



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) POLICY & FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Public Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2024

1:00pm-2:00pm

*“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 Zoom videoconference

Minute Summary

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brenda Morales Solorzano started the meeting at 1:04pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call.

Members Present (7)

- Abbey Bernhardt, National Association for Mental Illness
- Anna Binder, Parent Representative
- Brianna Cambra, Regional Quality Director, The Children’s Cabinet
- Ashley Dines, Parent Representative, The Children's Cabinet
- Lela Gonzales, ARP Project Manager, The Children's Cabinet
- Brenda Morales Solorzano, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Patti Oya, Director of Operations, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

Members Absent (3)

- Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Marty Elquist, Seed Director, The Children's Cabinet
- Nicole Martin, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Public Attendance (8)

- Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office Of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jerek Hough, Regional Manager, Source Academy
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC 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
- Jamelle Nance, Communication & Engagement Co- Chair
- Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, The Children’s Cabinet
- Sabrina Schnur
- Sarah Sills NEIS Supervisor
- Denise Tanata , Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor , The Children’s Cabinet
- Anna Villatoro, Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet



1. 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.

- Brianna Cambra- Brain Collins, listed on Roster, no longer an employee of DWSS and it is assumed he will no longer be a [art of this subcommittee
- Brandi Hearst- Thanks you for update , this will be adjusted on rosters.

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

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Abbey Bernhardt motioned to approve the Flexible Agenda
- Patti Oya seconds motion
- Members unanimously voted, motion carries, Flexible Agenda approved.

3. Approval of September 12, 2024 Minutes (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee approved the September 12, 2024, meeting minutes.

Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata- Agenda Items numberer 5, fourth bullet down, "finding" needs to be "funding."
 - Change Gap Analysis identifying additional funding to "Gap Analysis identifying what additional funding is needed"
- Abbey Bernhardt motioned to approve the September 12, 2024 Minutes with above edits
- Brianna Cambra seconds motion
- Members unanimously voted, motion carries, minutes approved.
 - Patti Oya Abstained as she was not at meeting on September 12, 2024

4. Workplan Progress Updates (*Discussion for Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed talking points for policy recommendations

Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Need update on that actual cost versus provider charge calculator
 - Marty isn't on so we will move on
 - For sake of time and use of our Flexible Agenda, we are combining Item's 5 and 6 as they relate to each other
 - Minutes continue at Item #6

5. Identifying Gaps between Policy Priorities

The Subcommittee discussed Policy recommendations and identified gap between recommended policy and CAA Policy Priorities.

Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- compare the policy recommendations that we've identified for the policy and finance of committee with the Children's Advocacy Alliance policy priorities.
 - I'm opening this up, as I'm thinking this is one of our talking points.
- Brianna Cambra- Yes Definitely
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- universal pre-K
 - 4.1 objectives from our work plan.



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- state investment in childcare: expand access to quality affordable childcare with state general funds, investments in childcare Development Fund.
- Patti Oya- We want to see if this list matches what we have and we want to see where the gaps are
 - identifying and working on- not working on talking about
 - comparing is and what's in our work plan just for the policy and Finance Committee or all of the whole larger council is one question
 - Sabrina Jones can you pull up the 2023 Annual Report
 - This helps us See what we still need to be working on, what we still need to be talking about and putting in the 2024 report.
- Sabrina Jones- We do have a draft for the 2024 policy recommendations.
 - we are trying to compare CAA policy priorities to the policies priorities that we have already identified as a group
 - We want to see if we need to add any additional policies to align with CAA.
 - those added policies will need to be consistent with our work plan.
 - we need to start preparing our annual report to submit a draft to the leadership subcommittee of policy recommendations
 - goal #1 is the early childhood leadership infrastructure that we would still continue to support establishing the Governor's office for the early childhood system
 - Goal#2 : increase coordination and alignment the systems of the young children.
 - Using executive data collection integrative system to increase equity and accountability.
 - One of the other policies recommended a: execute the data collection and integrative system to increase equity and accountability.
 - What Brenda was saying is we already have aligned a few of their policies with ours.
 - Should we be adding any additional policies that align with CAA to our annual recommendations ?
- Brianna Cambra- Feels good about not needing documents between CAA and ECAC to match
 - survey did the job of asking ECAC Leadership and Subcommittees what we need to represent.
 - doesn't have to 100% match with CAA, as they have their own policy priorities.
 - there is a lot of intersection between the two, as you guys reviewed.
 - Policy Priority could be universal pre-K, it's so important
 - Medicaid eligibility
 - The office of the governor.
 - The screen shared document is probably what we need to review and make decisions on and not necessarily go back and forth between the other groups.
- Sabria Jones agreed and pointed out a priority:
- Brenda Morales Solorzano- ECAC administrative support to provide funding as recommended by NDE.
 - we were talking about sustainability for administrative support.
- Anna Binder- Crucial to keep Demonstrative Support
 - Add Guinn Center is hosting Zoom meeting to go over their report and findings, link is in chat
- Brenda Morales Solorzano- in Chat Denise Asked if we have a list of recommendations?
- Sabrina Jones- Yes, Let me get that, we should have that information here as the policies came from our workplan
- Denise Tanata- I think we need to see the list as the workplan was put together a while ago and the list was recent and had all ECAC input
- Sabrina Jones-Do you want me to pull this list down and focus on the priorities that you already identified, to move the work forward.
- Brenda Morales Solorzano- go ahead and update this document to align with the policies that you already identified on the survey and



