



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (ECAC) PUBLIC MEETING Wednesday, September 18, 2024 9:00am-12:00pm

“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.”

Virtual Meeting held via Zoom Videoconference

In Person Meeting Locations:

SOUTH: LAS VEGAS

Child Care Services Center
1771 E Flamingo Road, #200B
Las Vegas, NV 89119

NORTH: RENO

Child Care Services Center
961 Matley Lane #110
Reno, NV 89502

Minute Summary

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Membership Update and Roll Call

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair

- Tiffany Alston called meeting to order at 9:10am
- Sabrina Jones conducted roll call
- Nayesdi Badillo explained instructions for joining different language channels.

Members in Attendance (13):

- Tiffany Alston- Seat J, University of Nevada, Sunrise Children's Foundation
- Elysa Arroyo- Seat R, Aerospace Machine & Supply
- Abbey Bernhardt- Seat O, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Jennifer Butler – Seat R, Las Vegas Urban League
- Tami Conn – Seat B, Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- Marty Elquist- Seat N, The Children’s Cabinet
- Edith Farmer – Seat A, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Patrice Gardner- Seat K, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Joan Jackson – Seat D , Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Seat L, Aging and Disability Services Division
- Arielle Newell-Rollins – Seat Q
- Tina Springmeyer- Seat R , Washoe County School District
- Stephanie Vega – Seat I

Members Not in Attendance: (7)

- Carrie Paldi- Seat H, Learning Care Group
- Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell – Seat E, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
- Dr. Diane Nicolet- Seat F , Washoe County School District
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward- Seat G, Ward University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Dr. Linda Young- Seat R, The Village Foundation
- Vacant- Seat M
- Vacant- Seat P

Public In Attendance: (57)



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- Krisann Alvarez- Department of Child and Family Services, Nevada
- Joycelene Bumagat, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Todd Butterworth, Guinn Center
- Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children's Cabinet
- Anna Colquitt, Guinn Center
- Ashley Dines, Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Lela Gonzales, The Children's Cabinet
- Guadalupe González Naranjo líder de familia y mamá
- Jenna Grant, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Cate Guzy, Nevada 619 Coordinator
- Amanda Harding, Division of Welfare Support Services
- Brandi Hearst, Early Childhood Advisory Council Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Victoria Hernandez, Sunrise Children's Foundation
- Danielle Holmes, The Children's Cabinet
- Julie Houchins, The United Way
- Jerek Hough, Source Academy
- Crystal Johnson, Statewide Chief, Child Care Licensing, Division of Welfare Support Services
- Sabrina Jones, Early Childhood Advisory Council Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Adriana Lemus, mother, Family Leader ,The Children's Cabinet
- Meghan McQuillan, Early Childhood Quality 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, Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance
- Smriti Neupane, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Shelly Nye, The Nevada Registry
- Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet
- Michelle Peterli, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Patti Oya, Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Michelle Peterli, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Anna Severens- Nevada Department of Education
- Gerilyn Slicker, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Maura Snyder, Division of Welfare Support Services
- Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Birth - Five Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez, Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant, The Children's Cabinet
- Carmen V. Mendez
- Anna Villatora, Early Childhood Comprehensive System Specialist, The Children's Cabinet



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- Kathy Yoder-Bass, Principal, The Hills Preschool
- Alejandra
- Ana
- Jennifer
- Kelly
- Lupita
- Maria Aguayo
- Linda Anderson
- Jennifer Bevacqua
- Ethel Chambers
- Mary Childrey
- Claudia Gonzalez líder de familia y mamá
- Jacquelyn Kleinedler
- Janice Lee
- Sandra Martinez
- Nina McCartney
- Felicia McLaughlin
- Angela Oscanoa
- Elida Oscanoa
- Sabrina Schnur
- Jennifer Valdovinos

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 Council Chair of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council will impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control or advisory power.

- No Comment

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

The Council approved a flexible agenda. The Council 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 the agenda.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair

- Abbey Bernhardt motioned for flexible agenda
- Patrice Gardner seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries, flexible agenda approved



4. Minutes from July 17, 2024 (*Discussion, For Possible Action*)

The Council reviewed and approved July 17, 2024 minutes.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

- Tiffany Alston reminds members to view before meeting
- Jennifer Butler motioned to approve July 17, 2024 meeting minutes
- Abbey Bernhardt seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries, meeting minutes approved from July 17, 2024

5. Guinn Center Report, Early Childhood Governance Structure (*Information/Discussion*)

The Council heard the Guinn Center presentation as agenda item #6.

