



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
Policy & Finance Subcommittee
Public Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 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.”

MINUTE SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brenda called meeting to order at 1:01 pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members Present (10)

- Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Anna Binder, Parent Representative
- Abbey Bernhardt, National Association for Mental Illness
- Brianna Cambra, Regional Quality Director, The Children’s Cabinet
- Ashley Dines, Parent Representative, The Children's Cabinet
- Marty Elquist, Seed Director, 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
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor The Children’s Cabinet

Members Absent (1)

- Nicole Martin, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Public Present (10)

- Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Krisann Alvarez
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- C. Gilmore
- Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, 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
- Elyse Monroy
- Kate Pflughoeft, PDG B-5 Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dana Preece, Birth – 3rd, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Anna Villatoro, Parent Representative, The Children’s Cabinet

2. Public Comment #1

Public Comment will be 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



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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.

- Happy Birthday To Lela Gonzales via Chat

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

The Subcommittee to motion to approve a flexible agenda.

Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve the Flexible Agenda
- Denise Tanata seconds motion
- Members unanimously voted, motion carries, Flexible Agenda approved.

4. **Approval of October 10, 2024 Minutes** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee will look to approve of the October Meeting Minutes.

Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Bullet under Sabrina Jones- commentary has typo
- Public Comment #1 Brian Cullen bullet has bracket, needs a P
- Ashley Dines motioned to approve the September 12, 2024 Minutes with the above edits
- Brianna Cambra seconds motion
- Members unanimously voted, motion carries, minutes approved.

5. **Start Discussion of Funding Sources and Action Plan for Sustainability** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed the potential lack of funding coming in 2026 after PDG B-5 and other funding sources expire. Topics can include but are not limited to: Existing programs and their funding source, funding potential funding gaps after 2025, demographics effected, Funding needs for programs to remain accessible, how to source funding.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo introduced Agenda Item and invited members to discuss possible action regarding the funds and existing programs or potential funding that could expire soon.
 - Going into 2026 we may see funding gaps.
 - Brainstorm about what we can do to fill the gaps
 - What programs need funding to stay accessible
- Brainna Cambra asked Patti Oya about the E-SLIP grants for NV PREK seats
- Patti Oya- Yes, we are making requests in that however that is all I can say until the governors budget come out cant speak to that right now
 - Concerned about grants ending such as PDG B-5, HRSA and other funding sources
 - PDG B-5 could get an extension for spending until 6/2026
 - Not sure if we are ready for this type of decision making as we need to take this to an even larger group
 - Need Data and Comprehensive list of what has been funded
 - Some Funding Sources are HRSA, PDG B-5, Pritzker, ESIP Grants
 - December Meeting for Child Care and development quality dollars meeting in December, this convo can start there.
 - ECAC can have a bigger role in this and if we have a systems office, then that is a great job for that office too
- Marty Elquist- I agree and if funding isn't picked up by other sources, programs such as QRIS will loose 8 coaches and that is 80 centers with no support and back on a wait list
 - We need to map out a consistent format to present the impact and identify alternative funding sources to fill gaps
 - Need a consistent format that we want to present the impact and then start identifying alternative funding



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sources to fill gaps.

- Patti Oya- We are behind the 8 ball again, session are here now, we already put in our budget, we need a miracle grant
- Elysa Arroyo- Is this something we can put on Policy recommendations?
 - not an emergency but we need sustainability
- Marty – Exactly why we need a Systems Office- this could be right under that policy
 - If we had a comprehensive office, all of these funding sources ideally would be on a timeline
 - There would be a larger sustainability plan
 - A comprehensive systems office, policy and finance is a huge role of that office
 - This would be mapped out, would be a larger plan. So yes- we do need to address it.
 - We need more coordinated Early Childhood Governance
- Patti Oya- We also need to track the reports and align the reporting results.
 - ECAC should have bigger role in that
 - Tracing the reports and when they are due,
 - is it coordinated?
 - can you see the feed back and see how it actually coordinates and aligns with actions
- Briann Cambra- I'm hearing that we create a very basic template of dates and impact and map out all of the information and programs and track that in this Subcommittee
- Patti Oya- I think we should that would be a great idea, but within this group do we have all of that information?
- Denise Tanata- It should be included in the Systems office. I think it helps make the case for it
 - Creating a template where we can standardize that, and putting it all together, I think helps make the case for the systems office.
 - Could align with our fiscal map and gap analysis and There is still potential opportunity during sessions to get some things done that are outside of those budgets
 - the sooner the better, I can help support that too.
- Marty Elquist: if there's any opportunity for an advocate for childcare startup grants and emergency grants as we don't have any grant funding for childcare providers.
 - Last year we replaced 10 Air conditioners in Las Vegas
 - We need to build the story and plan around the system
 - what is going to happen if we don't build these funds and support these programs
 - We can build the format and forms, start it with The Cabinet, PDG B-5
 - being in information : what was the emergencies?,
 - what funding is needed, we need to address it and figure out what the amounts are and create the story for legislatures
 - I only have The Cabinet Data and information; we would need more than that
 - Start with what we couldn't find, like grants, emergency funds
 - What were the emergencies and critical items?
 - We need to get these numbers and data in front of our elected officials
- Ana Binder- Has anyone heard anything about what is going to happen with the \$2,000,000,000 rainy day fund?
 - Did everyone see that their are bills dropping,
- Kate Pflughoeft – Can we come up with creative ways to ask for funding such as replace AC units with Health funding as that effects health long term?
- Marty Elquist- I do not know but am very interested in learning more on that topic.

