



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

NEVADA Early Childhood Advisory Council (**Early Childhood Advisory Council**)

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

11:00am-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.”*

Minute Summary

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Tiffany started meeting at 11:06 am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members Present (10)

- Tiffany Alston, Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair
- Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
- Jennifer Butler, Community & Engagement Co-Chair
- Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
- Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair Children's Cabinet
- Patrice Gardner, Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair
- Brenda Morales Solorzano, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Jamelle Nance, Community & Engagement Co-Chair
- Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co- Chair

Members Absent (3)

- Amanda Haboush Deloye, Co-Chair, Director The Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Donya Segoviano Business Process Analyst III Division of Welfare & Supportive Services
- Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative

Public Present (10)

- Brandi Hearst ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jerek Hough, Regional Director, Academy Source
- Jacquelyn Kleinedler,
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dana Preece, Birth through Third Grade Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Arielle Rollins, Parent
- Sabrina Schnur
- Anna Severens, Office of Early Learning, Nevada Department of Education
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor , The Children’s Cabinet
- Anna Villatoro, Parent Engagement, The Children’s Cabinet



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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.

- Anna Severens- Office of Early Learning is diversifying the "Educator of the Year" committee
 - once a month meeting
 - 1 year commitment
 - taking nominations' for the committee now
 - Reviewing of Educator applications June and interviews July, 2025

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 – Page 1- 3 of the agenda at any time.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Lisa Roy motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Jennifer Butler seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motions carries

4. Minutes from October 1, 2024 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee approved October 1, 2024, minutes.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Brenda Morales-Solorzano motioned to approve a Minutes from October 1, 2024
- Ashley Dines seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motions carry

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

The Subcommittee discussed updates from the Local Early Childhood Advisory Council Mini-Grants.

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

- Keep on Agenda for next meeting

6. Strategic Plan 2025-2028 Updates (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed Strategic Plan updates

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston- I believe the years should say 2025-2028 not 2027, Brandi to update
- Patrice Gardner- Vendor has been selected!
 - ASU Children's Equity Project
 - Contract negotiations happening now
 - Information to come regarding meetings and collaboration



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7. Annual Report and Policy Recommendation *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee discussed approval of 2024 policy recommendations to be included in Early Childhood Advisory Council's Annual Report.

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

- Elysa Arroyo shared the 4 priorities that were voted on by Early Childhood Advisory Council Members
- Denise Tanata- Wants to start defining the ideas for policies better, as it is too general
- Elysa Arroyo- Asked if she meant for us to add it as an action for that “policy”
- Denise Tanata- Yes, we need to be more specific
- Jamelle Nance- Seconds Denise’s idea and shared that she would want to focus on one or two policies not four, and the rest would fall into place under the top two. (Governors Office and Data Collection)
- Marty Elquist and Abbey Bernhardt agreed via chat
- Tiffany Alston- Elysa, how can the Early Childhood Advisory Council members help you from here on out?
- Elysa Arroyo- That a good question and there is a lot of information here gathered from the workplans so I think we can work together in that way and not be in silos
- Marty Elquist- We need to establish the Office to achieve these things and not focus on these things separately
- Jamelle Nance- Perhaps other recommendations could be captured and more talking points on behalf of other partners, lets leverage partnerships so we have more intense movement with the priority policy.
- Tiffany Alston- What is our action, what can we add to the General Early Childhood Advisory Council agenda to strengthen collaboration around supporting this policy.
- Denise Tanata- Requested to combine Agenda Item 7 and 8 as they go together, minutes continued at #8

8. Pending Legislation Session 2025/Workplan Activity Objective 1.1 *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee discussed recommendations of priorities and purposes for Legislation Session 2025. *Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Consultant, The Children's Cabinet*

- Denise Tanata- From perspective of Early Childhood Advisory Council: what are the key functions of responsibilities in the Office, what are the positions, how does Early Childhood Advisory Council align with this office if its developed?
 - Draft is talking points, needs perspective from Early Childhood Advisory Council Members
 - Idea is to be CLEAR on purpose of this Office
 - Create Purpose Statement
 - Organizing Structure, needs coordinated plan for sustainable system
 - Purpose is to develop plan for restructuring NV Early Childhood Systems.
 - Not to create more reports, but to put into action
 - Use Guinn Center recommendations
- Brenda Morales-Solorzano- Explained that she appreciated the commentary and opened up about knowing little about policy process and is eager to learn more and communication here is helpful learning and growing.
- Tiffany Alston – Thanks Brenda for being “vulnerable” and opening up to everyone
- Patrice Gardner- This brings up the opportunity to create training for those who do not know as we do, we do have new people which is exactly what we want and not always have the same people.
- Denise Tanata- yes on page 3 and on section 5c it does say staff support for the Early Childhood Advisory Council and Early Childhood Office on the Administrative side
- Patrice Gardner- It would be extremely helpful to have a “First 5 Leadership Academy” for Policy Legislation
- Jamelle Nance- I think we should be looking at what it could look like with Office of Early Care and Development being a part of the Early Childhood Office