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

Todd Butterworth and Anna Colquitt, Guinn Center

- Todd Butterworth introduced the Guinn Center
 - ECS is “Early Childhood Systems”
 - Guinn Center Deeply examined Nevada’s ECS Systems
 - Nonprofit nonpartisan policy research center.
 - Staff consists of:
 - researchers
 - academic partners
 - independent experts across the State.
- Tackle policy issues:
 - range from taxation
 - water, healthcare, education
 - identify and analyze the complex problems that we face as a state.
 - Inform decision makers and data driven policy solutions.
- Presenters Introductions:
 - Anna Colquitt, Director of Education Policy
 - Nevada Native
 - JD. From Boyd Law School and Ph.D. In educational psychology
 - Todd Butterworth
 - Worked in the Executive branch of disability services
 - 1st Bureau Chief of Disability services
 - Worked at Legislative Council
 - Was the policy advisor and research analyst for Education
- Todd Butterworth continued presentation-Many independent systems in early childhood
 - 18 programs operating exclusively in ECS
 - 45 serve Early Childhood
 - Governed by 26 different chapters of NRS
 - This created difficulties for families
 - Funded by 40 state budget accounts
 - Includes: Child Care, Economic support, Intervention services, Pre-K, Mental Health, Nutrition Services
- Nevada is experiencing challenges in:
 - Expanding access to early childhood services
 - Reducing child development and school readiness.
 - Coordinating this fragmented system
 - No longer need reports and studies, Nevada needs action not more studies.
- 1st step: convene, engage, and maintain open and collaborative communication with Stakeholders
 - An appropriate authority needs power to move Early Childhood forward.
- Nevada tends to be the bottom 3rd of the states in measures related to:



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- Pre-K. Access
- Child health and economic wellbeing
- Prenatal to 3 years old services
- Among children eligible for services, participation is low
 - Lack of available seats
 - Structural barriers
 - Accessibility
 - Families unaware of resources
- State level governance should provide:
 - Foundational supports and values.
 - Standards, alignment, a comprehensive data system
 - Support Workforce Development
 - Flexible in meeting local needs
 - State governance should be enabling not limiting
- Vermont and Colorado experience:
 - Colorado established Department of Early Childhood 2021
 - Transferred programs out of Human Services and Education Departments
 - Collaborated with various agencies
 - Governance CAN create positive transformations
 - Vermont- different set up from Colorado
 - Distributed system with structural challenges
 - Various definitions of quality
 - Too much provider oversight = too many expectations
 - Results:
 - More effective to centralize wherever practical
 - Clearly define the roles and powers of all parties involved.
 - More accountable and amenable to change when there is an independent body:
 - Providing accountability
 - Providing strategic leadership
- Defining ECS Governance: Subcategories
 - Community Engagement, Finance, Data Management, Workforce
 - Community Engagement objective:
 - create innovative and dynamic communication and collaboration among stakeholders.
 - Ensure partners communicate effectively
 - Communication aligns the services
 - Meets needs of children and families
 - Establish channels of community feedback
 - Informed decision making
 - Communication happens both ways
 - Responsive to the needs of community
 - Example: Oregon has 16 early learning hubs facilitating communication among health services, human services and local businesses creating effective communication between providers, families and resource agencies.
 - Finance objective: Ensure sustainable, adequate, and equitable funding.
 - Diversifying, optimizing, allocating and prioritizing fund investments
 - Public transparency = Accountability
 - Stakeholders involved in finance decisions
 - Regular assessments inapt of funding to ensure improvement and accountability
 - Nevada benefited from funding sources, created a challenge of aligning across sectors.
 - Example: Vermont made investments to expand Early Childhood Systems AND strengthen Finance Governance
 - Funding can be a lever for best practices and Systems Improvement



