



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

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

Public Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 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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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. Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
4. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
5. Jerek Houghes, Regional Director, Source Academy
6. Kate Pflughoeft, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
7. Patti Oya, Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
2. Anna Binder, Parent Representative
3. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
4. Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

1. Jamelle Nance, Communications and Engagement Co-Chair
2. Tiffany Olivas Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Patrice Gardner, Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair
4. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children’s Cabinet
5. Candace Lewis Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services
6. Nayesdi Badillo, Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
7. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
8. Darby Porter, State of Nevada Library Advisor
9. Brandi Hearst, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
10. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

2. Public Comment #1

Public Comment taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. No action may be





Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

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 approved a flexible agenda.

Elysa Arroyo Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Brianna Cambra motioned to approve flexible agenda
- Patti Oya seconds
- Members voted unanimously,, motion carries

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

The Subcommittee approved the March Meeting Minutes.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Lela Gonzales made motion to approve minutes
- Kate Pflughoeft seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

5. Action Planning for Statewide Funding Template (*Discussion, Informational*)

The Subcommittee continued discussion of early childhood systems funding needs, delegate action steps to fill the needs and discuss what programs are top priority while exploring funding options.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Lela Gonzales reviewed the new funding template explaining how fiscal years work compared to traditional years. described that the only information available to her was from The Children's Cabinet, members have the ability to add or review on this document with their knowledge base to help the Subcommittee.
- Brianna Cambra described that the template was to give the Subcommittee an idea of what the funding sources look like for our state and categorize programs as a is a priority level of 1 or 2, and what is sunseting.
- Patti Oya stated that when legislation is over, we should look at this template and decide what we want to add to our FY 2026 use of state funds as its assumed is a tight fiscal year and no general funds have been allocated as we know of.
- Tiffany Olivas was wondering if we can put funding towards new ARP grants and emergency grants
- Brianna Cambra explained that she believed that the budget for this current Fiscal Year most likely won't have funding for this but she believes this will come back in 3-5 years after the transition from the use of Federal Funds.
- Lela Gonzales mentioned that QRIS maybe having an opportunity to use PDG B-5 carry over
- Rachel Stepina confirmed that it is true. However, the funds have not yet been approved by PDG for us to say yes, she also mentioned that PDG B-5 plans to be done with all spending as of 12/30/2025 and is hopeful that we eventually get an extension to spend the remaining funds.
- Lela Gonzales asked what we are doing with this information. Are we developing a plan or identifying issues?
- Brianna Cambra: explained the point of this template is to identify priority areas by what has already been eliminated, what is potentially no longer supported and what is our priority, she then mentioned that tele-health benefits, stipend and compensation for licensed providers probably will not be back.
- Lela Gonzales mentioned the budget for 2026 has subsidy as a priority, is there other items to add?
- Patti Oya mentioned perhaps the Kindergarten entry assessment could be added if it doesn't make it through sessions stating budget hearings for both 70 million and 140 million for literacy grants, the office budget, including Pre-K seats starts Tuesday 4/15/25, mentioned that budget hearings are not bill hearings and Education Budgets close first.





Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Rachel Stepina recommends we have more diverse input in terms of the direct service providers and what is on the template shows a lot of our gaps in representatives.
- Dr. Nance brought up that there are no bills for Child Care Subsidy, there is still a bill out from Senator Cannizzaro that has not yet been released, we are hoping to see that on April 11, 2025, as it's under the "Educate Act", which I supposed to have a good amount of funding for early childhood., potentially to look at for allocating money towards early childhood and universal Pre-K.
- Lela Gonzales asked what the cut-off date is for bills
- Dr. Nance replied that some are April 22, and some go into May 2025.
- Lela Gonzales had mentioned talking with NV!PK providers and they came up with the idea of funding the programs instead of subsidy so that the programs can charge less and make it more available
- Patti Oya reminded Subcommittee that Nevada Ready is only 4-year-olds and subsidy is for all ages
- Lela Gonzales continued with the template and mentioned Early Childhood Support Network being funded through PDG B-5, suggested adding to the priority list
- Brianna Cambra agreed that Early Childhood Support Network (ECSN) should be a priority as we are the first state to offer ECSN and a few other states have followed.
- Lela Gonzales asked if providers can be charged more for the service if we don't get funding
- Brianna Cambra explained how the cost is too expensive, and the providers wouldn't be able to afford the service leading to less demand and less staff, they are looking at what magic number will be for cost and pricing for a balance.
- Lela Gonzales went through the remainder of the list to save time, mentioning the programs funded by PDG B-5 that may not be receiving any more funding
- Rachel Stepina rural services is a huge part for the ECSN's work, the pyramid model also focuses on rural and tribal. staying in PDG B-5 scope of work.
- Tiffany Olivas is planning on applying for more ECCS grant funds if available
- Rachel Stepina asked about one of the line items that felt different than the rest, leading to a conversation of breaking down the category and adding HRSA as a funding source.
- Tiffany Olivas reiterated Rachels' questions, and they discussed the original descriptors of the programs were highly based on Family Engagement and so Family Leadership Council need to be listed here.
- Lela Gonzales explained what HRSA funds help support- 2 full-time employees, one being on family leadership, the coordinators and then the other coordinator is paid for, as you know through PDG
- Rachel Stepina suggested entering "HRSA" as a source on column "I"
- Lela Gonzales thanked everyone for their help and will take this information back to share with Denise Tanata.

6. Nevada Legislation Updates (Discussion, Informational)

The Subcommittee discussed updates to legislative sessions related to Nevada Families, children and other topics involving any aspect of the Early Childhood System.

Dr. Nance, Co-Chair Communications and Engagement

- Dr. Nance shared her legislative updates with the Subcommittee, starting with SB82 likely not going to pass, having put forth all of the effort and being available. The political climate is what we have to be aware of
 - SB72 or SB78 is considering consolidating Boards and Commissions so we have to look at what role we want ECAC to play.
 - AB185 is looking positive, HOA's can't stop Family Child Care owners, Senator Cannazaro still has released information on her bill
 - AB297 is a home visiting bill to be covered by Medicaid had a great hearing and Medicaid is on board with this bill, and we are hopeful this will help as home visits are under-utilized.
 - Tuesdays at 11:30am CAA hosts legislative updates for anyone interested in joining us, legislation is half way over.





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

The Subcommittee to review in MAY- Work Plan and discuss updates as needed, ask for volunteers to delegate activities help accomplish goals.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Table this item for May Agenda

8. Agenda Items for May 08, 2025 Meeting (*Discussion, Informational*)

The Subcommittee added agenda items to the May meeting.

Elysa Arroyo, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Keep Item #7
- PDG B-5 overall update and review expenditures

9. Upcoming ECAC Meetings (*Informational*)

- Communication Ad-Hoc: 4.15.25, 1:30pm
- Data and Evaluation: 4.17.25, 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment: 4.23.25. 1:00pm
- New Member Orientation: 4. 29.25, 11:00am Email To register-Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov, Sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov
- Executive Leadership: 5.06.25, 11:00am
- Policy and Finance: 5.08.25, 1:00pm
- General ECAC: 5.21.25, 5:30pm / virtual only

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.

- *No Comment*

11. Adjournment

Elysa Arroyo Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned meeting at 2:00 pm

3 actions steps:

- Lela Gonzales to share information to Denise Tanata and add Patti Oya’s requests
- Subcommittee Members to add to the template if they have funding information or programs to prioritize or that are sunseting
- Patti Oya to let Lela Gonzales know if Kindergarten Readiness Assessments need to be added to the funding template.

One Sentence Summary:

The Subcommittee spent the meeting covering the new Funding Source Template for the state of Nevada, identifying the level 1 and 2 priority programs, the sunseting programs and the funding sources of the state.

