



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

Public Meeting
Thursday, May 08, 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: Join us [HERE](#)

Meeting Id: 867 0737 7682 **Passcode:** 851310 **Phone:** +13462487799 Can't Log into Zoom? Click [HERE](#)

MINUTE SUMMARY

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Elysa Arroyo started meeting at 1:01pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
2. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children’s Cabinet
4. Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
5. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
6. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
7. Jerek Hough, Regional Director, Source Academy
8. Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Anna Binder, Parent Representative
2. Patti Oya, Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Kate Pflughoeft, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

1. Tiffany Alston, Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair
2. Cherish Frazier, Member of Public
3. Patrice Gardner, Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair
4. Brandi Hearst, Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
5. Sabrina Jones, Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
7. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communications and Engagement Co-Chair
8. Tiffany Olivas Systems Alignment Co-Chair
9. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
10. Candace L. Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services
11. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children’s Cabinet
12. J’Amioe Webster, Member of Public

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 approved a flexible agenda.

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Abbey Bernhardt seconds
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

4. Approval of April 10, 2025 Minutes *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee approved the April Meeting Minutes.

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brianna Cambra motions to approve April Minutes
- Lela Gonzales seconds motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

5. Preschool and Development Grant Birth – 5 Overall Updates *(Discussion, Informational)*

The Subcommittee reviewed the expenditures and received an overall update for the PDG B-5 grant.

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

- Rachel Stepina gave federal funding updates
 - Currently in year three of implementation
 - Have federal approval on all funds through December, 30 2025.
 - Currently working on carryover request-
 - Carry over is unused funding from years 1 and 2
 - Requires management of the \$23 million dollars we have left to spend
 - Due 4.30.25
 - Carry over is \$13 million from first 2 years
 - In year 1 we weren't able to spend in the first 4 months
 - Next 8 months was spent training and onboarding new staff
- Federal forecast for Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five is a planning award
 - Funded through the federal fiscal year
 - August 1, 2025- Expecting to have a "Notice of Opportunity".
 - PDG team is preparing for the state of Nevada to apply
 - Planning grants for PDG B-5 are typically just for planning.
 - If we were awarded, it would be less than our 10 million/year PDG B-5 award.
- President's budget cuts PDG B-5 completely
 - Take action that you feel is appropriate for yourself, as citizens of our country.

6. Review and Update Statewide Funding Template *(Discussion, Informational)*

The Subcommittee reviewed updates made to Statewide Funding document, made additional updates discussed next steps for action planning.

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs



Link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zcnH3b1W5qv2l9xGHcHAIP_n_bVZazKf/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=112152154727894863272&rtprof=true&sd=true

- Lela Gonzales recommends looking at Fiscal Funding map from The Children's Funding Project to better understand funding opportunities outside of our own network
- Denise Tanata recommends starting with what we have accessible to us, analyze what works and what doesn't for programs and budgeting, then each out to others and show our purpose and research
- Lela Gonzales asks if finalized budget numbers could be plugged into a larger funding template to have some of the amounts for fiscal year 2026, adding if there's already projects slated for elimination, we can include that information.
- Marty Elquist concerned with the overlap of dates and funds not being fully accounted for between funds actual ending in December 2025 and the funds being listed on the template with the federal fiscal year end date of June 2026
- Lela Gonzales explained the funds being accounted for in the spreadsheet which is also capturing two priorities levels:
 - Priority 1: Programs that don't have sustained funding
 - Priority 2: Programs at risk of losing funding.
- Rachel Stepina suggests adding a column for other timelines as the funding isn't on the same timelines as the state.
- Denise Tanata added that this spreadsheet is to provide a snapshot at a high level, so we just want to make it useful and easy to navigate. She suggests adding after column "M" a column for funding source expiration or end date
- Lela Gonzales will make the edits and recommends adding a purpose statement and key objectives section to the document. This can be used to help explain the purpose of the tool for others to add and utilize the resource.
- Denise Tanata explained that if we are to provide information to other agencies and state departments to be clear on each column title, adding that this document should be shareable once we have a purpose statement outlined.
- Marty Elquist mentions she's confused about the overall purpose and asked if this Subcommittee alone is using this spreadsheet, or will it be posted? How would it be used by others?
- Lela Gonzales asked what the process is for the purpose statement, is she to draft that herself or is this another agenda item another day?
- Denise Tanata explained that she can help with the purpose statement and objective statements as well as strategies.
- Lela recapped that she will be meeting with Denise offline to get drafts taken care of and will make the edit Denise Tanata requested earlier.