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- Data Management objective: Establish and maintain comprehensive integrated and secure data systems
 - Support informed decision making and continuous improvement.
 - Example: Utah has “Ekids early childhood data systems”
 - Integrate data to evaluate long-term outcomes for children.
 - Improves outcomes and program quality through data driven decision making.
 - Provide accessible, timely and relevant data to stakeholders.
 - Data system built simultaneously to meet everyone's needs.
- Workforce objective: To develop and retain a highly qualified, diverse, and motivated labor force.
 - providing comprehensive professional development
 - competitive compensation
 - supportive working conditions for job satisfaction and career growth.
 - Staffing challenges because of labor supply
 - High demand imbalances
 - Example: KY expanded eligibility for childcare subsidy- all licensed childcare staff working at least 20 hours weekly
 - 5600 children served
 - Could offer child welfare, mental health, or home visiting occupations.
 - Workforce needs to be professionalized
 - all early childhood sectors, not just childcare to be fully staffed.
- Recommendations:
 - The 1st phase of recommendations- governance, structure, planning and implementation
 - Restructuring this body (Early Childhood Advisory Council)
 - Phase 1 cornerstone “creation of an interim office to plan and organize the future of Nevada”
 - convene stakeholders
 - consider the State's many options and opportunities.
 - Neutral entity in executive branch, instead of within an existing department
 - recommend a coordinating entity- temporary mission, not in long term structure.
 - Specifically suggest creating an office of early childhood systems
 - granted necessary authority to complete tasks
 - Office recommends a path forward to the Governor and Legislature.
 - Office neutral with all early childhood programs
 - not be under the control of any early childhood entity
 - Instead serves Early Childhood
 - Phase 2 Implementing governance practices
 - Beginning with an examination of local needs.
 - Identify funding pathways and policy changes to meet needs
 - Implement a cost base versus a market-based model
 - Deploy integrated data system.
 - Develop reliable “one stop shop” for resources
 - No wrong way approach to access.
 - Align system standards and administrative rules between Early Childhood and later life systems.
 - Build an Effective Early Childhood Workforce.
 - The 3rd phase of governance: Evolution, system, and enhancement- prepare children for many years ahead.
 - Strategic Planning
 - Quality improvement
 - Annual Federal funding reviews
 - Considering National Best Practices
 - Expanding Policy
 - Todd Butterworth offered time for Questions
 - From chat: Why the Governors Office?
 - Competing interests in early childhood spread across different departments



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- Education, Health and Human Services
 - Depending on where its placed, Early childhood would be affected
 - Governors Office would be closer to the Governor
 - Neutral territory
- Chat Question: Is everyone aware that we do have 2 bills within the legislature, one of them being the Governors office of Early Childhood, does anyone have info on that?
 - Denise Tanata- This concept of establishing early childhood systems office has been discussed over multiple years last legislative session.
 - There was a bill put forward last session that did not pass.
 - multiple legislators that are interested in this issue.
 - Met with a Senator last month
 - There is an interest in moving forward, but:
 - What positions will there be?
 - What would the task be?
 - Location of office?
 - Jamelle Nance- There is definite interest in this topic in legislation
 - They want to see data
 - Guinn center has raised awareness about why this Office is important.
 - there are some legislators attached to it.
 - There's some strategy behind the fact that it went through the governor's committee first
 - When there's interest -keep talking about it.
 - Make sure that we are adding in all the details that are encompassed in this new report
 - Legislators are waiting. They want to see this report, the data behind it, the specifics!
- Tiffany Alston- Chat Question: How would Early Childhood Advisory Council play a role in this?
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council would play a massive role
 - one of our major goals is the need for empowerment and authority. Those are 2 key things that come up again and again in our report
 - Talking about the importance of having convenings like this to discuss.
 - Everybody brings their unique perspectives on how to tackle early childhood systems collectively
 - That is exactly where the Early Childhood Advisory Council fits into this as an advisory body
 - Hopefully some power of authority is given
- Tiffany Alston asked that bill information to be dropped in chat for members and the public to have access and review information
- Denise Tanata offered to share links with everyone via chat
 - Noted that bills are being drafted now and we are still awaiting specific details.
- Tiffany Alston- Many organizations support this office bill.
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children, Family Association for Nevada, Nevada Head Start Association
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council is a massive body with a lot of impact
 - This bill is HUGE and impacts a lot of people
- Chat Question- Will it matter what governor is in Office, will that effect the Early Childhood Advisory Council office?
 - Todd Butterworth - Governor shouldn't affect this office as it should hold power
 - Make its own decisions
 - based on the community voice and the stakeholders holding power
 - Abby Bernhardt- At the legislature often can speak to any bill, we promote
 - The Nelson case in governmental affairs is a great resource, shared in chat
- Denise Tanata- Shared that the Guinn Report will be out next month
- Rachel Stepina- What actions recommendations might you have for families to specifically stay involved?



