



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Executive Leadership Subcommittee

Public Meeting
Tuesday, February 04, 2025
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.”

Location: Meetings are held via Zoom teleconference. **To join meeting,** [CLICK HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 874 7306 4118 **Passcode:** 931429

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Patrice Gardner started meeting at 11:05 am
- Brandi Hearst conducted Roll Call

• Members Present (9)

- Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Kathy Bass, Provider Representative
- Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
- Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
- Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
- Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
- Jerek Hough, Regional Director, Source Academy
- Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
- Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair

Members Absent (4)

- Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
- Jennifer Butler, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
- Donya Segoviano, Business Process Analyst III Division of Welfare & Supportive Services

Public in Attendance (12)

- Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Jennifer Brennan
- Brandi Hearst, Nevada ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- bxhernandez
- Sabrina Jones, Nevada ECAC Systems Specialist, Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Elyse Monroy
- Molly Moser, Child Care Development Program
- Kate Pflughoeft, Assistant Grant Manager, NV PDG B-5, Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development





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- Dana Preece - PDG Brith-3rd Grade Specialist, Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Melanie Prieto
- Rachel Stepina, Grant Manager, PDG B-5 , Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
- CLvaughn
- Anna Villatoro, Family Specialist, The Children's Cabinet

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 two 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 Flexible Agenda (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee will vote to approve 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 ECAC Executive Leadership Subcommittee Meeting Agenda at any time.

Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Kathy Yoder Bass motions to approve Flexible Agenda
- Tiffany Olivas seconds motion
- Members voted, motion passes

4. Approval of Minutes from January 07, 2025 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee will vote to approve January 07, 2025, Minutes.

Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Ashley Dines motions to approve Minutes
- Abbey Bernhardt seconds motion
- Members voted, Motion carries

5. Early Childhood Research Briefs Newsletter Topics (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee will review and discuss Research Brief Topics for March, April and May 2025 newsletters decide which topics to approve for use.

Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Patrice reviewed the topics from the NICRP for the Research Brief Newsletters, looking at March, April and May.
- Kathy Bass questioned if we could relate it to Legislation, Rachel Stepina went on to discuss that there is a section that shares news.
- Patrice Gardner agreed and said that we can share the bills that effect Early Childhood and Children in Nevada.
- Rachel Stepina suggested using the AI tool to look into Federal Funding and Equity.
- Tiffany Olivas asked the subcommittee if this is related to just Early Childhood Education as the topics to choose from are all based on ECE not Early Childhood Systems, Rachel Stepina clarified how the newsletter is sectioned and where we can add information related to ECAC, explained that the audience is within early childhood and that depending on the focus the newsletter is shared to specific audiences as well as the Listserv's.





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- Items to share with Amanda Haboush Deloye for Topic's

MARCH:

- Equity Justice and how it relates to Federal Funding , have providers (Janelle Nance knows of one who is willing) to share what she is seeing with the changes.
- Possibly add in perspective from DWSS or other agencies with new "attendance based" Child Care subsidy ad how that is effecting kids as providers are not wiling to take subsidy as easily
- Add actual activities families and public can do to keep track of bills and legislation and use their voice

APRIL:

- Add "A Day without Child Care" Date: May 12, 2025-April and possibly May Newsletter

MAY:

- How health of the family effect the Child as a whole

6. First Five Nevada Family Leadership Council with Parent Spotlight (*Information/Discussion*)

The Subcommittee will hear updates regarding the work of the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council and hear a parent's experience in the Early Childhood System during Parent Spotlight (including but not limited to; the rubric, mentorship program, events, meeting recaps and/or parent experiences).

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

- Patrice invited Ashley Dines and Anna Villatoro to lead this item.
- Anna Villatoro share updates and that they are reaching out to more Rural areas and tribal families, and have the whole year planned and scheduled with parent spotlight.
- Ashley Dines explained that the Children's Week in April already has a wait list and they are excited with the response they are getting, and that she is now an official Parent Member of ECAC.

