



# Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)  
Systems Alignment Subcommittee  
Public Meeting  
Wednesday, March 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*)

Welcome, call to order, attendance taken.

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

- Tiffany Olivas started meeting at 1:11pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

### **Members in Attendance** 10 Roster, 6 Quorum

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

### **Members Absent**

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

### **Public Present**

1. Naysedi Badillo, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
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. Candace Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services
8. 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.

- Ashley Dines: Thursday April 10 @ 11:00am Parent Summit in S. Nevada, reach out to Ashley Dines for details





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

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

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

- Jamie Mendez motions to approve flexible agenda
- Abbey Bernhardt seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

### 4. Approval of February 26, 2025 Minutes (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee approved minutes from February 26, 2025

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

- Tiffany Olivas- Section with Jamie Mendez history of ECAC - Jamie Mendez asked about Early Childhood Education AND Education
- Abbey Bernhardt motions to approve minutes with above noted corrections
- Diane Nicolet seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

### 5. Updates on SB82 and AB236 (*Discussion, Informational*)

Dr. Jamelle Nance shared updates on current legislation and where SB82 and AB236 are at overall.

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

*Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair*

- Tiffany Olivas invited Dr. Nance to speak on this item
- Dr Nance stated AB182, may be heard on April 7th around 3pm, not guaranteed, need support organized and testimonies from people who have experience within the Early Childhood System. This shows how the system is currently structured and identifying gaps so the system is built with sustainability. DWSS is Child Care Subsidy, WIC, TANF and other programs
- Dr Nance spoke on BDR16 which is for Universal Pre-K, highly unlikely it will move in one session, but want it to start moving along and building momentum.
- Ab185 is HOA bill that impacts Family Child Care providers being able to have a business in their home, went through the initial hearing and waiting for its chance to move forward
- Dr. Nicolet SB 82- pointing out the gaps, failures and problems also important to reflect on what is working and letting the legislators know this works this needs support and improvement
- Dr. Nance brought up SNAP and TANF through DWSS programs supporting subsidy in the same way, issues: Staffing, application process, etc.
- Dr. Nicolet brought up involving direct users, such as the parents, point out the Parent Engagement piece of ECAC and the Child Cares who have been doing this for years
- Denise Tanata agrees to point out the positives and not just the deficiencies and noting all of the same efforts taking place with families and how they need to repeat the steps over and over within the agencies and programs asking for the same information wasting time and resources etc.
- Dr. Nance wants to add that we have oversight of the office, ensuring that the families in need are actually receiving the service, the Guinn Report shows that there is a high percentage of people who qualify and do not receive help showing us there is a disconnect with access.
- Patrice Gardner asked if there is still a piece for ECAC to have funding to support the ECAC admin positions
- Dr. Nance answered that she does not remember seeing the ECAC funding in the bill
- Denise Tanata said that the bill put together by ECAC has the positions listed but SB82 did not have that in their bill.
- Patrice Gardner- The good things are we have the reports and information, that's a time saver for the next vendor.



- Denise Tanata agreed we don't need more information, we need an action plan and a level of authority for alignment and collaboration of early childhood programs whether it is in the early childhood Office, Department, or Division- creating access to equitable services and creating efficiency in our system.
- Dr. Nance offered for members to reach out for information regarding information about "legislative 101" and discovering how everything works
- Tiffany Olivas asked if Dr. Nance can share the link in the chat along with the template for testimonies
- Dr. Nance will be looking for the final draft for the template and add to chat or email to Tiffany Olivas directly.
- Denise Tanata said we can also make a line and say they support that bill, big lines = big impact
- Dr. Nicolet let us know Senator Taylor likes when people "ditto" their support for a story told in support of a bill.

#### **6. Advancing a Common Vision** *(Discussion, Informational)*

Subcommittee continued their discussion for a system infographic, review infographics and member survey results, discussed next steps.