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- Continuing to support this report?
- The actions that have been recommended?
- Todd Butterworth: family engagement and the necessity of engaging families in what the needs are
 - We won't know what those needs are.
 - Leads to- Can't address the needs
 - Having opportunities for convening and for hearing those voices.
 - Governance structures have explicit written requirements to have these voices at the table when convening.

6. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council Updates *(Information/Discussion)*

The Council heard from the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council regarding Parent Spotlight.

Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez, Parent Leadership Coordinators, The Children's Cabinet

Ana Saucedo, Parent

- Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez presented 2025-2026 Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council Training Menu
 - Topics such as: NV Early Childhood Systems, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council , Nv Legislature 101
 - This group has a wealth of knowledge
 - If you have information that you can present with your families, we would appreciate that
 - Even if training topic isn't listed
 - Maybe you know someone that can share their knowledge and collaborate with us
 - This is a game that changed in how families see us as a resource
 - Email Ashley Dines or Rosa Tamayo Rodriguez if you can collaborate
- Parent Presentation from Spanish speaking family member- Mom: Ana Saucedo
 - Son has down syndrome
 - Family only speaks Spanish
 - Shared her experience with the Early Childhood System.
 - Tiffany Alston thanked Anna for being so courageous in sharing her story
- *Translation provided for non-Spanish speaking meeting participants; translation not recorded*
- Questions from Early Childhood Advisory Council members in Chat:
 - What is the primary way you found services or support for your children prior to joining the Family Leadership Council.
 - Could you share any specific obstacles or barriers that you had with accessing services for your child with down syndrome?
- Tiffany Alston asked for Sabrina Jones and or Brandi Hearst to save "Thank You's" from chat and send to Ana

7. Strategic Plan and Ad Hoc Committee Updates *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Council discussed the Strategic Plan and Ad Hoc Committee updates and possible schedule. Discuss planning for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Trainings ideas

- *Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
- *Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*
- *Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Birth - Five Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education*

- Rachel Stepina- The committee has met, reviewed proposals that were submitted for the strategic plan process for the Early Childhood Advisory Council.
 - The next step: Department of Education to issue a letter of intent to notify vendors that a selection has been made.
 - Nevada Department of Education then moves into negotiations
 - Approvals based on the selected vendor.
 - An announcement will be made regarding that contract



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- the Early Childhood Advisory Council moves forward in strategic planning under the guidance of the selected vendor.

8. Subcommittee Updates and Workplan (Information/Discussion)

Discussed updates, recommendations and workplan progress from Early Childhood Advisory Council Subcommittees and priorities for 2024.

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

- Tiffany Alston- We want to have the members vote on a motion to approve that we use our current strategic plan until our new one is in place.
- Rachel Stepina- I would recommend that we say, until the new plan is in place, You can make an adjustment accordingly as the plan and vendor not in place until Early Childhood Advisory Council approves and adopts the plan.
- Tiffany Alston- opens hearing Affairs of Motion
 - Marty Elquist moves to approve that Early Childhood Advisory Council continues use of current strategic Plan until new plan is developed and approved by the body
 - Elysa Arroyo seconds motion
 - Members have unanimous vote, Motion Carries
- Patrice Gardener- no other updates, focused on the Strategic Plan piece

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

- Tiffany Olivas- subcommittee is back to meeting again (took a break)
 - Gave update at Leadership meeting, small update here for those who didn't go
 - Focusing on building a foundation of common understanding of system building efforts already established
 - Invited Rachel Stepina and Jamal Nance provide a shared presentation of individual systems building initiatives from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant
 - Rachel Stepina covered Preschool Development Grant Birth - Five Grant
 - Jamelle Nance covered Children Birth – 3rd
 - Aligned it so they could cover an overview, needs assessment, general information on funding
 - Plans to start discussing potential communication between subcommittees
 - Not duplicating work of other subcommittees
 - Dive deep into what's happening at other meetings
 - Start tackling their action plan

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

- Jennifer Butler- We have an official co-chair now, Jamelle Nance
 - We do have an Ad-Hoc now flushing out the Workplan for Communication and Engagement
 - Already had 1 meeting
 - Working on a plan will continue to update

