



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

Policy & Finance Subcommittee

Public Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025

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.”

Meeting Location: Meetings are held via Zoom tele-conference: To join us, click [HERE](#)

Meeting Id: 867 0737 7682 **Passcode:** 851310 **Phone:** +13462487799

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MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo started meeting at 1:05pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

MEMBERS PRESENT (11)

- Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
- Anna Binder, Parent Representative
- Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children’s Cabinet
- Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
- Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Jerek Hughes, Source Academy Regional Director
- Kate Pflueghoft, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Patti Oya, Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children’s Cabinet

MEMBERS ABSENT (0)

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

- Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Kathy Bass, Provider Representative
- Brandi Hearst, Nevada ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Jacquelyn Kleinedler, Early Childhood Mental Health
- Thea Lawatsch
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair





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- Dana Preece - PDG Birth-3rd Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Rachel Stepina, Grant Manager, NV PDG B-5, Nevada Department Of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Candace Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services
- 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 to vote for approval of a flexible agenda.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve Flexible Agenda
- Abbey Bernhardt seconds
- Members voted, motion carries

4. Approval of December 12, 2024 Minutes (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee to review and vote on approval of the December Meeting Minutes.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Corrections noted as follows

- Page 4 Lela Gonzales spelled wrong
- National Alliance ON Mental Health for Abbey Bernhardt
- Last page- "Rachel Stepina" spelled wrong
- Abbey Bernhardt made motion to approve minutes with corrections above
- Lela Gonzales seconds motion
- Members voted, motion passes

5. Co-Chair Opening Announcement (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee to discussed Co-Chair opening, responsibilities of a Co-Chair, and ask for interest.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo announced Brenda Morales-Solorzano's departure from Chair and asked if anyone was interested in the position to email both Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones.

6. Action Planning for Funding Sources and Statewide Template (*Discussion, Informational*)

The Subcommittee to continued discussion of early childhood systems funding needs and sources., assign roles for: Data Collection, Next Steps and Talking Points.

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

- Denise Tanata explained the creation of this template was to look through all of the funding sources, who is at risk of losing funding streams in next 1 to 2 years, and who/ what programs would be at risk after the 2-year time period as well as the priority for receiving funding streams.
 - It is up to the Subcommittee to decide which are the priority
- Lela Gonzales brought up funding needed for apprenticeship programs





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- Marty Elquist brought up that it is critical for families and providers to receive funding and should be a priority.
 - What are we missing and what critical programs are missing from this list
 - added QRIS Early Childhood Mental Health Alliance, employer capacity building added to the list of loss of funding
- Lela Gonzales commented that providers are no longer receiving initiatives they used to receive when attending professional development as funding was cut.
- Rachel Stepina discussed the loss of various programs and PDG has picked some of that up then the PDG funding was cut a little bit and so these programs received another cut

7. **Work Plan Updates and Review** (*Discussion, Informational*)

The Subcommittee to review Work Plan and discuss updates as needed.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Tabled due to time

8. **Agenda Items for March 13, 2025 Meeting** (*Discussion, Informational*)

The Subcommittee will discuss and agree upon agenda items for the March meeting.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo added Agenda Item #7 for next meeting
- Denise Tanta asked for legislation updates that pertain to this Subcommittee, Dr. Jamelle Nance offered to help gather info and present to subcommittee
- Kate Pflughoeft asked to add Grant Writing plans for program needs, piggy backed on Denises item

9. **Upcoming ECAC Meetings** (*Informational*)

- Data and Evaluation: 2.20.25, 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment: 2.26.25, 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership 3.04.25, 11:00am
- Policy & Finance 3.13.25, 1:00pm
- Communication and Engagement 3.11.25, 9:00am
- General ECAC Meeting: 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

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**

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned meeting at 2:01pm

- 3 action steps:

- Denise Tanata to continue adding to Template of funding sources and priorities
- Subcommittee to recruit a Co-Chair
- Subcommittee members interested in co-Chair to email Sabrina Jones and Brandi Hearst.

- 1 sentence summary:





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- Today the Subcommittee discussed major points of the Funding Template and took the time to really understand the purpose , therefore creating the ability to come up with ideas that were relative to the goals of project.