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- submit it to Leadership and full ECAC for approval.
- want to move that forward versus, continuing to discuss it over and over
- Tiffany Olivas- Asked what the Subcommittee does with the Survey information?
 - Are you adding it to the report?
 - Are those priorities going to be included in anything bigger?
 - Brend Morales Solorzano- Oddly enough that was the same question I had; how do we move forward?
 - WE don't have enough time to keep discussing everything
 - Purpose would be to get talking points to put in Annual Report
 - Moving forward, I would be taking this information to the Executive Leadership to have the conversations there.
- Brianna Cambra- Establish a process for future policy priority discussions –
 - Use a visual (PowerPoint smart art or table) to anchor the discussion of the group
 - Embed key priorities from previous annual report
 - Share results of policy survey of general ecad body
 - Leave discussion notes and space to capture current recommendations
 - Use policy priorities to coordinate advocacy activities
 - Identify non-state employees who participate in the ECAC who can assist in advocacy activities
 - Organize representation and talking points for week of the young child
 - Coordinate with other child and family serving organizations to share priorities and discuss shared advocacy activities.
- Abbey Bernhardt- Gave historical reference to her experience with working with the Legislative session and offered to speak on ECAC;s behalf to help with our policy priorities
- Jamelle Nance- Agreed with Brianna's statements above and explained that we have to put something together that is concrete procedure so that we don't end up in the same situation of not having enough time.
 - Stated she is not an official member of this committee
 - Motioned to have the Priority policy be the Governors Office of Early Childhood
- Anna Binder- added that she trusts this subcommittee to add priorities that along
 - Universal PreK needs a lot of work, to keep that o as priority and
 - keep HOA items for supporting in-home childcare
 - I agree with all of CAA's priorities
 - We voted on this last time as this is what almost everyone is working on in a lot of ways we can collaborate
- Sabrina Jones- According to your minutes at the last meeting you all decided to move forward as we did not have enough time ; this will be submitted to out governor
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano: Read the Key recommendations
 - Establish a Governor's Office for Early Childhood Systems
 - Improve data collection by fostering understanding and collaboration with providers, families, policy makers, and other stakeholders
 - Expand engagement, alignment, and coordination of services among all early childhood system providers
 - Establish support and resources to ensure equitable engagement of parents/families in leadership and decision-making at state and local levels
- Jamelle Nance- So looking at this, there is only one policy, it all falls into recommendations
- Denise Tanata- Jamelle and I are on same page.
 - I agree as there are policy recommendations
 - There are talking points
 - If ECAC wants to continue Policy Recommendation for Governors Office



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- What does that include?
- Data comprehensive Systems
- Family engagement better coordination
- ECAC perspective- How does this align with ECAC Strategic Plan

- Ana Binder- What types of data exist, Gap Analysis also of what data doesn't exist
- Brenda- Do we want to vote on this now or wait until November?
- Sabrina Jones- We need to have a topic for the annual, for the sake of time, we need to move forward

6. Agenda Items for Upcoming Policy and Finance Subcommittee Meeting (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed agenda items for the next Subcommittee meeting.

Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Does anyone have any items to add?
- Brianna Cambra- We need to have a conversation about sustainable funding,
 - Sunset of PDG in December 2025,
 - Covid funding ending,
 - Critical programming ending
 - We need to start putting a pulse on what exists and what we can find funding for sustainability.
- Brenda Morales Solorzano- We can add that to November Agenda, anyone else?

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

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- Patti Oya- This is kind of part of Item number 7, but did we get enough information for the report to get done
- Sabrina Jones- I agree with Patti and Jamelle. We do need to bring to the next Leadership meeting the recommendations that you already have
 - If there is additional recommendations, we can discuss that when we get towards the end of the report
- Patti- Do you have the Survey results? If you do, you already have the answers and just need to gather the information
- Sabrina- Yes I have it. Maybe next year we will be able to align better with the Strategic Plan.
- Patti Oya- I like Jamelle Nance's comment- What is a policy and what is a recommendation?
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Can we just use the survey information or do we want to wait...
- Sabrina Jones- If you guys all agree I can write up the information from the survey to report at the Executive Leadership Meeting
- Brenda Morales Solorzano- Yes Lets do that, Does everyone agree? (heads nod on Zoom)

8. Adjournment:

- Brenda Morales Solorzano adjourned meeting at 2:05pm



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- **3 Action Steps:**

- Come up with Concrete procedures within Subcommittee
- Go Over Strategic plan in 2025 when coming up with Policy Priority topics for alignment
- Prepare Policy Priorities for Executive Leadership meeting coming up in November

- **One Sentence Summary:**

- The Policy and Finance Subcommittee was able to review survey results and decide which topics were a policy to take to the Executive Leadership Meeting for a Vote on what will be the ECAC Policy Priorities.

Starting early is starting right on time

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