



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Systems Alignment Subcommittee

Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 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

MINUTES SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call (Informational)

Welcome, call to order, attendance taken.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Abbey Bernhardt started meeting at 1:08pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members in Attendance

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. Diane Nicolet ,
5. Tiffany Olivas, Co-Chair
6. Tina Springmeyer, Washoe County School District
7. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

Members Absent

1. Anna Binder, Parent
2. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
3. Anna Severens, NV Pre-K, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

Public Present

1. Ashley Dines, Family Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
2. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Smriti Neupane, Data Analyst, NICRP
4. Dana Preece, Birth - 3rd grade Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
5. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
6. 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





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

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas motions to approve flexible agenda
- Jamie Mendez seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

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

The Subcommittee approved minutes from March 26, 2025

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas agenda item related to Systems Early Childhood Office Assembly Bill SB82, correct first mention
- Tiffany Olivas to email Brandi Hearst the minor corrections found
- Patrice Gardner motions to approve March minutes with above noted corrections
- Dr. Diane Nicolet seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

5. Legislative Session Update (*Discussion, Informational*)

Subcommittee members updated on current legislation and specific updates to SB82 and AB236.

Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair

- Denise Tanata went through various bills and explained what they were and what progress they have or haven't had, outline below:
- SB82 is no longer a bill as it did not meet the deadline, it is rumored that pieces of this bill may be put into another bill but that is not confirmed
- AB236 is a Board of Education Bill, and this one has not been followed by Denise Tanata
- SB78 is still active, (the Bill to review and/or eliminate Boards and Councils) adding that there is still no ECAC changes on this bill
- AB 185 (Prevents HOA's from restricting Child Care business in the home, Bill has passed Assembly, going to the Senate.
- 2709 OELD Budget and 2621 Early Literacy budget, were both closed on April 15, 2025.
- The ESLIP Grants were reduced almost 50% from 140,000,000 to 76,000,000 so there is only enough funding for Pre-K seats and not the literacy programs
- Funding for Kindergarten Assessments was not included in passed budget
- 3267 Childcare Budget has hearing tomorrow morning, April 24, 2025 which includes the new positions to help with the new Payment Management System
- Senator Cannizzaro's Educate Act (which may include Pre-K funding), has still not been introduced.
- Patrice Gardner asked about if it is known when Senator Cannizzaro's bill will be introduced?
- Denise Tanata said she would have until end of May, 2025
- Tiffany Olivas asked if we have any Early Childhood professionals working with her specifically?
- Denise Tanta responded ECE professionals have had many conversations with her, but directly working with her is Joyce Woodhouse who has a background on Education. Conversations have been not just about Pre-K but about the connections of Child Care and that pathway to Kindergarten
- Patrice Gardner asked if Senator Cannizzaro knows what is happening with Head Start?
- Denise Tanata said it is a federal issue not just within our own state, after June 2nd, 2025 there may be multiple special sessions with new budget cuts that we don't know about
- Dr. Nicolet has added that they have been "Asked" but more like told, that at the federal level they are making demands of information from agencies and districts with a tone of being in trouble if you don't.





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- Denise Tanata explained we do use a lot of federal funding so we may see a disproportionate impact on potential funding
- Dr. Nicolet stated that the Silver Lining is that we know the State is working very hard
- Tiffany Olivas said she has been leaning on the word HOPE a lot lately
- Dr. Nicolet offered to put the new Guinn Report in the chat showing insights into the Nevada Funding.
- Tiffany Olivas asked Denise Tanata if the Guinn Report will be a part of the General ECAC meeting, or should we do that in this Subcommittee?
- Denise Tanata offered to present the Guinn Report at General ECAC meetings and continued her discussion around Children's funding project to update the fiscal map made changes to the structure of the fiscal maps to be user friendly
- Patrice Gardner agreed to adding that to the General ECAC agenda as that would be the most beneficial as it effects everyone
- Brandi Hearst will add to May agenda

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

Subcommittee discussed updates and survey results regarding early childhood system infographic.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas review the top infographics and described what people liked or didn't like and reviewed the survey results from people outside of the Subcommittee.
- Top 3: 9, 8 and 14. 13 and 7 tied for fourth.
- Dr. Nicolet explained some feedback she had received including:
 - #13 being a good training tool
 - #9 was the top pic, remove transition words and the amount of words, it is too much, otherwise the best infographic
 - # 7 and #1 were thought to be specific in explaining Autism
- Rachel Stepina explained that #13 is actually being made into a video and was made with that specific idea in mind
- Tiffany Olivas asked if the subcommittee felt like #9, the Core Elements of Early Childhood Development System to use as a template, using Dr. Nicolet's suggestion of toning it down and using our own verbiage and definitions, what are the thoughts and next steps we need to do, do we take it to Leadership?
- Abbey Bernhardt agreed that would be a good place to start
- Tiffany Olivas said the good thing about this infographic is the simplicity of it and I can edit this one myself
- Members agreed for Tiffany Olivas to create and present the background and the infographic example
- Tiffany Olivas requested for this to be added to the Executive Leadership agenda
- Rachel Stepina requested for Tiffany Olivas to describe what the request is for the Executive Leadership subcommittee to do, what is the ask?
- Tiffany Olivas described it would be informational so that everyone would be aware of what we are working on, also for any feedback of how we are presenting the information
- Rachel Stepina agreed and added it is helpful to have that information for creating the Agenda and for Chairs to understand the wants and needs of the members.