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

- Elysa Arroyo- Policy Priority survey results
 - Spend the bulk of our time going over our work
 - Planning our portion of the work plan and getting updates on that. Available via the notes

Data and Evaluation Subcommittee – *Marty Elquist and Vacant seat, Co-Chair*

- Marty Elquist- Next meeting tomorrow at 1:00 pm
 - Revised Underserved Population definition, going for approval tomorrow
 - Revisiting the Child Opportunity Index map to see how that relates to our vulnerable population. I'll put that link in the chat.
 - Revisiting Map, key state holder population, Gaps
 - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0f33d5fd860a48f68970542d2bf62171>



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- Tiffany Alston- Shows what wages look like, cost of care and so on.
 - Co-Chair needed as Karissa Machado has stepped down with her new job
 - Seat is vacant, looking currently to identify someone to fill the vacancy
- Marty Elquist added: 2021 Self sufficiency calculator information
 - worked with the University of Washington from 2021-24 to create
 - different measures more than a poverty index
 - Shows what families really need to be self sufficient.
 - Shows the amount that families need to make before being reliant on social assistance.
 - Partnered with Nevada's Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
 - Funding: American Recovery dollars
 - On Early Childhood Advisory Council website link: Nvecac.com/Nevada-self-sufficiency-data/
 - Difference from 2021-24, all family types, how much more families need to make ends meet
 - Single adult household with an infant and preschooler needs to make 38% more than in 2021
 - Childcare costs on the calculator are at market price.
 - The cost Parents pay, not the cost providers pay out

9. Local Early Childhood Advisory Council Updates (Information Discussion)

Discussed updates from Local Early Childhood Advisory Council s.

- Carson/Douglas Early Childhood Advisory Council – *Tiffany Olivas*
 - Tiffany Olivas- Carson cities early childhood and business symposium.
 - Carson City first partnership and business symposium-
 - Early Childhood isn't a huge draw in Carson City.
 - Good Turn out
 - Provided info for brain development, Early Childhood
 - October 19 -Child Care whisperer, Mr. Ty. does workshops on Zoom
- Elko County Early Childhood Advisory Council – *Kelly Melendez*
 - No comment
- Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council – *Amanda Haboush-Deloye*
 - Joycelene Bumagat- Announced Step up for Kids 10/05/24
 - Nevada Institute For Children's Research And Policy website Step Up for Kids info and flyer link posted in chat
 - Collaborated with the Youth Mayor and his Council
 - Created a public service announcement to highlight their importance and then, lastly, earlier this month, the youth Mayor visited Washington, DC. During his trip he met.
 - Met with Federal representatives to discuss his passions, including:
 - Nutrition in schools
 - Mental well-being
 - Increasing access to stem education.
- Tri-Counties Early Childhood Advisory Council – *Ashleigh Baker*
 - No Comment
- Washoe County Early Childhood Advisory Council – *Kacey Edgington, Anna Severens*
 - No Comment

10. State Agency and Partner Report Summary Updates (Information/Discussion)

Relevant informational items from state agencies and departments on programs, services, initiatives and/or issues relevant to the Early Childhood Advisory Council Strategic Plan and work of the Council. Partners submit their reports in advance.



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When no update is provided in advance, listed partners will be given the opportunity to share a brief update verbally if a representative is present. Summary reports are provided in the Partner Summary Report document.

- Nevada Department of Education: Office of Early Learning & Development – *Patti Oya*
 - Assessment Vendor for students entering Kindergarten: Teaching strategies.
 - Using “teaching Gold” for 2025/2026
 - Training on how to access the system
 - start collecting data that collaborates with Infinite Campus
 - All students will eventually be on Infinite Campus BEFORE entering the school district.
 - Collecting income status by asking if they have access to HeadStart funding or Nevada Ready Pre. K
 - Data with the unique identifier combined with kindergarten entry, we will start to see this continuum of where children are academically BEFORE kindergarten
 - The kindergarten assessment costs for the second year will be continued with our preschool development grant.
 - Added: One position supporting Nevada State Pre-K still open

Access Nevada, Office of Inclusive Education: *Cate Guzy, NV 619 Coordinator*

- in the process of training all of our local agencies on our new data system that will track. All of our early childhood outcomes.
- Tiffany Alston- Cate, what's the new system?
- Cate Guzy- Access Nevada is the system
 - There are multiple modules that we use
 - This data is used for our Federal or State reports

Quality Rating Improvement System- *Sara Kharrat*

- No comment

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five- *Rachel Stepina*

- Rachel Stepina- Introduced Brandi Hearst as the new Administrative Coordinator
 - The written Narrative report is very comprehensive
 - currently have related to family engagement and revision of " Birth through Grade 12" family engagement framework.
 - Hyperlink in a survey
 - A way to engage is related to incentives
 - Families who engage in activities related to early childhood workforce and family engagement programming can receive compensation in the form of a gift card.
 - Opportunity to engage is participating in our home language survey and development of language access opportunities (translators).

