



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Policy & Finance Subcommittee

Public Meeting
Thursday, March 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: Meeting are held via Zoom tele-conference: To join us, click [HERE](#)
Meeting Id: 867 0737 7682 **Passcode:** 851310 **Phone:** +13462487799
Can't Log into Zoom? Click [HERE](#) for Directions.

MINUTE SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo started meeting at 1:04pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
2. Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children’s Cabinet
3. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
4. Jerek Houghes, Source Academy Regional Director
5. Kate Pflughoeft, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Patti Oya, Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
7. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children’s Cabinet

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
2. Anna Binder, Parent Representative
3. Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
4. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

1. Christina Deenas, Owner of Private Preschool
2. Brandi Hearst, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Sabrina Jones, Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
4. Janice Lee, Pyramid Model
5. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Ryan Putzer
7. Stephanie Vega, Teacher, Washoe County School District

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.





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- Stephanie Vega introduced herself and asked how this Subcommittee works with K-3rd, and if this Subcommittee helps to advocate for lower class sizes as Washoe County at size of 21 when state law is 16. Wonders if that is a way for us to get more funding or for advocating the lower ratios in younger age groups.

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

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Brianna Cambra motioned to approve flexible agenda
- Lela Gonzales seconds
- Members voted unanimously,, motion carries

4. Approval of February 13, 2025 Minutes (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee approved of the February Meeting Minutes.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Denise Tanata edits noted:
- Page 2 funding not fading, page 3, 1st bullet second sub, address mental health alliance, needs comma Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association
- "Added to list of loss of funding", should be level 1 priority
- Lela Gonzales quote: "initiatives: should be "incentives"
- Item 8 second bullet: name: Tanata
- Lela Gonzales made motion to approve minutes with corrections above
- Denise Tanata seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion passes with minutes corrected

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

The Subcommittee heard the NEW Co-Chair update.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo announced Denise Tanata as the Co-Chair and thanked all members who took the initiative to apply.
- Denise Tanata accepted the position.

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

The Subcommittee discussed the matrix of early childhood systems funding needs, discuss action steps to fill the needs and discuss what types of sources would be most beneficial..

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

- Denise Tanata started this item by explain what the goals are and the intent behind this funding template, which is identifying the needs of the families in this state, prioritizing them and finding funding accordingly. After sharing the Funding Sources Template, members had the opportunity to ask questions or add information that may be missing.
 - Described cuts to the Early Childhood System so far: Child Care Subsidy, Children's Health and Children's Mental Health, Coaching, child care health benefits, Child Care Provider Stipends
- Stephnie Vega brought up the Kindergarten grants that the districts receive funding 2 teachers assistants, per school effecting the teachers who are over ratio
- Patti Oya explained that they are fairly confident in receiving the funding again, but a lot can happen between now and June, funding is from Early Childhood Innovative Literacy Program (ECILP) Grants \$70M per year (\$140 M for the biennium)
- Denise Tanata and Patti Oya discussed whether this is a priority one or priority two program as we still have the funding as the funds are still in place, but we aren't sure if we will get it 100 percent.





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- Patti Oya agreed to priority 2 for the grant funding and brought up adding the seats, in which 1900 seats were filled for 3 and 4-year-olds.
- Denise Tanata asked members if there is anything that we feel is the highest priority and should be taken to legislature? Legislature does a Biennial Budget and meets every 2 years, so we try to identify something VERY critical, now is the time, and it may be too late.
- Denise Tanata brought up Child Care Subsidy being her number one priority as parents are already getting kicked of the program.
- Brianna Cambra brought up the importance of the Child Care Emergency Funds for helping child care centers replace and maintain high dollar items such as A.C. Units, the schools will be shut down without help.
- Christina Denas also voted for subsidy to be the top priority and described how the 10 discretionary days are not enough when counting the holidays as sick days and vacation days leaving hardship for parents and leaving providers in a bad position as being debt collectors and harming the relationships between providers and families.
- Kate Pflueghoft brought up USDA cut funding for lunch and food for schools provided by local famers effecting the students who rely on that food source.
- Denise Tanata explained her Next steps is to add more information to this and requested help from anyone who would like to contribute.

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

The Subcommittee reviewed Work Plan and discuss updates as needed.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elyse Arroyo asked if anyone had any updates to add to the workplan
- Denise Tanta wants to add the fiscal mapping updates within the next couple of months which will include fiscal year 2024 data as well as having training modules, offering this opportunity to the members who can participate in the modules to build a team of people who can update the fiscal map.

8. Agenda Items for April 10, 2025 Meeting *(Discussion, Informational)*

The Subcommittee agreed upon agenda items for the April meeting.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo suggests having the Funding template continue to next month's agenda
- Denise Tanata added Legislation Updates
- Patti Oya asked Denise Tanata to create Google Form for Subcommittee to add to
 - Note- Send out Google Form Denise creates to entire Policy and Finance Subcommittee for ability to have members add their contacts and information requested
 - Note- Send Denise Tanata the chat transcript from today's meeting so she can gather the information everyone shared.

9. Upcoming ECAC Meetings *(Informational)*

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo read the schedule to the Subcommittee members
 - Communication Ad-Hoc: 3.18.25, 1:30pm
 - General ECAC: 3.19.25, 9:00am
 - Data and Evaluation: 3.20.25, 1:00pm
 - Systems Alignment: 3.26.25. 1:00pm
 - Executive Leadership: 4.01.25, 11:00am
 - Policy and Finance: 4.10.25, 1:00pm





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- New Member Orientation: 4. 29.25, 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 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 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.

- Denise Tanta spoke on AB185 which restricted HOA'S from not allowing Home Providers as well as the possibility of requiring zoning permits, in which the zoning permits may be removed from the bill.

11. Adjournment

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned meeting at 1:58pm

● 3 Action Steps:

- Brandi Hearst to email Subcommittee with new Funding Google Sheet
- Denise to create new Google Document for Subcommittee to add to
- Members to contact Denise if they want to join Fiscal Mapping Modules

● One Sentence Summary:

- The Subcommittee was presented with the funding matrix showing statewide agencies and the potential funding lost, or finding already lost and discussed the Priority 1 and Priority 2 lists and which items should move to the lists as well as learning about the Fiscal Map updates and new training modules coming so that members can join to build a strong team and keep this project up to date.

