



# Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Systems Alignment Subcommittee

Public Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

1:00pm-2:30pm

“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:** Zoom videoconference Click [HERE](#) to join us

**Meeting ID:** 875 3050 2489 **Passcode:** 760482

### Minute Summary

#### 1. **Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call** (*Informational*)

The Subcommittee will call attendance and welcome members and guests.

*Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Olivas started meeting at 11:03am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

#### **Members in Attendance (7)**

- Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chair
- Anna Binder, Parent
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- Dr. Janelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
- Dr. Diane Nicolet, WCSSD 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
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- 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, Provider Development Manager, 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, Birth - 3rd grade 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
- Smriti Neupane, Resource Analyst, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Anna Villatoro, Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet





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### 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 December 11, 2024 Minutes (*Discussion for Possible Action*) The Subcommittee will vote to approve minutes from December 11, 2024 *Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Jamie Mendez motions to approve minutes with corrections noted above
- Anna Binder seconds
- Unanimous vote, motion carries

### 5. Coordination with Other Subcommittees (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee members share ideas on how to coordinate with other subcommittees and start aligning strategies and actions, Review and use accessible data to explore how actions may align across the Systems and subcommittee progress.

*Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Olivas describes the purpose of coordinating and the Chairs share with Executive Leadership
- Dr. Jamele Nance suggested to keep this as an agenda item, explaining that the Systems Alignment Subcommittee should take the information from other subcommittee's and disseminate it and get it to the public, and track that information, while the Executive Leadership subcommittee focuses on recruitment and adding self paced modules.
- Tiffany Olivas asked for the intent of the Communication plan , Dr. Jamelle answered with getting the public to understand what the ECAC does and making sure that our members are diverse and the information is actually being shared.
- Tiffany Olivas asked what the procedures are for recruiting Members to ECAC
- Brandi Hearst explained the orientation being helpful and showing the vision and the history of ECAC and that we have a few seats open, some have been applied for.
- Anna Binder brought up the Data subcommittee creating statements and posting them online
- Tiffany Olivas discussed the first step so public knows what each subcommittee is working towards using statements.
- Patrice Gardner let Tiffany Olivas know that Chairs and Co-Chairs can work with Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones to add to webpages, added that Bill SB78 is one ECAC should be watching.
- Denise Tanata reviewed the bill and doesn't believe that the bill will effect us negatively as it is under Federal Law to have the ECAC as we get HeadStart Funding, suggested putting together a system or rubric for which subcommittee to follow keeping the alignment throughout the Early Childhood System.
- Tiffany Olivas suggests looking into a way of tracking who is participating and creating a strategy to engage other sectors not represented.
- Rachel Stepina discussed representation is based within the council and we can gain diversity by filling those seats and recommend to council members to join a subcommittee, suggests to develop a matrix of some sort that is visual to pinpoint area of opportunity to collaborate with other subcommittees.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet suggested a simple, monthly, one pager of salient points to share with other agencies we work with





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outside of ECAC, and suggests each subcommittee should be a part of NELIS to know of and know the information on each bill to share and back.

- Denise Tanata agreed with Dr. Diane Nicolet that it is hard to align such a huge group such as an Early Childhood System" as kids are complex as are families
- Dr. Diane Nicolet asked how do we pick one thing that we all together want to see through as we have so many perspectives and expertise in these subcommittees.
- Tiffany Olivas suggested moving toward the strategic plan and alignment and creating a path with those two agenda items and it may become clearer to us which way we want to go.
- Rachel Stepina suggested giving members of subcommittee tasks to get done within a month and not just in a meeting.
- Anna Binder brought up the Data Dictionary and that it could be a good place to start as we have the contacts already
- Tiffany Olivas requested for Sabrina Jones to begin creating an attendance chart noting their sectors and if they vote, then focus discussion on who is needed and who we need to reach out to. Tiffany also asked if the Systems Alignment can be a part of the Communications and Engagement's next agenda.

### **6. Nevada's Early Childhood System Strategic Plan** (*Discussion / Informational*)

Identify the potential strategic plans and focus on aligning strategies from various agencies across Nevada's Early Childhood System creating a vision and shared strategic plan.

*Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Olivas reviewed past discussions and stated Key finding were the Prenatal-3 and ECAC strategic plans were approved, limited focus and understating of strategies to see the bigger system. We typically want to say this is what we do, and we need to look at the big picture. Suggests making an infographic and wants to address the steps to take.
- Dr. Jamelle Nancee references the First 5 infographic being a good starting point
- Denise Tanat wants to use what we have already and that it is really hard to make the infographic sometimes as there are so many parts to the system.
- Patrice Gardner announced that she liked the infographic, and we should have one with more Nevada based showing what we have here in our state.
- Rachel Stepina shared that we need to look at who is the audience, what type of infographic are you wanting? Those would be good starting points.
- Tiffany Olivas asked for Rachel Stepina to share her infographic for P-3 at next meeting to add infographic idea to March agenda.
- Denise Tanata suggests to invite other agencies that align to our meetings to start conversations and gain their interest and hear their voice.

### **7. Prenatal – 3 and ECAC Strategic Planning** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

This Subcommittee to discuss Nevada Prenatal to Three (P-3) Strategic Plans and develop a cross-sector work plan aligned with the ECAC strategic plan.

*Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tabled for next meeting

### **8. Agenda Items for February 26, 2025, Meeting** (*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*

- Identify tabled agenda item, #7
- Analysis Of member rosters
- Infographic deep dive, what are the audiences
- Existing Structures
- Workplan Review
- Rachel Stepina wants to add agenda item to delegate tasks and to see who can help with that tasks that correlate with





their everyday jobs to accomplish more goals than we can do in a meeting.

**9. Upcoming Meeting Schedule** (*Informational*)

- Executive Leadership 2/04/25 11:00am
- Policy and Finance 2/13/25 1:00pm
- Data and Evaluation 2/20/25 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment 2/26/25 1:00pm

**10. 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

**11. Adjournment**

*Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tiffany Olivas adjourned meeting at 2:36pm

- One Sentence Summary-

The Systems Alignment Subcommittee discussed the various ways to reach out and get communications to the public, started dissecting the idea of creating an infographic and discussed analyzing the rosters to find the sectors that are and are not represented within ECAC.

- 3 Action Items

1. Sabrina Jones to create a chart listing members and sectors
2. Rachel Stepina and Dana Preece to share infographic at next meeting
3. Tiffany Olivas to look into Subcommittee webpage