

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC)
SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday, September 25, 2024
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

“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.”

Meeting Location:

This meeting will be held via Zoom videoconference:

Minute Summary

1. Welcome, call to order, and roll call *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee reviewed attendance and welcome members and guests.

Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Tiffany Olivas starts meeting at 1:11 pm
- Sabrina conducted Roll Call

Members in Attendance (10)

- Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chair, National Alliance on Mental Illness, 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
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Tiffany Olivas, Co-Chair, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2, The Children’s Cabinet
- Anna Severens, Education Programs Specialist, PreK, Nevada Department of Education
- 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 (3)

- Cynthia Magana, Department of Welfare and Social Services, Child Care Development Program Chief
- Dr. Diane Nicolet, Washoe County School District, School Board Trustee
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District and Nevada Pre-K Standards.

Public Attendance (8)

- Nayesdi Badillo, Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Ashley Dines Parent Engagement Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
- Jenna Grant, Licensed Clinical Social Worker



- Brandi Hearst, Early Childhood Advisory Council, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Sabrina Jones, Early Childhood Advisory Council Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Kate Pflughoeft, Grant Manager Assistant Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Anna Villatoro, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Specialist, 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 a Flexible Agenda, (Discussion for Possible Action)**

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez motioned for Flexible Agenda
- Abbey Bernhardt seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

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

The Subcommittee approved minutes from June 26, 2024

Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Abbey Bernhardt motions to approve minutes
- Patrice Gardner seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries
- Jamie Mendez abstained as she was not at the last meeting as a member

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

The Subcommittee was presented with a Systems Building Initiatives

Rachel Stepina, Grant Manager PDG B-5, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

Jamelle Nance, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance

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

- Tiffany Olivas introduced the subject of Systems Building and discussed how the topics today relate to each other
- Rachel Stepina started a presentation with QR code for participant interactions and engagement
 - Strategic Plan is in Activity 2, PDG B-5 uses ECAC's strategic plan
 - Sabrina Jones and Brandi Hearst occupy the new positions to lead to the development and coordination and support of anything behind the scenes related to this statewide Strategic plan.
- Tiffany Olivas described history of Early Childhood Comprehensive System Strategic Plan
 - Denise Tanata worked for The Children's Cabinet and was Chair of ECAC
 - Able to align goals for Health Resources and Services Administration P-3 with Pritzker P-3 and



- PDG B-5 / ECAC subcommittees
 - Health Resources and Services Administration proposal created with intent to be clearly connected with ECAC subcommittees
 - Goals are the same ECAC Strategic Plan
- Created an individualized State Strategic Plan
 - With Early Childhood Comprehensive System Grant
 - Used data from Strengths and Gaps Analysis
- Created the Prenatal through three (P-3) strategic plan for Nevada
 - Nevada's Strategic Plan
 - Met monthly and attended activities to create this plan
 - Ask questions to identify self like:
 - How does my daily work fit into a coordinated system?
 - What part of these activities do I see myself fitting into?
- Jamelle Nance- Pritzker just wrapped up a 3-year cycle for a grant
 - Now I am working on a new grant application with the thought process of:
 - What has already been built?
 - What is needed still?
 - What can be built up?
- Denise Tanata planned out goals for Pritzker and the Children's Initiative
 - We are able to strategize what the priorities are and came up with 3 goals
 1. Creating Early childhood structure- what works best, coordination of policies and procedures
 2. Increasing coordination of systems of care and young children and their families
 3. Increasing capacity for equitable familiesStrategic Plans align closely with these 3 goals:
 1. Creating a coordinated early childhood leadership structure.
 2. Increasing the coordination and alignment between systems of care for children and families.
 3. Increase in capacity to equitably connect family's equity
- Rachel Stepina opened the floor for questions
 - What connections would you like to see are relevant to our systems alignment subcommittee
- Tiffany Olivas reads question in chat: are the data from the P3 grants added to a shared database?
 - The Data and Evaluation Subcommittee is working hard to get us to that point, asks Ana Binder if she can share
- Anna Binder- We are almost done with the gap analyses; it was more integrated for the systems that we actually have within the state and making sure that those are all flowing and accessible and working together. If its not within what we have been working on it may be online already.
- Tiffany Olivas- There is no shared database, but that is something that is a priority and others set the data and evaluation subcommittee and is one of the things that Nevada knows is lacking in our state.
 - Huge lack of alignment and communication between the databases or the collective data
 - This is why we want to create a process for communicating with our other subcommittees.
- Rachel Stepina- how do we collaborate and combine all those things to really improve equity in the state of Nevada for our young children and their families?
 - Equity is top value of our work
 - How do we achieve Equity?
 - How do we work towards Equity?