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

The Subcommittee will discuss whether monthly reports of requests and decisions is wanted by Subcommittee and will be presented with Inclusion Requests received to discuss action plan as needed.

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

- Patrice Gardner asked Denise Tanata to lead this item
- Denise Tanata described what the Inclusion Report looks like and why the ECAC has this item as a standing agenda item. Subcommittee agreed that it is good to keep as an Agenda Item for those who are denied to be able to appeal.
- Denise Tanta also offered submission of a monthly report to Executive Leadership team to have transparency with First 5 and their approval or denial process, Subcommittee approved.

8. Work Plan Updates (*Discussion, Informational*)

The Subcommittee will discuss updates, progress and needs related to the Combined Subcommittee Work Plan .

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

- Patrice Gardner announced the new General ECAC location as well as the Opening of Jennifer Butler's Chair position and Brenda Solorzano's Chair being open

Systems Alignment – Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs





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- Tiffany Olivas announced the subcommittees new project to Deep Dive into the Rosters to find out what sectors represented are missing from the ECAC members within ECAC, as well as diving into the Workplan and accomplishing goals.

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

- Jamelle Nance described that they had a short meeting as they lost quorum but will be looking at the agenda to see what was missing.

Policy and Finance – Elysa Arroyo, Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo had no updates to share as their meeting is next week.

Data and Evaluation – Marty Elquist and Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Co-Chairs

- Marty Elquist shared that the Subcommittee worked with the Nevada Department of Education to create the Best Practices Statement to share for approval at General ECAC meeting, they are also close to done with the Data Dictionary and their playbook.

Sabrina Jones- Sabrina Jones described the ECAC Vacancies and the upcoming Local ECAC Mini Grants opening soon.

9. Agenda Items for March 04, 2025 Executive Leadership Meeting (*Discussion and Possible Action*)

Subcommittee members discussed Agenda Items to add to the March 04 Executive Leadership Agenda.

Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Provide update for newsletter, what was decided with topics for March, April and May
- First 5 Leadership Academy Purpose and 2025 Cohort- Updates and changes, Application information- Tiffany Olivas

10. Agenda Items for March 19, 2025 General ECAC Meeting (*Discussion and Possible Action*)

Subcommittee members discussed items to add to the March 19, 2025 General ECAC Meeting Agenda.

Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- March - Report and work plan information - get info from Denise Tanta

11. Upcoming Meetings (*Discussion and Informational*)

- General ECAC 2.12.25, 9:00am (rescheduled from January)
- Policy and Finance : 2.13.25, 1:00pm
- Data and Evaluation: 2.20.25, 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment: 2.26.25. 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership 3.04.25, 11:00am
- Communication & Engagement: 3.11.25 9:00am
- General ECAC 3.19.25, 9:00am
- New Member Orientation: April 29, 2025, at 11:00am
 - To register, email Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov and Sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov

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

Public Comment taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council's control or advisory power. No action may be taken on the 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 two minutes.

- Jamelle Nance relayed information about a weekly meeting that anyone can attend to get information on legislation and what is happening in Nevada
- Abbey Bernhardt expressed interest in Policy and Finance Co-Chair seat





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13. Adjournment

Patrice Gardner adjourned meeting at 12:22pm

3 Action Steps:

1. Brandi Hearst to review with Amanda Haboush-Deloye the decisions made for Newsletter topics for March, April, May.
2. Denise Tanta to be creating and sending reports monthly showing First 5 Inclusion Reporting and Data
3. Denise Tanata to supply work plan information to subcommittee for March Agenda items

One Sentence Summary:

The Subcommittee shared their progress on their work plans as well as discussing the best way to have First 5 report their data to us for inquiries and appeals, and we reviewed the open seats for Nevada ECAC as we lost two Chairs this week.

