



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

Public Meeting  
Wednesday, February 26, 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:** This meeting will be held via Zoom tele-conference To join meeting, click [HERE](#)  
**Meeting ID:** 875 3050 2489      **Passcode:** 760482      Can't log on to Zoom? Click [HERE](#) for Directions

**MEETING MINUTES**

**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*

- Abbey Bernhardt started meeting at 1:04pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

**Members in Attendance**

1. Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chair
2. Anna Binder, Parent
3. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
4. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
5. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
6. Dr. Diane Nicolet ,
7. Tiffany Olivas, Co-Chair
8. Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District

**Members Absent**

1. Anna Severens, NV Pre-K, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

**Public Present**

1. Mary Childrey, Provider Development Manager, The Children’s Cabinet
2. Ashley Dines, Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
3. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
4. Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
5. Dana Preece, Birth - 3rd grade Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
7. Anna Villatoro, Family Leadership Coordinator, 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 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 voted to approve a flexible agenda.

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

- Tiffany Olivas motions to approve flexible agenda
- Jamie Mendez seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries

#### **4. Approval of January 22, 2025 Minutes** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee voted to approve minutes from January 22, 2025

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

- Tina Springmeyer motions to approve minutes
- Tiffany Olivas seconds
- Unanimous vote, motion carries

#### **5. Analysis of ECAC Rosters** (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

Review Members and the sectors of the Early Childhood system that are represented, finding the gaps in representation.

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

- Tiffany Olivas described the sectors and shared her documentation of all ECAC Members and Subcommittee Members and the agencies they have worked for as well as lived experience. The Members were able to review and add their thoughts to where each member should be representing the Early Childhood Sectors. The Members will then be able to determine what sectors need more representation to keep our membership and council inclusive to all voices.
- Anna Binder mentioned someone from ECAC having to contact Christy McGill to get one of our seats filled that has been open way too long (Seat C)
- Patrice Gardner explained that we have had multiple people moved around or leaving and haven't been able to be in one position long enough to qualify for the seat.
- Tiffany Olivas showed the members that Maternal Health, although has some representation, there is nobody that specially works within that sector and we should look into that sector. "Economic Well Being Programs" (Welfare/SNAP/TANF) has no representation.
- Jamelle Nance suggests doing more recruitment
- Patrice Gardner suggest sharing this with Communication and Engagement Subcommittee so we know as a whole where to recruit and do outreach and to define each sector so that everyone can clearly identify sector qualities in members.
- Subcommittee Members discussed "lived experience" and if that meant as a family or parent with a child going through the system, or if that includes people that work in the field being a part of the lived experiences.
- Jamie Mendez asked if ECAC was always inclusive or if it was Early Childhood Education specific when it first began.
- Tiffany Olivas explained that the ECAC did start as Early Childhood Education specific, and the last Strategic Plan started the System Approach.
- Ana Binder described her point of view as a parent and explained that for some people it could be overwhelming
- Dr. Nance suggested having people self identify what categories they are in as we don't know what everyone's history is, noted that we should keep it ongoing with new members joining us as well.

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

The Subcommittee members share ideas on how to coordinate with other subcommittees. Create "Idea Share" document to add ideas, as needed.

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

- Tabled to next meeting, Sabrina Jones, Brandi Hearst, Abbey Bernhardt and Tiffany Olivas to meet in regard to Idea Share document.



**7. Nevada Prenatal to Three System Asset and Gap Analysis (SAGA): Key Findings and Recommendations, Advancing a Common Vision** *(Discussion / Informational)*

Discuss ideas and priorities for an early childhood system infographic, Infographic share from Rachel Stepina and Dana Preece, discover the Existing Structure to advance goals, be inclusive of all system components, languages and various audiences'. Delegate action steps as needed.

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

- Tiffany Olivas reviewed the last meeting discussion about creating an infographic for our Early Childhood System of Nevada, sharing infographics from other agencies in various states to give ideas and show examples of what she is referencing.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet defining ECE Development System and defining financing EC programs and policies or standards should be represented in the infographic
- Patrice Gardner suggested making a few simple infographics to speak to different audiences

**8. Work Plan Review** *(Discussion, for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee to continue reviewing their Work Plan and begin delegating actions to progress on goals.

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

- Tabled due to time

**9. Agenda Items for next meeting on MARCH 26, 2025** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee outlined topics to add to the next Systems Alignment meeting agenda for March 26, 2025.

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

- Agenda Item #5 continuing- Next Steps for Roster and Sector identification, done by group or individual, survey platform needed, info from Tiffany after Ex Leadership meeting
- Dr. Diane Nicolet wants to add SB82 (Office of Early Childhood) and AB236 discussions (Boards and Committees) to agenda with Jamelle Nance, also add to General ECAC
- Next Steps for infographic, dependent on member feedback

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

- Executive Leadership: 3.04.25, 11:00am
- Policy and Finance: 3.13.25, 1:00pm
- Communication and Engagement Ad Hoc : 3.18.25, 1:30pm
- General ECAC Meeting 3.19.25, 9:00am
- Data and Evaluation: 3.20.25 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment 3.26.25 1:00pm
- ECAC New Member Orientation: 4.29.25 at 11:30am
- To register, email us at Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov and Sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov

**11. Public Comment #2**

Public comment 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

**12. Adjournment**

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

- Abbey Bernhardt adjourned meeting at 2:37pm



- **One Sentence Summary**

The Subcommittee discussed the Sectors and the best way to collect this information, reviewed the definition of Early Childhood Systems and viewed infographic samples including one from Dana Preece of Office of Early Learning and Development.

- **3 Action Steps**

- Sabrina Jones, Brandi Hearst, Abbey Bernhardt and Tiffany Olivas to meet in regard to Idea Share.
- Tiffany Olivas to look into different platforms for survey building and sharing
- Provide time for member feedback for infographic ideas

