

**NEVADA Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)**  
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**October 1, 2024**  
**1:00pm-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 will be held via video conference.

**Minute Summary**

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

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

- Meeting called to order
- Sabrina Jones conducts roll call

**MEMBERS PRESENT (10)**

- Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair, EPP, Nevada Department of Education
- Brenda Morales Solorzano, Policy and Finance Co-Chair, Developmental Specialist Supervisor, NEIS Reno
- Jennifer Butler, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair, Quality Assurance Manager, Las Vegas Urban League Early Childhood Connection
- Marty Elquist Data and Evaluation Co-Chair, The Children’s Cabinet
- Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
- Jamelle Nance Communication & Engagement Co- Chair, Children’s Advocacy Alliance, Early Childhood Policy Director
- Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co- Chair The Children’s Cabinet

**MEMBERS ABSENT (1)**

- Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE (12)**

- Nayesdi Badillo, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Brandi Hearst Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jerek Hough, Source Academy and Early Learning Center, District Manager
- Sabrina Jones ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jacquelyn Kleinedler, ED for NV Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Nina McCartney, BCBA with Pivotal Behavior Consulting
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Kate Pflughoeft, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Anna Severns, Nevada Ready State Pre-K, Nevada Department of Education

- Rachel Stepina Preschool Development Grant Birth Through 5 Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Systems Advisor, The Children’s Cabinet
- Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Specialist at The Children's Cabinet

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 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 Early Childhood Advisory Council Executive Leadership Subcommittee Meeting Agenda at any time.

*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair*

- Jennifer Butler motioned for a flexible agenda
- Ashley Dines Seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

4. **Minutes from September 3, 2024** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed and approved the September 3, 2024, minutes.

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

- Abbey Bernhardt motioned for Sept. 3, 2024 minutes to be approved
- Patrice Gardner Seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

5. **Local Early Childhood Advisory Council Grant Connections** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed what they would like to see regarding connections to local ECACs

*Rachel Stepina, Grant Manager PDG- B5 Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning*

- Rachel Stepina- Initiated conversation for Local Early Childhood Advisory Council Grants, second round.
  - Input for what will be the next Local Early Childhood Advisory Council grants will look like
  - What do you want as a local Early Childhood Advisory Council?
  - What should this look like?
  - Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones creating proposal and discussing with The Children’s Cabinet to learn what worked in the past
- Patrice Gardner- We should have a closer alignment with the local Early Childhood Advisory Councils, so we have focused strategic planning
  - How do we support them in engagement
- Tiffany Olivas- There are locals that do not have any funding
  - It is not a requirement to have funding or a grant
  - There are local Early Childhood Advisory Council’s that don’t request funds
- Sabrina Jones- What kind of strategies can we use to get them more engaged?
- Rosa Tamayo-Rodriguez- Newer to this setting, one local Early Childhood Advisory Council is not the same as any other locals, we should be all working together

- Jennifer Butler- We could do a better job distributing the meeting information through our own contacts and our professional contacts
  - We should make a flyer to invite parents and/or providers
  - Bring a “friend” to General Early Childhood Advisory Council in person
- Marty Elquist- Engagement is needed
  - When talking about this, we need to clarify what engagement is
  - Our local Early Childhood Advisory Councils put together proposals focused on critical issues in their communities
    - How does this align with larger system initiatives
    - Goals and objectives that relate to General Early Childhood Advisory Council
    - Logistical issues, technical issues
    - A lot of people can’t attend during the day because of work schedules
    - Opportunities that work for the members or community
- Marty Elquist- Intentional Linkage as each local Early Childhood Advisory Council is very different
  - Ties them to larger part of Early Childhood Advisory Council
  - Be careful with Open Meeting Law, we may lose members from local Early Childhood Advisory Councils when restrictive
  - Impede on participation with too many formal requirements
- Tiffany Olivas- Ability to provide support in a fiscal way
  - They do what is best for their community, families and children
  - They submit reports for each meeting
  - Participate as much as they can
  - Most everyone is working directly with children making it hard for them to participate
  - Everyone has needs and we should allow for flexibility
- Sabrina Jones- Is it possible for them to share agendas so we can know what is happening, what the priorities are, support them if we can
- Rachel Stepina- How can we leverage the tools we have to make it visible to Local Early Childhood Advisory Council?
  - Continue to share opportunities throughout the State
  - We want them to have the priority to serve families and children
  - Maybe on Early Childhood Advisory Council website we can grow the local Early Childhood Advisory Council’s, have a map of where they are serving
  - How can we help and support them as well as connect with them
  - Goals- Prepare the way to identify how to continue funding to make a meaningful difference and continue the funding past these grants
  - How are we able to connect and have strengthened opportunities through Nevada
  - Roll out new Local Early Childhood Advisory Council Process and Grants by January 2025
- Tiffany Alston- What is the vision of the state?
  - Beauty of locals having flexibility, we shouldn’t look down but instead look up to them
  - Let’s clarify what our strategic priorities are to the Local Early Childhood Advisory Council’s
  - Have them share with us how we can help them
  - For funders- The Children’s Cabinet and PDG-B5 do we need to have the Locals report to you?
    - How are the funds being used?
    - What reports would you need?
- Anna Severens- Active with Washoe/Elko Local Early Childhood Advisory Council’s
  - Successful local Early Childhood Advisory Council’s applied for grants when someone like me has taken them under my wing as these are people who are working full time and don’t know or don’t have time