6. Define Governors Early Childhood Office Policy Recommendation Using Executive Leadership Guidance (Discussion for Action)

The Subcommittee defined the policy recommendation of Governors Early Childhood Office and discuss verbiage using recommendations and guidance given at Executive Leadership meeting to better clarify terminology including but not limited to what is a policy and what is an action step, expectations, workload and funding.

Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs



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- Elysa Arroyo explained the reference of presenting this to Leadership meeting.
 - Used survey results everyone had a chance to vote on
 - Leadership requested we define what we are asking, be more clear
 - We all want the Governors Office
 - Need to be clearer with exactly what we want
 - Add Funding as per Agenda Item #5
 - The second was about Data collecting, understanding and collaboration with providers and families
- Denise Tanata- explained that the verbiage needed an update within the 4 policy priorities presented, as the way these are written is they are not policies, these are topics and ideas.
 - The concern is that its not a specific policy priority, its not a specific ask
 - Potentially a function or responsibility of an early childhood systems office.
- Brenda Morales Solorzano- I'm wondering if we are trying to look for more policies, or are we only focusing on one priority which is the Governors office
- Denise Tanata- this is up to the Subcommittee as we can do a few or we can do none.
 - Recommendations: include in the policy recommendations from the ECAC specifics about:
 - what that looks like
 - what key roles, responsibilities, functions.
 - format staffing,
 - have some unified key messaging around that
 - These could all fit under the policy of the Governors office
 - Need to look at funding
 - All of this can be what we want the governor's office for early childhood systems to do.
 - Make that our only push, establish the governor's office and then make it clear what we want from that and how that would help us
- Elysa Arroyo- All other items can fall under the Governors Office; we should make a list of what happens if we don't have the office
 - The impact of not having it and losing funding
 - Use that info to present as the WHY we need this office
- Kate Pflughoeft Agreed they more like topics under the Office, not seeing it as a policy,
- Brainna Cambra- NV PRE-K Ready this should be a policy recommendation to expand seats
- Kate Pflughoeft – that sounds like a secondary Policy priority, having wording for a holistic child or holistic family, or whole child, using terminology with Health care or Mental Health might be an addition to Governor's Office
- Elysa Arroyo- Good with Policy Recommendation are Governors office and PreK seat Expansion
- Marty Elquist- Recommendations from the council should directly relate to councils purpose, our statement shows a lot of those things that fall under our purpose. Governors office is obvious as so many things fall under that
 - NV Pre-K, Medicaid
 - Children's Advocacy Alliance has already done the language of
 - what falls under a comprehensive system of children and families can reach their full potential
 - Denise Tanata- Agree, all specific programmatic priorities are important
 - Most of ECAC would support Universal PRE-K and support of home visiting programs
 - What are the systems pieces we need in place?
 - Identify Funding streams
 - Identify funding efficiencies and maximize federal funding resources
 - Final report from Children's funding project showing new Revenue Streams
 - Including potentially key recommendations included in the early childhood fiscal map and gap analysis.
 - Nothing will happen if there is no funding.
 - *Marty*- we could make that a standalone policy priority, at the end saying that this work, this oversight, this will be coordinated hopefully by the governor's office



