



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

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

Public Meeting

Thursday, June 12th, 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 is held via Zoom tele-conference: Join us [HERE](#)

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

### MEETING MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

*Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Elysa Arroyo started the meeting at 1:00pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
2. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Anna Binder, Parent Representative
4. Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children’s Cabinet
5. Ashley Dines, Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
6. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
7. Jerek Hough, Regional Director, Source Academy
8. Kate Pflughoeft, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
9. Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair

#### PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

1. Jenesse Black, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education
2. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Dr Nance, Communications and Engagement Co-Chair
4. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
5. Sabrina Schnur, Member of Public
6. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children’s Cabinet
7. Candace Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services
8. 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*

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Denise Tanata seconded
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

### **4. Approval of May 08, 2025 Minutes** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee approved the May 08, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

*Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Kate Pflughoeft requested edits on Agenda item #5 and Brandi Hearst made adjustments live on Zoom.
- Denise Tanata motions to approve May Minutes with changes made live on Agenda Item #5
- Kate Pflughoeft seconded the motion, abstains due to absence
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

### **5. Report Review: 2025 NV Legislative Session – EC Bill Updates** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee discussed the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session report and discuss next steps for policy to support the Early Childhood System in Nevada.

*Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair*

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

- Denise Tanata described the Early Childhood Bill summary being a summary of reports put together by Dr. Nance and herself.
  - Explained that AB185 actually passed and was voted in, however Governor Lombardo vetoed it.
  - Asked if any of the members wanted to read this out loud or prefer to download and review
- Dr. Nance explained they soon receive the bills that actually passed the legislature
  - Interim session starts and Legislation session ended on June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Denise Tanata answered some SB460 revision questions from the chat but needed her notes for specifics
- Dr. Nance also didn't have her notes but knew that the SB460 has a total of \$115 million and it dropped to only \$25 million, additional funding in Pre-K needed.
- Denise Tanata answered a chat question, explaining why we need to “enroll” a bill and the process of preparing it and sending to the governor for the purpose of procedures, once bill is past out of both houses (legislation), then they get it prepped and ready to send to Governor (Enroll the bill).
  - Suggested we start looking at and planning for Policies 2027, standing item on our agenda , take this information to Executive Leadership and General ECAC meetings for consideration in Annual Reporting

### **6. Early Childhood System Funding Template** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee reviewed updates made to template and discuss draft goals and outcomes, as well as next steps for completing information needed for current programs listed in the template and adding other programs from partners.

*Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair with Lela Gonzales, The Children's Cabinet*

- Lela Gonzales discussed the Funding Sources document and read the purpose statement, asking members if they had any questions or input.
- Dr. Nance suggested adding sustainability of grants into another category already offered.
- Lela Gonzales and Denise Tanata discussed back and forth on their ideas, then Kate Pflughoeft suggested putting the added detail into the current grant application enhancement and removing the word “application” to allow it to cover all “grant successes”
- Lela Gonzales took note and will update, she then moved on to reviewing the strategies and offered members a chance



to suggest edits, reminding everyone they have access to view and edit.

- Dr Nance suggested adding to Legislator Engagement Strategy / Policy Briefs to add how other states are completing this strategy, a comparison for reference
- Denise Tanata hesitates to add the suggested topic as it most likely would need a lot of research for that and wouldn't have it in time
- Jenesse Black asked for a space to show what the state funding at before and after dollar amounts, then showing how it effected the services
- Denise Tanata described this document showing potential programs to be cut and it would be a good use of this document to go back and look at historical data and show trends, potential uses of the collected information. Members discussed further
  - Denise Tanata motioned to create an Ad-Hoc to continue the work on Early Childhood System Funding Sources Document, 3 months timeline, using members from various agencies deemed appropriate to continue the work of this document.
  - Kate Pflughoeft seconds motion
  - Members voted unanimously, motion carries

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

Members to prioritize reviewing the Work Plan content, discussing updates and delegating activities. Add any new activities, such as ECS Funding Sources

*Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Table Item and move to top of July Agenda.

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

The Subcommittee added some July Agenda Items.

*Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Tabled Item #7, moved to the top of July's agenda
- Denise Tanata would like to add an agenda item to discuss Legislative policy for 2027

#### **9. Upcoming ECAC Meetings** (*Informational*)

- Communication Ad-Hoc: 6.17.25, 1:30pm
- Systems Alignment: 6.25.25. 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership: 7.01.25, 11:00am
- Policy and Finance: 7.10.25, 1:00pm
- General ECAC: 7.16.25, 9:00am
- Data and Evaluation: 7.17.25, 1:00pm

#### **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.

*Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Dr Nance announced the *Kids Count Data Breakfast* on 8.14.25, CAA.org has registration open online

#### **11. Adjournment**

- Elysa Arroyo adjourned meeting at 2:00pm



## Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- **3 Action Steps:**

- Lela Gonzales to make final editing touches on Funding Document before presenting to Executive Leadership
- Members of this Subcommittee to review the Workplan and come up with ideas or additions to add.
- Brandi Hearst to add Ad Hoc item to Executive Leadership agenda for July.

- **One Sentence Summary:**

- The Subcommittee to bring option of an Ad Hoc to the Executive Leadership Subcommittee for completion of the Funding Document within 3 months, reviewed the document and made final edits, and discussed the ending of the legislative session, reviewing ECS bills that either passed or died.