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

Reviewed Early Childhood Sector identification, discussed feedback from Executive Leadership meeting regarding Sector Self Reporting Survey, discussed next steps, have not yet decided when to send survey to current members. and delegate action steps as needed.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas shared the Sector conversation that happened at the Executive Leadership meeting, explaining that it was decided to add the Sectors to the newly formatted Subcommittee Membership Application.



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- Brandi Hearst added that the Membership Application is under review now, Sabrina Jones is reviewing and Patrice Gardner also reviewed. The Sectors have been added to the application therefore adding to the Orientation Packets would be redundant as those members will have already completed the survey. We will have to be sure the General ECAC members that are NOT a member of a Subcommittee do their survey though.
- Tiffany Olivas agreed and requested a time to meet with Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones to discuss what the needs are and to get the survey out to current members.

8. Data Summary Update (Discussion, Informational)

Subcommittee was presented with updates from Data Dictionary Summary.

Smriti Neupane, Research Analyst, NICRP

- Smriti Neupane shared the Data Dictionary Summary and described it as a comprehensive document including 68 variables across key areas such as:
 - Early Learning Childcare
 - Home Visiting
 - Early Intervention
 - Nutrition
 - Parental Engagement
 - Prenatal Postpartum Care
 - Children's Healthcare
 - Mental Behavioral Health
 - Economics
 - Social Support
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Thriving Children And Families
 - Prenatal to three outcome measures.
- After reviewing the percentages with the members, Smriti Neupane explained what was learned through this process:
 - Efforts to be made to improve and enhance collection
 - Data to be disaggregated by key factors such as: age, race, ethnicity, poverty, languages spoken,
 - Data used help identify disparities
 - Data used to ensure targeted interventions
 - Data used to identify needed resources
- Tiffany Olivas asked if there are strategies for gaps found in the data
- Smriti Neupane responded that Nevada Department of Education is already putting in place an online database with searchable topics to find information that may have gaps in our own data and open to the public

9. Coordination with Other Subcommittees (Discussion for Possible Action)

The Subcommittee members will share ideas in May on how to coordinate with other subcommittees, review "Idea Share" document.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- TABLED: Abbey Bernhardt requested support Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones to create this document so we can progress on this activity

10. Work Plan Review (Discussion, for Possible Action)

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

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs



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- Tiffany Olivas described that we had a lot of time to do this agenda item last time, we can now check off the Sort data/Info activity as we were waiting for Smriti to provide an update as she did in this meeting so that is now complete.
- Tiffany Olivas also discussed the “idea sheet” (under creation) for communicating work plan updates and strategies to ensure clear communication pathways within each of the subcommittees and to strengthen partnerships as subcommittees align with together

11. Agenda Items for next meeting on May 28, 2025 *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee did not have any additional topics to add to the next Systems Alignment meeting.

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- No suggestions, members asked to email Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones if they think of a topic

12. Upcoming Meeting Schedule *(Informational)*

- Executive Leadership: 5.06.25, 11:00am
- Policy and Finance: 5.08.25, 1:00pm
- Communication and Engagement: 5.13.25 9:00am
- Data and Evaluation: 5.15.25 1:00pm
- Communication and Engagement Ad Hoc: 5.20.25, 1:30pm
- General ECAC Meeting 5.21.25, 5:30-7:30pm -Virtual only
- Systems Alignment 5.28.25 1:00pm

13. 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 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.

- No Comment

14. Adjournment

Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Abbey Bernhardt adjourned meeting at 2:21pm

3 action steps:

- Brandi Hearst to add Infographic presentation to Executive Leadership agenda for feedback and to keep them in the loop of what we are doing
- Brandi Hearst to meet with Abbey Bernhardt in regard to supporting the creation of the Idea Share Document
- Members to email ideas for the agenda if they think of anything

One Sentence Summary:

- The Subcommittee reviewed the infographic discussion and discussed the infographic survey taken by others outside of this specific group, they also were updated on the legislation progress and went through the Workplan completed the activity related to sorting data when they had the Data Dictionary Update presented to them.