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- who's going to do that piece?
- We could have a policy priority about the funding and make sure that there's efficiencies and stuff, but as written, without the first policy priority
- Tiffany Alston via Chat: we have the Talking Pints for Early Childhood Systems Office and key features and functions.
- Marty Elquist- How do we look at how we fund our comprehensive early childhood system.
 - It could be a separate policy recommendation from the ECAC.
 - Annual Report due soon, we don't have specific numbers
 - Highlight the need for the legislature during this session and for the governor's office to address those critical budget needs for upcoming biennium based on funding that has been lost or going away.
 - if we're putting a policy priority out there that that the who or the info or Again, not one department or one agency that's putting it together without the collective input.
- Denise Tanta- That would be legislature, right?
 - Ideally come to session with data
 - Policy recommendation could be to request legislature ensures adequate funding from state budget for next biennium to address losses anticipated
 - Not putting exact numbers and limiting ourselves
 - Word it so its specific enough for policy
- Elysa Arroyo- We have about 8 minutes left and we need to take all of this into consideration.
 - Table item number 7 and move on to Agenda items and public comment.
 - Add #7 to Agenda for next meeting
- Denise Tanata- Do you need to be able to put this forward to the full ECAC at next week's meeting so they can include this in the annual report
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Tiffany Alston can you weigh in on this?
- Tiffany Alston- It is on the agenda next week and Denise Tanata is part of that discussion.
 - When we met for Executive Leadership we had a lot of discussion around the policy priorities brought forward and agreed that yes we already have the draft that everyone should go back and revisit for familiarity.
- Denise Tanata- The Agenda item is specific to Early Childhood Systems Office policy recommendation and its key focuses.
 - Recommendation: If potentially voting on recommendations to submit to full ECAC next week, vote on whether its just Governors office or if we want to include as second one around funding, the Full ECAC can finalize what goes into the report due on 12/01.
- Elysa Arroyo- Am I hearing we need to vote n what priorities are we sending to the Full ECAC?
 - Is it Governors Office and something else or just the Governors Office?
- Tiffany Alston- the governor's office and then there was a second one around funding. Those were the two sort of big pieces
- Elysa Arroyo- To members: Which do we want to move forward with
 - Send the prior option number one by itself, understanding that the funding and all of those sub priorities are wrapped up in that first priority,
 - or we can send them as separate 2 items
- Denise Tanata- My recommendations to the full ECAC are:
 - One, establishing the governor's office of early childhood systems
 - Include key function roles, responsibilities, and authority as established by the ECAC
 - Second to address immediate budget shortfalls within the early childhood system
 - requesting that the legislature ensure adequate funding to avoid critical shortages due to funding
- Elyse- We need a motion to recommend two opportunities.
 - 1. Governors Office of Early Childhood Systems
 - 2. Shortfalls in funding that is terminated or sunseting that supports critical infrastructure of Early Childhood Systems
 - Marty Elquist- I motion to approve the two priorities discussed to bring to the Gen ECAC



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- Denise Tanata seconds
- Unanimous Vote, motion carries
- Include verbiage from beginning of recording by Denise Tanata

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

The Subcommittee tabled the talking points for policy recommendations.

Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tabled to next meeting

8. **Discuss Agenda Items for December 12, 2024 Meeting**

(Discussion for Possible Action)

The Subcommittee discussed agenda items for the next meeting.

Elysa Arroyo and Brenda Morales-Solorzano, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brianna Cambra- Should we revisit creation of a template at next meeting?
 - Brenda Morales-Solorzano What template are we talking about?
 - Brianna Cambra- we were going to capture immediate funding resources on a template and asking agencies what funding they know if, Agenda item #5 today.
 - Elysa Arroyo- Lets add to agenda to discuss if that's what we want
- Continue Item #6 dependent on what happens next week at Gen ECAC

9. **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.

- Tiffany Alston- Idea of creating NV ECE license plate, an idea from Hunts institute

10. **Adjournment**

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned meeting at 2:05pm
- 3 Action Items:
 - work on verbiage for policy priorities
 - Brandi Hearst to type up policy priorities to present, using recording of Denise Tanata's language
 - Start looking into creating a funding template for statewide availability
- One Sentence Summary:
 - Today the Subcommittee met and decided on what policy priorities were to be sent to Full ECAC for final vote of what to include in annual report, as well as discussing importance of verbiage and being specific on the **asks**.

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