passionate about
      - data collection
      - share advocacy efforts
      - advocate for families
    - Visual Network Lab
      - Allows Early Childhood Leaders to connect and check in with each other
      - Aligns policy
      - Aligns strategies
- Tiffany Olivas- Email us if you have questions having to do with Aligning our Systems

## 6. Discuss Plans to Coordinate with Other Committees (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed strategies for coordinating with other subcommittees.

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Tiffany Olivas- Is sharing updates enough to truly collaborate?
- Patrice Gardner- There are some subcommittees that are further along than others
  - There is opportunity to do more collaboration
  - Some need opportunity to solidify their committee before we begin interjecting
    - Others that are farther along could collaborate more
    - Definitions of verbiage can impact all of our work, that is a real need for collaboration
- Tiffany Olivas- Data and Evaluation included Recommendations in their report for other subcommittees
  - Could be a great starting point
  - Should we invite their chairs to review with
  - Should we look over it ourselves?
- Patrice Gardner-Make questions after going over it first in our own subcommittee, then invite others.
- Tiffany Olivas- Agrees, suggested possible “homework” to look it over on own.
- Anna Binder- Re: Chat topic of Vulnerable and Underserved Population definitions
  - Reviewed with her subcommittee but did not include Marty Elquist, so not official yet.
  - Playbook- has section for each subcommittee
- Tiffany Olivas- We should expand the workplan.
  - Complete an analysis
    - Show where everyone is at by using the Master Workplan
    - How do we align?
    - How can we collaborate?
- Rachel Stepina- regarding the Definition-
  - Need the definition done to be able to use the Crosswalk
  - Crosswalk is Great opportunity to collaborate.
- Tiffany Olivas- Agrees

## 7. Subcommittee Work Plan Review (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee tabled this item.

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Item tabled until September

## 8. Partnering with Advisory Groups and Organizations (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee tabled this item.

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Item tabled until September

## 9. Discuss agenda items for next meeting (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee will discuss topics to add to the next System Alignment Meeting agenda.

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Tiffany Olivas reviewed today’s subcommittee discussions for added Agenda Items:
  - Keep Item #7
  - ADD Subcommittee Workplan review to next Agenda
  - Keep Item #8
  - System efforts including equity and family leadership
  - Systems Alignment- Review definition or should we wait until it is finalized ?
- Diane Nicolet- Can we see the definition and where are we at right now?
  - Need time to process what the state of Nevada is needing

- We need information from other subcommittees to guide our work.
- Tiffany Olivas- Can we follow up with definition Sabrina Jones?
- Sabrina Jones to follow up
  - Added: Let Chairs know beforehand when bringing this up in other meetings.

## 10. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

### 2024 Systems Alignment Meetings

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

1:00pm - 2:30pm October 23, Systems Alignment Meeting

1:00pm - 2:30pm November 27, System Alignment Meeting

### **December 2024 NO Systems Alignment Meeting**

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

Public comment taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Subcommittee'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 Subcommittee Chair imposed a time limit of three minutes.

- Rachel introduced Brandi Hearst as ECAC Administrative Coordinator
- Brandi Hearst said Hello to everyone
- Tiffany Olivas welcomed Brandi Hearst

## 12. Adjournment

*Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

- Tiffany Olivas adjourned meeting at 2:35pm

### **One Sentence Summary**

- The Systems Alignment Committee spent time during this meeting hearing a presentation explaining the funding sources and initiatives taken by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five, HRSA ECCS & Pritzker Children's Initiative, discussing more ways to collaborate with the other ECAC subcommittee's and reviewed new ideas for use of the Vulnerable and Underserved Population definition.

### **Action Items**

1. Continue Presentation on Building Initiatives at next meeting
2. Review Definition of Underserved Population to better guide us through strategic work and collaborating
3. Look into Data and Evaluation's recommendations