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

- The subcommittee reviewed the infographics and survey results, and which info graphics received, the top 3 were visually appealing and put families/children in center of it all were top choices
- Tiffany Olivas shared the infographics and let members know what graphics were liked or not liked and read comments from members. It was decided per the survey that the graphics are for a specific audiences, discussed involving the Family Leadership groups under Ashley Dines and Dr. Nance and asking for their perspectives
- Denise Tanata added figuring out the audience will be a good first step as that will lead to what will need to be included and verbiage used, I would want one for legislatures to understand Early Childhood needs.
- Dr. Nicolet brought up asking varying perspectives from one person "As a mother which one speaks to you, was a teacher which one speaks to you.
- Denise Tanata suggested getting perspective from other Sectors, asking the Health or Pediatric System with this infographic that are a part of the EC System but aren't always a part of the early childhood conversations
- Tiffany Olivas will email the members a template to send to their early childhood network for perspective

#### **7. Identifying Gaps in Representation per Sector** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

Subcommittee reviewed next steps for roster and sector identification, discuss possibilities for survey questions to self identify, discuss various platforms to use for survey, continue finding the gaps in representation.

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

- Tiffany Olivas described what the survey is intending to do, by self-reporting we are getting more accurate information
- Tiffany Olivas and Brandi Hearst shared the survey they create with the members for feedback as well as asking the members for thoughts, additions or edits.
- It was decided that Tiffany Olivas will share the survey at Executive Leadership meeting April 1, 2025 to get feedback from Subcommittee on how often to send this information to all members of ECAC and Subcommittees.

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

The Subcommittee to share ideas on how to coordinate with other subcommittees using "Idea Share" document

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

- Tabled to next meeting .

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

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

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

- Tiffany Olivas reviewed the Work Plan and explained the SAGA Key Recommendations, and Infographic activity.



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- Status update- add "Completed" at Activity 2.1 "STATUS: Update Continue in Progress as of September 6, 2024"
- Action steps "Status Update" under activity 2.2, Update to show Abbey is completing that task
- Objective 2.2 data playbook, ask Smriti back to give final update
- Share workplan updates to Sabrina Jones

### 10. Agenda Items for next meeting on April 23, 2025 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee discussed topics to add to the next Systems Alignment meeting agenda for April 23, 2025.

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

- Update feedback on Infographic
- Asking Smriti Neupane to give Data Playbook Summary update
- Tabled item #8 for April
- Keep "Roster" agenda item- update from Executive Leadership discussion
- Dr. Nance and Denise Tanata to update members on legislation progress

### 11. Upcoming Meeting Schedule (*Informational*)

- Executive Leadership: 4.01.25, 11:00am
- Communication and Engagement: 4.08.25 9:00am
- Policy and Finance: 4.10.25, 1:00pm
- Communication and Engagement Ad Hoc: 4.15.25, 1:30pm
- Data and Evaluation: 4.17.25 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment 4.23.25 1:00pm
- General ECAC Meeting 5.21.25, 5:30-7:30pm Virtual only
- ECAC New Member Orientation: 4.29.25 at 11:30am
  - To register, email us at [Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov](mailto:Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov) and [Sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov](mailto: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 jurisdiction, 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 Subcommittee Co-Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.

- Denise Tanata- First 5 hosting am Early Childhood Screening on April 5th at CSN Charleston Campus, Las Vegas, NV

### 13. Adjournment

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

- Tiffany Olivas adjourned meeting at 2:33pm

### 3 Action Steps:

1. Abbey Bernhardt to complete the Idea Share document to share with Members in April
2. Brandi Hearst to contact Smriti Neupane to schedule a time for Data Playbook Summary update
3. Tiffany Olivas to work on email template for members to send to EC System Workforce contacts for new perspective

### One Sentence Summary:

This Subcommittee is continuing to discuss and work on the infographic to share to various audiences in Nevada, explaining the importance of an aligned Early Childhood System, they also heard updates on Nevada Legislation and discussed bills that effect children in Nevada and the agencies in place to support the families.