



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

Systems Alignment Subcommittee

Public Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

11:30am-1:00pm

“Nevada’s children will be safe, healthy, and thrive during the first eight years of life,
and the system will support children and families in achieving their full potential.

Meeting Location: This meeting held via Zoom videoconference

Minute Summary

1. Welcome, call to order, and roll call (*Informational*)

The Subcommittee will call attendance and welcome members and guests.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Abbey Bernhardt started meeting at 11:42am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members in Attendance (7)

- Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chair
- Anna Binder, Parent
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dr. Diane Nicolet, WCSD Trustee
- Tiffany Olivas, Co-Chair
- Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

Members Absent (4)

- Cynthia Magana, Chief Child Care and Development Program Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, State of Nevada
- Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
- Anna Severens, NV Pre-K, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District

Public Present (11)

- Mary Childrey, The Children’s Cabinet
- Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
- Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dana Preece, P-3 Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Kate Pflughoeft, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Emily Walton
- Nina McCartney
- Sabrina Schnur





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- Smriti Neupane, Resource Analyst, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, 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 action may be taken. The Co-Chairs may impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, control, or advisory power.

- No Comment

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

The Subcommittee will motion to approve a flexible agenda.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Anna Binder motions to approve flexible agenda
- Jamie Mendez seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries

4. Approval of November 8, 2024 Minutes *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee will vote to approve minutes from November 8, 2024

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas opened agenda item and asked how Minutes are taken, if it is AI or transcript. Members brought up some edits needed, November Minute edits are noted below.
- Brandi Hearst- responded to open discussion, explained that AI is not used, and Transcripts are used for reference but not used" as the minutes", continued discussing that most minutes are taken during the meeting and cleaned up afterwards. MEbes then voted to approve minutes with below listed corrections.
- Corrections to note:
 - Mid Page 2 Missed was to be Most on Guinn Report
 - Name edits for Brandi Hearst
 - Page 2 Subcommittee Workplan Review SAGA to be capitalized
- Jamie Mendez motions to approve minutes with corrections noted above
- Anna Binder seconds
- Unanimous vote, motion carries
- Rachel Stepina Abstained due to absence
- Dr. Nicolet asked if minutes can be approved if not in attendance or if you MUST abstain
- Patrice Gardner posted via Chat- OML says that members need not be present to vote on minutes being approved so we will follow OML.

5. Nevada's Prenatal to Age 3 Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) Strategic Plan

(Discussion / Informational)

Overview and discussion of Nevada's Prenatal-3 ECCS Strategic Plan.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas had quickly given an overview of their Strategic Plan explaining what an Early Childhood System is
 - A comprehensive early childhood system is a well-organized network of program services and resources designed to support children prenatally through their early years
 - Agencies included: PDG B-5, Pritzker. Department of Education Office of Early Learning and Development, The Children's Cabinet System initiatives.
- Rachel Stepina brought up that prenatal through age 3 is often underrepresented
- Tiffany Olivas then reviewed each goal and its objectives, she explained what's happening on a systems development level and what our role is.





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6. Strategic Planning (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

This Subcommittee to discuss Nevada Prenatal to Three System Asset and Gap Analysis (SAGA) Summary of Key Findings, Current Efforts, and Potential Strategies -Section: Advancing a Common Vision - Shared Strategic Plans and Advisory Council Structure

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas introduced the SAGA and explained:
 - The SAGA was a snapshot of an early childhood system in 2021 and updated in 2023
 - Almost at a point where Our children's funding project has completed our fiscal analysis and our gap analysis.
 - They can share with us what progress has been made
 - Recommend at the next meeting to focus on potential strategies on shared strategic plan, and go over Advisory Council structure if time allows
- Rachel Stepina- Identify the potential strategic plans as a subcommittee if we can.
- Tiffany Olivas-Agreed and has asked to add that to our next meeting agenda
- Dr. Nicolet- Can we do a Continuum of what fellow school boards and trustees could benefit from knowing this work when thinking of Pre-K through 12.
- Tiffany Olivas- Suggested working on this idea offline and inviting others.

7. Data Dictionary Review (*Discussion/ Informational*)

The Subcommittee reviews Data and Evaluation Subcommittee Data Dictionary.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Smriti Neupane- gave a brief overview of how the data and evaluation subcommittee started the data dictionary and added that they reviewed more than 40 national and local resources to identify if the data is available or not.
 - After we are done with this we will come up with a plan because we have found some gaps
- Tiffany Olivas- describes the importance of this project
 - Once we bring it together, and we don't have 12 different documents out there, it will be easier for people who are really doing the moment-to-moment work to understand the complexities that we've been discussing for many years
- Tiffany Olivas- Smriti do you know when this will be completed?
- Smriti Neupane- in 2 meetings it will be completed
- Tiffany Olivas- This can be a valuable resource for Early Childhood if approved.
- Diane Nicolet is interested in the data and wants to have trainings statewide at school boards .

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

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

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tabled to January Meeting

9. Work Plan Review (*Discussion / Informational*)

The Subcommittee to finish editing their Work Plan according to updates discussed at the November 08th meeting.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Agenda Item #6 covered the SAGA which was derived from the Work plan at the last meeting. Nothing further discussed re: Work Plan at this meeting.

10. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting on January 22, 2025 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

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

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas wants Rachel's suggestion about doing a deep dive into some of the identified strategic



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- plans related to Systems alignment
- Recommendations listed on First section / Agenda Item 6
- Dive into Advisory Makeup
- Brandi Hearst- Asked if we are to keep Tabled Item #8,
- Tiffany Olivas- Yes, that should be a member discussion, they come prepared with ideas and we all brainstorm

11. Upcoming Meeting Schedule *(Informational)*

- Policy and Finance Subcommittee: December 12, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee: December 19, 1:00pm-2:00pm
- Executive Leadership Subcommittee January 07, 11:00am-12:30pm
- Communication & Engagement Subcommittee: January 14, 9:00am to 10:30am
- General ECAC: January 15, 9:00am to 12:00pm
- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee: 1/16/25 1:00-2:00pm
- Systems Alignment Subcommittee: 1/22/25 1:00pm-2:30pm

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

- No comment

13. Adjournment

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas adjourned meeting at 1:07pm
- One Sentence Summary-
The Systems Alignment Subcommittee was able to explore the SAGA and the History of Prenatal-3 Initiatives as well as discussing strategic planning action items involving other agencies statewide.
- 3 Action Items
 1. Members to come up with ideas to share in January for how we can work with other Subcommittee's to align the Early Childhood System.
 2. Tiffany Olivas to review Agenda Item's with Brandi Hearst for correct Title Verbiage
 3. Tiffany Olivas and Dr. Dianne Nicolet to meet offline and lpan school board meeting to share useful information for forward thinking re: Early Childhood Systems does not contain just ECE teachers.





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December 11, 2024, AGENDA Systems Alignment

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