- Culture and diversity are often connected in the term Jedi where we have justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.
 - We look at all of these values while centering Equity
 - PDG, we do separate culture and diversity as one of our values because of the rich connections that are also there.
 - And then we also have communication, geographic responsiveness, and then continuity and pathways.
 - One major opportunity, Language Equity
 - Language Equity leads to opportunities for interpretation and translation
 - Voices of our families who are often underrepresented because they can't be heard in their native or home language.
 - Pre-K Standards emphasize the importance of maintaining home language for children
 - Develop their language identity
 - Influences their trajectory and continuum of learning in the earliest years
- Equity:
 - Not a check box, it's not a process of meeting certain requirements.
 - Something that we're required to focus on and grow
 - It's a mind shift of power.
- Tiffany Olivas-
 - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS)
 - Projects related to equity include the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership (NECFLEC)
 - Provides an opportunity to connect with families who have experienced who have young children who are in our state
 - Provide them with the tools to ensure that their story or voice is heard
 - They're experience being a parent or caregiver to young children
 - They need to be involved in the decision-making processes involving young children
 - This is the primary motivation for Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership /Health Resources and Services Administration
 - Children's Health -connected to Equity- Early Childhood Community Health Worker program (ECCHW)
 - Work with our early childhood providers, licensed family childcare/childcare centers
 - Ensure that these providers are providing appropriate and consistent health education
 - Is the environment safe?
 - Is provider working with families
 - Similar to Head Start model
 - Are the community partners encouraging families to allow their children to thrive
 - provides access and connections to all the thing a child needs to thrive
 - Access to preventative health, milestone screening, pediatric and preventive health
 - Each goal and Objective have programmatic and systems activities.
 - Both activities have Justice, Equity, Diversity and inclusion (JEDI) considerations
- Jamelle Nance- with the Pritzker Prenatal to three initiatives, equity has the opportunity to challenge the status quo through policy
 - Equity is woven into every piece of the Strong Start Prenatal to Three initiative.
 - Leadership Checks in and sees how things are going



- First identify together what is equity to us and how does that show up in the work that we do.
- Construct an equity statement.
- Opportunity to revise statements as things change.
 - How we are seeing it now coming out of a pandemic
 - Environment/community shapes the way we see our early childhood system, policies and the programs that impact young children.
 - Opportunities to have equity centered workshops.
- Opportunities offer ability to continuously:
 - Education continuously,
 - check in with ourselves
 - use various mechanisms to so
 - ensure that we're putting forth our best as leaders in this space.
- Equity Leadership Action Initiative
 - We receive a lot of data
 - Most of it isn't what we need to paint the true picture
 - Leaves gaps of what we need to know and what we do know
 - We need to be intentional on how we build relationships with those that we're working with
 - Get a true picture of where there are continued gaps with equity
 - How that translates into policy
- Nevada United for Early Childhood Equity
 - Group of Nevada's dynamic leaders
 - Speaking of what they see in their communities
- Rachel Stepina- Language Access Connection
 - What language access tools and supports are necessary to include our populations who do not speak English
 - Including Deaf or Hard of Hearing
 - Been addressing at Legislature for months
 - One of the most disproportionately "set aside" family groups we aren't reaching because of translation services.
 - PDG interpretation translation services do include the deaf and hard of hearing community in requesting like if you need American Sign Language services.
- Ana Binder- At the Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities, I requested for us come back with a policy position statement
- Rachel Stepina- How does that impact our youngest families as they're learning their language?
 - Looking at inequities between a young child that is deaf or hard of hearing
 - Family doesn't know Sign Language
 - Communication barriers impact family engagement
 - Reduced services
 - Lack of services available
- Ana Binder- Family Representative
 - Doesn't have a degree in Education
 - I'm just a really concerned Mom
 - I'm just in the room listening and not even having a voice
 - I'm still here because nobody has come forward that is like me to replace me.
 - People are scared to come forward, not sure if they will be in a safe space
- Nayasdi Badillo- When it comes to language access, it's important to have these conversations
 - Important to be OK or uncomfortable in asking questions