Early Childhood Special Education

- No Comment

Office of Student & School Supports

- No Comment

Pre-Kindergarten

- No Comment

Department of Health and Human Services

- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program
- *Crystal Johnson*
 - Starting 10/01 Eligibility changes for subsidy
 - Subsidy Flat rate monthly co-pays depending on percentage of income
 - Changes go into effect November



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- Webinars are open 11/05, 9/26 (Spanish) and 11/05
- SMI State Median Income
- *Edith Farmer*
 - Now with Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
 - Now over Washoe County
 - NEW to Washoe- policy for State Fire Marshall compliance
 - Washoe Health Department working with Division of Welfare and Supportive Services for health inspections
 - August 2024, 653 licensed providers in Nevada, 51,521 student spots
- Division of Child and Family Services, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – *Krisann Alvarez*
 - No Comment
- Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health – *Tami Conn,*
 - Nevada Title 5 program
 - works on large grant from \January to July
 - Had a great site visit in person with hers yesterday.
 - A lot of good work done with Title 5 team
 - Special Health Care Needs program,
 - Medial Home portal connects individuals with specialty services for families in need
 - Unexpectedly closed due to Cyber Attack
 - Links need to be removed from websites
 - University Of Nevada, Reno family navigation network is still our partner, link below
 - <https://www.Universtiy of Nevada, Reno.edu/need/projects/family-navigation-network>
 - FIX: Division not Department for DWSS, Tami not Tammi on agenda and rosters
- Director’s Office, Aging and Disability Services, Part C and NEIS – *Lori Ann Malina-Lovell Absent*
 - No comment
- Pyramid Model Update – *Janice Lee*
 - No comment
- Research and Needs Assessments, Nevada Institute for Children’s Research And Policy – *Amanda Haboush-Deloye*
 - No comment
- NevAEYC Update – *Jennifer Butler*
 - Jennifer Butler- NevAEYC has open seats
 - NevAEYC Positions are open through 9/30 and start in January
 - Secretary of VP board Development
 - Education Development
 - *NEW* Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Chair Position
 - Planning for 25th anniversary in 2025
 - NEVAEYC Conference Tuscany Suites April 24-26
- Nevada Child Care Provider Action Committee – *Lela Gonzales*
 - Lela Gonzalez- Provider action committees sent members to conferences over summer
 - Meetings scheduled tomorrow to hear what was learned
 - Grant finding from Children’s Alliance
 - What have providers experienced as barriers in ECE
- Pritzker PN3 Initiative and Strong Start Update – *Jamelle Nance/Annette Dawson-Owens*
 - Children's Advocacy Alliance recently launched Nevada Votes for Kids.
 - Link in the chat
 - Has Resources to share with parents or your community.
 - There is a pledge giving a lot of information
 - Pledging that you support policies that are good for young children