- Suggested a Liaison to reach out to Local Early Childhood Advisory Council's and help
- Share what the local Early Childhood Advisory Council's are doing, share, learn from each other via zoom meetings
- Possibly getting the School Districts involved
- Jamelle Nance- Engaging those on a local level
  - Build relationships by celebrating them and linking the to First5 website
    - Put spotlight in First5 newsletter to showcase
  - Engage on local level and have their voice so they can share what is needed or happening in their local community
- Tiffany Alston- Let's keep this on the agenda for next month
  - Should we also invite the Local Early Childhood Advisory Council leaders for this?
- Rachel Stepina- Perhaps we can also add this to the General Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting, and we may get that engagement from the larger audience
- Tiffany Alston- Lets leave this item on our agenda
  - Tiffany Olivas and Anna Severens- pick one local Early Childhood Advisory Council to celebrate at the General Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting in November
- **Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Continued Discussion** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)  
 The Subcommittee continued discussion regarding Strategic Plan updates  
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair*  
*Rachel Stepina, Grant Manager PDG- B5 Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning*
  - Rachel Stepina- We are moving forward with negotiations with the vendor, soon announced
    - Council took action to keep current strategic plan until new one is in place
    - Updates will continue as we move through the process
- **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*
  - Tiffany Alston- We celebrate Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez for making the decision to stay home with her baby
  - Rosa Tamayo-Rodriguez- Thank you to everyone for the nice words, I am continuing to advocate for my children.
  - Tiffany Alston- Are you going to be continuing with the Early Childhood Advisory Council meetings?
  - Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez- Yes, I'm going to have a voice as a parent now, I'm not heard as a parent while holding this position
  - Tiffany Olivas- Thanks Rosa. Anna Villator will now be the Family Leadership Coordinator
  - Ashley Dines- We will miss Rosa, we have no other updates, we are mid-transition
- **Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLC) Family or Parent Updates**  
*(Information/Discussion)* NECFLC parents or family members not present to share.
  - Tiffany Alston- Leaving this item for General Early Childhood Advisory Council in November
- **First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)  
 The Subcommittee discussed First Five Nevada Website Community Partners Inclusion Request

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

- Denise Tanata- There has been no requests as of right now, we will let you know as soon as we get them coming in.

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

*(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee discussed updates, progress and needs related to the Coned 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 Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting.

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

- Patrice Gardner- Patti Oya requested for Lisa Ford, our Chief Strategy Officer at NDE to be on General Early Childhood Advisory Council agenda for STIP (Statewide Plan for the Improvement of Pupils)
  - Share where Nevada Department of Education is going with initiatives and strategic planning within Early Childhood Education for Statewide
  - We have connected with Holly for an Open Meeting Law training for us to attend and be aware of how that affects us and local Early Childhood Advisory Council's
- Sabrina Jones- Starting on Annual Report for Early Childhood Advisory Council
  - February will have 2025 Governor's Office discussion on table for legislation

*Systems Alignment Subcommittee – Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Olivas- Covered Grant topics in September
  - Systems Alignment work plan will be the priority for the next meeting as it gets pushed back

*Communications and Engagement Subcommittee – Jennifer Butler and Jamelle Nance, Co-Chairs*

- Jennifer Butler- Welcomed Jamelle Nance
  - Has Ad Hoc committee working on Communications Plan
  - Talked about communications loops to get more providers and family engages
  - Hoping to contribute more information to annual report
  - Jamelle Nance- Excited to gain momentum around Early Childhood campaign for CAA's Vote4Kids campaign

*Policy and Finance Subcommittee – Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Co-Chair*

- Elysa Arroyo- Not a lot to share
  - Went through Workplan and made some updates
  - Welcomed some new members

*Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – Marty Elquist and Amanda Haboush Deloy Co-Chairs*