7. Nevada Legislation Updates *(Discussion, Informational)*

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

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Dr. Nance, Co-Chair Communications and Engagement Subcommittee

- Denise Tanata shared updates from the 2025 Legislative Session:
 - AB185- Bill restricts HOA's from preventing Family Home Care, passed out of Assembly, has opposition from HOA's, trying to find compromises with what they are looking to add such as :
 - Requiring providers to list HOA as additionally insured on liability policies
 - Limiting the amount of family care homes within a community
 - Suggested the need for our legislators to become aware of the funding pieces for child care and all that goes into it
 - Economic Forum predicted a \$200,000,000 budget shortfall. Budgets will be very tight and difficult to get new funding approved.
 - Some legislation is in limbo right now, waiting to go to the money committees.
- Dr. Nance added: Senator Cannizzaro's Educate Act, SB460, is over 100 pages – CAA is in the process of reviewing.
 - April 25th, the Governor introduced his Education Accountability Act, more information to come as it is released.



- Denise Tanta SB460- Cannizzaro's Education Bill - It was to be a pathway to universal Pre-K, the language is not as strong as we would want it. Essentially would put some additional funding into the ECILP grants. Not as much as was removed during the budget closings for the PreK program. Would still see a reduction in funding there, even if the additional 50 million dollars in SB 460 is approved. \$10 million to local districts to expand facilities, but it is limited to those to local school districts. The bill also addresses income eligibility requirements.
- Denise Tanata recalled Stephanie Vega bringing up class sizes and ratios in pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms, noting that this bill mentions that topic.
- Dr. Nance shared upcoming dates:
 - May 5 -Start of resolving budget differences
 - May 16 -All non-exempt bills will need to pass for the second time to stay "alive".
 - May 17 -Budget differences to be resolved
 - May 28 -All exempt bills will need a passing vote from committee.
 - CAA is also working on policy issues, such as Head Start. They have received some responses from our call to action and we are responding to potential cuts.
- Tiffany Alston mentioned that she was able to provide an interview on this topic.
- May 12 -Day without Child Care is a national event. Holding a webinar from 9:30am to 10:30am.
- Lela Gonzales asked if they are discussing the amendments from AB460 with home-based child care providers to make sure, that their voices are included.
- Denise Tanata thanked Lela Gonzales for the reminder and explained that things are moving fast and wants to make sure they are a part of the process as much as possible.

8. Work Plan Updates and Review (Discussion, Informational)

The Subcommittee reviewed Work Plan updates

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Sabrina Jones shared the Workplan with the Subcommittee, explaining the new format and the new columns added on were suggestions from Co-Chairs and added that it is the same exact content as the older workplan.
- Brandi Hearst added in chat that once Executive Leadership approves this layout, everyone will have access to the drive link to edit as goals are accomplished and keep accurate records.
- Denise Tanata asked about the strategic plan status as that will effect the Workplan and moving forward
- Sabrina Jones responded Workplan is slated to be developed within the strategic planning, and we want to use this format.
- Rachel Stepina explained that although it is taking an unusually long time to secure the vendor we can discuss and plan where we see ECAC moving towards, draft goals and topics, when a vendor does contract with us, we are prepared to move quickly.

9. Agenda Items for ~~May 08, 2025~~ June 12, 2025 Meeting (Discussion, Informational)

The Subcommittee added agenda items to the June agenda.

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata suggested the following items:
 - Finalize ECS Funding Sources actions template
 - Prioritize Workplan Content
 - Answer questions from report sent out by Denise Tanata for after session/legislation updates

10. Upcoming ECAC Meetings (Informational)

- Data and Evaluation: 5.15.25, 1:00pm
- Communication Ad-Hoc: 5.20.25, 1:30pm





- General ECAC: 5.21.25, **5:30pm / virtual only**
- Systems Alignment: 5.28.25. 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership: 6.03.25, 11:00am
- Policy and Finance: 6.12.25, 1:00pm

11. 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

12. Adjournment

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned meeting at 2:01pm

3 actions steps:

- Lela Gonzales to edit funding template information with Denise Tanata's edit request
- Denise Tanata to set up meeting with Lela Gonzales to draft purpose statement and objectives for Funding Template
- Denise Tanata to create an end of session report to email to Subcommittee members for review, discussion (to be Added to Agenda Item #5)

One Sentence Summary:

The Subcommittee discussed goals for how the ECS Funding Sources draft will be used and who will be able to access it, reviewed the new workplan format and discussed the updates within legislation sessions.