- Step out of your comfort zone.
- When you have those conversations, that's when the need comes out
- We're not getting the request for ASL, meaning we're not getting those communities represented.
- We have Spanish requests; we have 2 of the top 5 languages spoken in Nevada being requested
- Where are the other families, why aren't they coming?
- Jamelle Nance - Pritzker Prenatal 2-3 initiative, there are several opportunities to interact with families
 - Family engagement-can't make any policies without considering those who are impacted by the policy changes you're looking to make.
 - Child Advocacy Ambassador program:
 - Was in person
 - After the pandemic, I went online
 - Noticing that they could reach more people this way, statewide
 - Now have ability to offer Spanish Translation
 - \$50 stipend to give to each participant at each meeting
 - Make sure families are compensated for their time and expertise in the area we need to know about.
- Rachel Stepina- Preschool development grant birth through five
 - Our work is about families and their experience in this early childhood system
 - Using those experiences by having families engage and changing our system in a different way
 - Main goal is to have parents engage in a comprehensive birth through 5.
 - It's truly birth through 3rd grade in our PDG perspective
 - Zero to 8 across the entire early childhood continuum
 - An intuitive and useful way that works for and empowers families
 - Flexible "family" definition
 - Looks different for everyone
 - Not just moms not just dads
 - Include all of our caregivers in that family unit
 - Including home visits in the incarceration system
 - They go into jail and provide support to families
 - Support provided at home for caregiver and child.
 - What do we mean when we say family engagement in this system?
 - They are directly tied to that family system, whatever that system looks like for them.
- Tiffany Olivas- HERSA evaluation plan
 - Establish a way to address whether or not our advisory body, the Early Childhood Advisory Council and subcommittees,
 - How welcoming are they?
 - Creating an environment for families and family leaders and volunteers
 - How can we ensure that these opportunities are fair, welcoming and respectful spaces for families to join?
 - Created a rubric which has 9 competencies
 - What we think a facilitator should have and represent throughout these meetings
 - Include a language access plan
 - Materials available in other languages
 - We support the Early Childhood Advisory Council and subcommittees
 - We support our families participating in meetings
 - Providing trainings
 - Monthly meetings on "open meeting law"

- Advocacy’
- One On Ones
- The State of early childhood systems

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

The Subcommittee continued the discussion on strategies for coordinating with other subcommittees.

Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Table to October 2024

4. **Subcommittee Workplan Review**, (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee reviewed workplan updates from all subcommittees for alignment

Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Table to October Meeting- This is the Priority

5. **Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting on 10/23/24** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed topics to add to the next Systems Alignment meeting agenda.

Tiffany Olivas, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Tiffany Olivas- Add: **Agenda item #6:**

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

The Subcommittee will continue the discussion on strategies for coordinating with other subcommittees.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas- Add: **Agenda item #7:**

Subcommittee Workplan Review, (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee will review workplan updates from all subcommittees for alignment

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

6. **Upcoming meeting schedule**

- 2024 Systems Alignment Meetings
 - 1pm - 2:30pm November 27th, Systems Alignment Meeting
 - *No Systems Alignment Meeting in December, 2024*

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

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

- Rachel Stepina-Sustainability Lens and funding long term for Early Childhood Systems as a collective .

8. **Adjournment**

Tiffany Olivas Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Tiffany Olivas adjourned meeting at 2:35pm

One Sentence Summary:

The Subcommittee heard from Rachel Stepina, Jamelle Nance and Tiffany Olivas about how Equity and Family engagement are connected, what Equity means, and how the family voice is the priority for these initiatives.



Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council

Action Items:

1. Following through with more family engagement from those families we haven't reached yet
2. Action plan for how to reach families/communities that still don't have a voice
3. Creating welcoming environment to provide Safety for families to speak in honesty