- Marty Elquist- Welcomed Amanda as the new Co-Chair
  - Vulnerable Population definition ready to share as a possible action if that meets Open Meeting Law?
- Tiffany Alston- This is your update, and we are open to discussion
- Marty Elquist- Shares Definition and shows grammar and language changes, requests motion for approval to then get approval from Leadership to then bring back to General Early Childhood Advisory Council for approval
- Denise Tanata- Grammar error with parenthesis "but (not limited)"
- Rachel Stepina- Add the word "to" and move parenthesis to include "but"
- Tiffany Alston- Noticed LGBT letters not in correct order (I,Q)
  - Tiffany Alston moved to approve the definition to and send to General Early Childhood Advisory Council for vote
  - Patrice Gardner seconded motion
  - Members voted unanimously, Vulnerable Population definition approved and motion carries

- Marty Elquist- Working on table of contents for Playbook
  - Two pages on population, integrated data systems, linking to State systems and how it effects the populations
  - Will tie into Communications playbook
  - Next meeting 10/17/24

*Update on Subcommittees/ Co-chairs Vacancy/Orientation- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist*

- Sabrina Jones- we have 4 vacancies
  - Karissa Loper Machado vacancy filled by Amanda Haboush-Deloy
  - Childcare Representative needed
  - Parent Representative needed
  - Non-profit representative needed
  - Tribal member representative
  - Step up for Kids- Saturday 10/05
    - Handing out flyers to recruit families
    - Engage with the community
  - Upcoming new Member Orientation coming up 10/16/24
    - Email Sabrina.Jones@doe.nv.gov if you would like to attend
- Tiffany Alston- When will you be picking up the supplies for Saturday?
- Sabrina Jones- Brandi Hearst and I are going tomorrow at 10am, will need 4 chairs, 2 tables
- Tiffany Alston- Make sure to let Anna know too

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

The Subcommittee discussed agenda items for the upcoming General Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting.

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

- Tiffany Alston reviewed items on agenda so far:
  - Governors Legislation item
  - Inviting Local Early Childhood Advisory Council's
- Marty Elquist- add Vulnerable Population Definition to be approved
- Patrice Gardner- add STIP overview from Nevada Department of Education
- Rachel Stepina- Is this the correct meting to add technical assistance for interpretation
- Tiffany Alston- What would we call that Rachel?
- Rachel Stepina- Technical Assistance...?
- Denise Tanata-On 11/22 the Leadership Academy participants graduate if we can acknowledge them
- Tiffany- Marty Elquist, should we add anything traditionally to the November Agenda?
- Marty Elquist- The annual report and the meeting schedule for the next year
- Rachel Stepina- Tentative add- if we can add Strategic Plan updates if vendor is in place by then
- Tiffany Alston- Regarding General Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting schedules and engagement- are we comfortable adjusting the time we meet every other meeting?
  - Example- January at 9:30am, March at 5:30pm
- Tiffany Olivas- I think that is a great idea
- Brandi Hearst- If meeting at 5:30pm, we would need to think about space for children and need Adults to watch over them.
- Tiffany Alston- Lets take note of that
- Patrice Gardner- This was going to be my comment as well
- Marty Elquist- This would be needed if we don't allow children in the meeting

- Rachel Stepina- Intentionally ask parents” if we move it to later in day, how does that effect you?”
- Tiffany Alston- I asked about schedule changes based on data I received.
  - Let’s get Ashley Dines and Nayesdi Badillo to reach out to their Family groups for data in regard to this.

## 12. Upcoming Meetings *(Information)*

- **October 2024**
  - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:00am to 12:30pm, Executive Leadership Subcommittee Meeting
  - October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm to 2:00pm, Policy and Finance Subcommittee Meeting
  - October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm to 3:00pm, Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting
  - October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00pm to 2:30pm, Systems Alignment Subcommittee Meeting
- **A Look Ahead**
  - ECAC New Member Orientation: October 16, 2024, at 11:00am
  - ECAC New Member Orientation: December 18, 2024, at 11:00am

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

Public comment 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 Co- Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.

- **No comment**

## 14. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting at 12:37pm

### **One Sentence Summary:**

This Subcommittee discussed the meaningful engagement between local Early Childhood Advisory Council’s and General Early Childhood Advisory Council, how we can better reach them and offer our help, and continued the engagement discussion, coming up with ways to better reach communities and families to align Early Childhood Advisory Council’s big picture activities with community and family needs.

### **3 action points**

1. Efforts to reach the demographics that haven’t yet been heard
2. Bring Vulnerable Population definition to General Early Childhood Advisory Council for final vote
3. Input from Subcommittees for Annual Report