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- Tiffany Alston- Question from Lela *Gonzalez via chat*:
 - Where is the co-payment webinar information (licensing)
- Tiffany Alston- It's in the report section, on the recap website for today's meeting.
 - 2 dates: September 24th in English at 12:00pm and 5:30pm and in Spanish. on September the 26.th at 12:00pm and 5:30pm
- Crystal Johnson- (answering a question in the chat regarding the different tires in eligibility):
 - I am sending copies of the policy to Sabrina Jones & Brandi Hearst, so they have the information to share.
- Tiffany Alston- Crystal (Johnson) was saying she is sharing additional information that Sabrina Jones and Brandi Hearst will be able to post as well.
- Jennifer Butler, do you have your hand up?
- Jennifer Butler-I am on the Nevada Association for Education of Young Children (NevAEYC) board and can provide an update.
- Tiffany Alston- Thank you so much
- Jennifer Butler- We have several positions that will be open on the board.
 - And we are taking nominations for those positions. We have openings in:
 - Secretary of Board development.
 - Vice President of Education and Development.
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Chair, a new position for the board.
 - If anyone is interested in applying for one of those positions, they are open through September 30, 2024
 - The positions begin in January 2025
 - 2025 is the 25th Anniversary of Association, plans in the works
 - Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC) planning for the State Conference.
 - April 24th - 26, 2025 at the Tuscany suites in Las Vegas
- Tiffany Alston- Jennifer Butler, Thanks for the update.
 - There's a new position for Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children, and that is Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Jennifer Butler- that's an event of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
 - It's a 15,000 Grant- we're going to use 5,000 of that to:
 - Have grad students from University of Nevada, Reno.
 - Review all of our documentation to help make sure that we're inclusive
 - Make recommendations to the Board for increasing our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work.
 - Other funds go towards?
 - Still have \$10,000 to spend if awarded
 - Developing the new board position Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
 - The Provider Action Committee sent members to attend a couple of conferences.
 - The Childcare Business Summit in Lake Tahoe,
 - The National Association for Family Childcare Conference in St. Louis.
 - Meetings scheduled tomorrow, to talk about some of our takeaways from those conferences
 - We're awaiting grant funding to partner with Children's Advocacy Alliance to elevate and promote some of the actions that the providers have identified as challenges or barriers. They've experienced in the field.

Health Resource and Services Administration, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Update –*Tiffany Olivas*

- Tiffany Olivas- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
 - Maternal and child health
 - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems.
 - Health integration prenatal to 3 years
 - On the grant- the maternal and child health did a case study on all of the State awardees.



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- After they reviewed our documents, plan systems asset and gap analysis
- Recommend that we dive into how we set our vision and agendas
 - It's really exciting to be recognized.

ECE Workforce Plan – *Jamie Mendez*

- No comment

Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council – *Ashley Dines/Rosa Tamayo-Rodriguez*

- Ashley Dines: Always looking for new parents!

New or Potential Grants and Funding

- No comment

Training & Professional Development Opportunities

- No comment

11. Upcoming Meeting Schedule (*Informational*)

Members & Non-members can join a n Early Childhood Advisory Council subcommittee. If interested:

- Email Sabrina Jones sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov
 - with Name, Email and Subcommittee of interest
- Email sent to you with application to complete
- Return via email to join any subcommittee that your heart desires.

• **September 2024 Early Childhood Advisory Council Meetings**

- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting September 19th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
- Systems Alignment Subcommittee Meeting September 25th, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

• **October 2024 Early Childhood Advisory Council Meetings**

- Executive Leadership Subcommittee October 1st, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Policy & Finance Subcommittee October 10th, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee October 17th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Systems Alignment Subcommittee October 22nd, 1:00 pm - 2:30pm
 - **A Look Ahead**
- Early Childhood Advisory Council New Member Orientation, October 16th at 11:00 am
- Early Childhood Advisory Council New Member Orientation, December 18th at 11:00 am
- To register, email us at Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov and Sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov

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

- Public comment will be 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 Council Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.
- Smriti Neupane- We are updating the needs assessments
 - We want to hear from parents and caregivers who have children under 8.
 - And we are doing interviews and focus groups right now,
 - Need your help to share our efforts.
 - Flyers in 6 different languages,
 - Thank you to Rachel, who has been translating those flyers
 - Flyers in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Amharic.
 - Need suggestions on how to better reach parents and host a focus group.
- Rachel Stepina- Thanked Karissa Loper Machado for her efforts with Early Childhood Advisory Council
 - The flyers that were translated into 6 languages
 - Supported by the United way of Southern Nevada
 - It has language, access, support, and services.
 - Can support a variety of languages and community organizations.



13. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting at 11:21 am
 - **3 Action Steps:**
 1. Help the Nevada Institute For Children's Research And Policy with recruitment of families to help with language barriers during interview sessions
 2. Support the Communication and Engagement Subcommittee with aligning their goals with their new Ad-Hoc Committee.
 3. Prepare for legislation session and encourage support from those in the early childhood systems, families and professionals.
 - **1 Sentence Summary:**

Along with many other topics discussed, The General Early Childhood Advisory Council had discussions with the agency that put together the Guinn report, pointing out the many ways Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council is in a position to be able to be the main point for the Early Childhood Systems to align, work together and promote best practices for families and Nevada's youth.

Starting early is starting right on time

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council