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- Tiffany Alston- Denise Tanata or Marty Elquist- Any thoughts on what it would look like having Office of Early Care and Development as a part of the Childhood Office
- Denise Tanata- We need to look at what needs to be combined, what can we align and coordinate better, the roles of the office are to create an action plan of what we can look at together, with an actionable plan for what our system can look like.
 - The Role of the Early Childhood Advisory Council is “What role does the Early Childhood Advisory Council want to play right now?” How can the Early Childhood Advisory Council set this up?
 - Be able to provide support, technical or expertise, counsel
 - Input of development of the policy
- Marty Elquist- I agree with Denises statements
- Tiffany- There are a few things happening- We need to fly a plane and build a plane at the same time, so what can we do, ideas?
- Marty Elquist- It is a lot of time to gather assessments and figure out a clear plan and what the Early Childhood Advisory Council role is and how to make a reality and then expect a meaningful discussion
- Tiffany- Guinn Report presentation link is in the chat. Once everyone reads it and has an understanding or maybe you have questions
- Tiffany Alston- The second link has the PDF version as well as the Webinar if that’s helpful to absorb the information
- Tiffany Olivas or Ashley Dines- any thoughts about reading the report or watching the webinar?
- Ashley Dines- We need to simplify things, use bullet points, clearly outline points for easy understanding.
- Tiffany Olivas- I have read the report and watched a couple presentations and its pretty open language, it is hard for me to look at it and say “is this simplified enough for someone who doesn’t have an Early Childhood Systems background?”
 - It would be best to create an opportunity to integrate the report and discuss it with parental leaders and have open dialogue to understand their views as they learn more about the Systems
- Arielle Robbins- For me as a parent I would want to understand it clearly and would reach out to Sabrina Jones or Ashley Dines for clarification.
- Tiffany Alston- Standing Agenda Item “Capacity Building” type item
- Jamelle Nance via chat- Can we create a one page graphic explaining how it would help families?
- Tiffany Alston- any volunteers?
- Brandi Hearst and Tiffany Olivas volunteered to work together on graphic
- Tiffany Alston- Brandi can you add Agenda Item #7 and #8 combine them, with materials
- Brandi Hearst- Yes, I can we haven’t posted that agenda yet
- Denise Tanata- Recommendations from Executive Leadership to have one policy recommendation, then use Gen Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting to define what that recommendation would be
- Tiffany Alston- Can we vote on this now to bring to Gen Early Childhood Advisory Council or do we need to wait for Gen Early Childhood Advisory Council to vote on this
- Denise Tanata- You can vote now, there aren’t any bylaws saying you can or can’t, you don’t have to vote on it
- Tiffany Alston- I’m comfortable voting with Leadership Subcommittee as the timing is close to holidays and report due 12/01/24
- Anna Severns- One of the policies recommended was family engagement, have we talked about family engagement specifically here?
- Jamelle Nance- If we were trying that into Office of Early Care and Development that could be a piece of how parents can look into that system is to ensure families are a part of that process
- Denise Tanata- There is in the document that it is addressed and includes Family Engagement and family leaders are included in Development of actual plan
- Tiffany Alston- Would anyone like to make a motion to accept the policy recommendation for having an Office of Ealy Childhood



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- Jennifer Butler Motions for Governors Office to be our focus and move to General Early Childhood Advisory Council
- Abbey Bernhardt seconds
- Unanimous vote, motion carries

9. Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council (NECFLEC) Coordinator and Parent Update *(Information/Discussion)*

The Subcommittee heard updates from the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council

Ashley Dines, Anna Villatoro and Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet

- Ashley Dines- Arielle Robbins is here today as a parent representative
 - Notate that the parent listed on Agenda to present today is coming on 11/20 at General Early Childhood Advisory Council
 - NECFLEC is now First 5 NV Family Leadership Council,
 - We are being highlighted and have media presence
 - The work isn't going to change just rebranding our name
 - Anna Villatoro is now working in Northern Nevada as Family Engagement Coordinator at Children's Cabinet
 - Looking to align Northern and Southern Nevada along with the support of the agencies within Early Childhood Advisory Council and outside of it
 - Highlights:
 - Bridges out of poverty training, why do people in poverty make the decisions they make
 - Opportunity to go to Reno and participate with Children's Advocacy Alliance
 - Opportunity to help with Voting registrations
 - Making sure families come to the table, making sure they are ready to go to the next level with us
- Anna Villatoro- Arielle Robbins now an official Gen Early Childhood Advisory Council member
 - Participating in Data and Evaluation Subcommittee for the playbook
 - Have a newsletter if you want to subscribe
- Tiffany Olivas- We have been keeping the name change under wraps for NECFLEC changing to "First 5 Family Leadership Council" we have been pushing it hard on ads and getting everyone to see it.

