



**Nevada Early Childhood  
Advisory Council  
Communication and Engagement  
Subcommittee**

Public Meeting  
Tuesday, November 18, 2025  
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

“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.”

**Location:** This meeting is being held via the Zoom platform. Join us [HERE](#)  
**MEETING ID:** 868 3754 9809    **PASSCODE:** 493811 Can't log in to Zoom? Click [HERE](#)

**MINUTES**

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

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

- Dr. Nance started the meeting at 9:06 am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

**MEMBER'S PRESENT**

1. Laura Brown, Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator, Acelero Head Start
2. Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children’s Cabinet
3. Cherry Clark, Developmental Specialist III, Nevada Early Intervention Services
4. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
5. Jerek Hough, Source Academy
6. Adriana Lemus, Parent and First 5 Nevada Family Leader
7. Octavia McLaurin, Family Child Care Owner
8. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
9. Brittany Morris, SPED- Itinerant Early Childhood Teacher, Washoe County School District
10. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication & Engagement Co-Chair
11. Carrie Paldi, District Manager, Learning Care Group
12. Darby Porter, Youth Services Consultant, Nevada Library Systems
13. Dana Preece, Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
14. Maura Snyder, Department of Welfare and Social Services, Regional Coordinator for the North
15. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
16. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet

**MEMBER'S ABSENT**

1. Edith Farmer, Child Care Facilities Supervisor, Department of Social Services
2. Kendra Moore, Sr. Partnership Director, McGraw-Hill Education
3. Tina Springmeyer, Child and Family Services Director and Nevada Pre-K Standards Coordinator, Washoe County School District

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

1. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Candace Lewis Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services

**2. Public Comment #1**

Public Comment was not given during this agenda item

- No comment

**3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (Discussion for Possible Action) 2 minutes**

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.



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

- Laura Brown motioned to approve a Flexible Agenda
- Dr. Elizabeth Glover seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

**4. Approval of July 08, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Discussion for Possible Action) 5 minutes**

The Subcommittee approved the July 08, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

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

- Rachel Stepina asks to edit Item 5:
  - Clean up Workplan item
  - complete sentences
  - remove “Rachel Stepinas Family” as it wasn’t her family,
  - fix Dr. Nance’s name, “Dr.” to have a period throughout minutes
- Laura Brown motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes with edits
- Brianna Cambra seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

**5. Co-Chair Introduction (Discussion, Possible Action) 2 minutes**

The Subcommittee welcomed Brianna Cambra as the new Co-Chair.

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

- Dr. Nance introduces Brianna Cambra as the new co-Chair as she and other members welcomed Brianna to the Co-Chair role.

**6. 2026 Schedule (Discussion for Possible Action) 10 min**

Subcommittee reviewed the 2025 Meeting schedule and decided on 2026 scheduling.

*Dr. Nance & Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Dr. Nance and Brianna Cambra reviewed the schedule with Members.
  - Discussions around scheduling and which Tuesdays were best for the majority commenced
  - Some members wanted later meetings, and some members wanted earlier meetings.
- Dr. Elizabeth Glover suggested a compromise at 11:30 am
  - It was agreed that 11:30 am worked for everyone
- Dr. Jamelle Nance asked for a motion to approve the new schedule of
  - Dr. Glover motioned to approve the new 2026 Meeting schedule to start in January 2026
  - Rachel Stepina seconded the motion
  - Members voted unanimously, motion carries
  - Official 2026 schedule: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 11:30 am, 1-hour meeting, every other month

**7. Review to Update Outreach and Event Tracking Document (Discussion for Possible Action) 10 min**

Subcommittee reviewed and updated the Outreach and Event Tracking documents.

*Dr. Nance & Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Dr. Nance offered to the members and the community to share items on the event tracking document.
  - Members encouraged to reach out if they know of any events, as there are no meetings scheduled for us until January.
  - "Children's Advocacy Alliance Winter Policy Summit," will be added when the details are available
- Dr. Elizabeth Glover suggested the link be in “view mode” for anyone with the link to be able to see the document
- After some discussion, Dr. Nance and Brianna Cambra agreed that the link can be shared as view only
- Laura Bown asked if this is for everyone to use or for ECAC to track what their primary intent is, or for ECAC to track the events that they're showing up as a whole, as a group.





- Sabrina Jones asked Dr. Nance to give more details on the tool, the Annual Plan is highlighting this tool.
- Dr. Nance explained that her understanding was to make sure that if there are events that ECAC members or partnering organizations would like ECAC to join, they can request it
  - Events need to be added to the tracker as soon as possible,
  - Making sure it's worth the time and resources
- Brianna Cambra explained the document a little bit more and shared that the community and ECAC can both utilize this tool and share this tool with the subcommittees for others to view and request to add an event using a form that auto-populates into the spreadsheet

#### **8. Work Plan Review (Discussion for Possible Action) 5 minutes**

The Subcommittee reviewed the work plan.

Dr. Nance & Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Row 30 removed
- More actions to take place with new goals and objectives, cross-referenced with work plan activities not completed, to possibly move to the next strategic plan

#### **9. Agenda Items for January 2026 Meeting (Discussion for Possible Action) 10 minutes**

The Subcommittee discussed agenda items for the upcoming meeting on January 27, 2026

Dr. Nance & Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Rachel Stepina suggested to our Head Start Association and Head Start Subgrantees are to share the resources for the family leadership experience that they have through their different grantees.
  - Patrice Gardner to update the Subcommittee on Head Start
- ADD: Aligning work to new goals on work plan

#### **10. Upcoming Meetings (Informational) 0 minutes**

- General ECAC Meeting: January 2026, 9:00 am
- Data and Evaluation: 11.20.25 @1:00pm
- Executive Leadership: 12.02.25 @ 11:00am
- New Member Orientation 12.04.25 @ 11:00am-Register here: <https://forms.gle/zNZ3z7Me5r3n7xRk6>
- Policy and Finance: 12.11.25, 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment: 12.17.25 @1pm
- Data and Evaluation: 12.18.25 @1:00pm

#### **11. Member Updates and Share-Outs (Discussion, Informational), 5 min**

Members of this Subcommittee can make announcements or share information.

- Tabled

#### **12. Public Comment #2 (Discussion for Possible Action) 6 minutes**

Public comment was taken during this agenda item.

- Rachel Stepina shared that the PDG B-5 Application has opened up with a possible \$15,000,000 to be awarded. For more details and information, join the General ECAC meeting tomorrow.
- Dr. Liz Glover shared a flyer for an event and wanted to be sure if anyone had the availability so that they could have the option to do so.

#### **13. Adjournment**

- Brianna Cambra adjourned the meeting at 2:34 pm





**3 action Steps:**

- Brandi Hearst to update 2026 Meeting Calendar
- Brandi Hearst and Brianna Cambra to look into creating viewer-only links for the members to view tools
- Work Plan to be updated before next meeting (Co-Chairs can access and update as they please using ECAC's new drive-based documents)

• **One Sentence Summary:** This Subcommittee decided on a 2026 Schedule, changing the time frame to 11:30-12:30 and moving from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday starting in January 2026, as well as going through the work plan to note possible leftover activities to move to the next work plan in hopes of aligning them within the new work plan.