10. First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee had no discussion on the First Five Community Partners Inclusion Request

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

- Denise Tanata- No requests this month

11. 2025 Meeting Schedule Review & Approval *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee reviewed the 2025 Early Childhood Advisory Council General Meeting schedule, discussed Gen ECAC schedule and will continue at the General Early Childhood Advisory Council November meeting.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair

- Tiffany- We aren't ready yet to decide on General Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting at night,
- Brandi Hearst- I wasn't thinking we would have a definite answer on the schedule for General Early Childhood Advisory Council but needed the Leaders to see the schedule and make sure there isn't a date that isn't doable, or if they wanted to change days or times of their scheduled meetings for next year.
- Denise Tanata- We need to make sure that the locations are open to having evening meetings, or is it just virtual?
- Tiffany- I can use a HeadStart location for evening meetings
- Anna Villatoro- I can reserve rooms now for Northern Nevada at Child Care Services.



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- Tiffany Alston- How do we feel about having every meeting for General Early Childhood Advisory Council at 6pm
- Patrice Gardner- I'm all for it but we need to be purposeful in communication so that families are aware
- Tiffany Alston- Lets start in March so we have 3 months to remind people
 - At a 6pm meeting we need to think about childcare and food.
- Ashley Dines- My thought is that evening routines will be affected
- Tiffany Alston- Tentatively plan on March, maybe it would be May, and we can collaborate with restaurants and contact High School students to utilize students needing community service and they can work alongside professionals in ECE
- Arielle Robbins- Is this virtual or in person?
- Tiffany Alston- Both
- Tiffany Olivas- The Evening would come up with challenges as we would need to find qualified people for childcare, we don't have funding for food, would we consider just being virtual at night?
- Tiffany Alston- we could start just virtual and move to in person at some point to build relationships
- Patrice Gardner- March virtual and July or May in person in evening or Saturday which could be easier for family focus and make it a picnic or potluck and using our vendors
- Tiffany Alston – I'd like to keep the Early Childhood Advisory Council separate from "Saturday fun day" type event which we could do as HeadStart or other Family Engagement groups
- Tiffany Olivas- Lets give us some time to discuss this and figure out a plan
- Tiffany Alston- March 6pm virtual only, and every other meeting evening
 - Brandi Hearst to contact Co-Chairs and verify schedule with them
 - 2025 meeting schedule Gen Early Childhood Advisory Council meetings 6pm, Executive Leadership schedule to stay same

12. Workplan Review and Upcoming Executive Leadership Meeting Agenda Items (*Discussion for Possible Action*) The Subcommittee discussed updates, progress and needs related to the Combined Subcommittee Workplan document. The Subcommittee will use this discussion to inform agenda items for the next Executive Leadership and/or the next General Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting.

- Executive Leadership Subcommittee – *Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs*
 - Patrice Gardner- Holly Welborn presenting at our General Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting
 - 1 hour for Open Meeting Law training
 - Brandi Hearst to record and use recording for training new members
- Tiffany Alston- Add to General Early Childhood Advisory Council agenda
- Tiffany Alston- Time check- skip rest of this item as not enough time to go through each Subcommittee

13. Discuss Agenda Items for the Upcoming General Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting in January, 2025 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed agenda items for the upcoming General Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting. *Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*

- Open Meeting Law training
- Annual Governors Report Discussion
- 2025 Legislature discussion
- 2025 Meeting Schedule Update

14. Upcoming Meetings (*Informational*)

- **November Meeting Schedule:**



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Communication & Engagement Subcommittee: November 12th, 9:00am to 10:30am
 - Policy and Finance Subcommittee: November 14th, 1:00pm to 2:00pm
 - General Early Childhood Advisory Council: November 20th, 9:00am to 12:00pm
 - Data and Evaluation Subcommittee : November 21st, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
 - Systems Alignment Subcommittee- Rescheduled
- **A Look Ahead:**
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council New Member Orientation: December 18, 2024, at 11:00am
 - To register, email Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov and Sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov

15. Public Comment #2 (Discussion for Possible Action)

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council's 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.

- No comment

16. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting at 12:42pm
- 3 Action Steps
 - Come up with General Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting schedule that is inviting for Families
 - Re-Write Policy with descriptive verbiage, not general verbiage
 - Tiffany Olivas and Brandi Hearst to come up with Graphic/Flyer showing families why it is important that they are involved
- One Sentence Statement

The Executive Leadership Subcommittee had productive discussions on how to grab the attention of the Legislation by using details and verbiage that shows exact plans, while also discussing ways to help families get engaged including changing our meetings to evening time frames to better serve families.