



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Policy & Finance Subcommittee

Public Meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2025

1:00 pm-2:00 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.”

Virtual Meeting Location: This Meeting is located on TEAMS. To join us, click [HERE](#).

Meeting Id: 292 044 130 663 09 **Passcode:** yk3q2LD6

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Denise Tanata started the meeting at 1:02 pm
- Denise Tanata conducted roll call

MEMBER’S PRESENT

1. Anna Binder, Parent Representative
2. Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children’s Cabinet
3. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
4. Jerek Hough, Regional Director, Source Academy
5. Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
6. Stephanie Vega, Teacher, Washoe County School District
7. Patty West, Employer Support Statewide Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet

MEMBER’S ABSENT

1. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
2. Kate Pflughoeft, PDG B-5 Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

1. Lindsey Dorneman, University of Nevada, Reno
2. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Sabrina Schnur, Community Member
4. Lisa Sherych, Community Member
5. Barbara Williams, Grandparent
6. Brooke Yarborough, Social Services Chief 2, Division of Social Services, Nevada Department of Human Services

2. Public Comment #1

Public Comment taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda.

- Barbara Williams shared the story about her grandson being discriminated against, calling out licensing to implement rules for child care centers be required to follow ADA and Discrimination laws
- Denise Tanata asked Barbara to share her contact information so that this topic can be placed on a future agenda

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

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

Elysa Arroyo & Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Brianna Cambra motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Lela Gonzales seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries



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

The Subcommittee approved the November 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Lela Gonzales requests the removal of UM under Member Share-Outs
- Brianna Cambra motions to approve November minutes
- Anna Binder seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

5. Nevada Legislature Special Sessions Update *(Discussion, Informational)*

The Subcommittee received an update from Special Sessions.

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair

• Dr Nance shared that the special session was November 13th through the 19th, so a great way to get us started in our Thanksgiving holiday, but I'm going to highlight a few of the bills below:

- Assembly Bill 4 was the public safety and crime bill.
 - essentially would increase the sentences for crimes which may be committed by young people
 - contributing to the prison pipeline.
 - That was one of the concerns with CAA. ‘
 - This one we did oppose, but it did pass and was signed into law by the governor.
 - The biggest piece of it was to bring more jobs to Nevada.
 - This bill included a transferable tax credit, and there was no significant indication that those dollars would be available for investing in children.
 - CAA opposed the bill, keeping in mind the potential impact on children and families:
 - How is that going to impact children and families?
 - Is there going to be an investment in child care when we're thinking about bringing more families to work?
 - The bill failed to pass.
- Assembly Bill 6 increased penalties for traffic violations in school zones.
 - CAA supported the bill because we want to make sure that school zones are safe for all children.
 - The bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor.
- Senate Bill 3 creates a public assistance program to allow the state to fill in those gaps when things like the government shutdown happen.
 - CAA supported the bill.
 - The bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor.
- Senate Bill 5 was a health bill centered around medical support for graduate students who are essentially trying to become professionals.
 - This would attract specialists here in the state, as there are a lot of gaps there when we're looking at the services provided to children and families.
 - The bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor.
- Senate Bill 10 would eliminate corporate housing purchasing power, essentially putting a limit on the number of corporate investors coming in to buy up a lot of properties, and make it more difficult for everyday families to buy.





- CAA supported our family childcare providers, who are sometimes those who are just starting, looking for homes to open up their businesses.
 - If they are bought by corporate investors, it is more difficult for family child care providers to move forward.
 - The bill did not pass, but will likely be brought back to the Legislature.
- Denise Tanata explained that the revenue method for supporting the pre-K program that was proposed in Senate Bill 5, the film tax credit bill, was to create a special tax district around the studio, and those funds would go to support PreK in Clark County.
 - It's a mechanism we know has now been included as a potential local revenue source and could be considered for future revenue discussions.

6. Subcommittee Co-Chair Update (Discussion, Informational)

The members of this Subcommittee were updated on the vacancy.

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- The members were updated that the vacancy is not yet filled and that Denise Tanata would love to have a partner to lean on. Contact Sabrina Jones, Brandi Hearst, or Denise Tanata if interested.

7. ECAC Policy Priority Discussion Continued (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Subcommittee to Review General ECAC Feedback and discuss needed action to support and implement Policy Priorities Goals, action steps, and objectives to be included on the workplan.

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Denise Tanata explained that the Interim Policies that were created at our last meeting were approved and published in the Annual Report, sharing the link for members to view, further explaining the Interim Policies and recommendations are on page 6 of the report, as follows:
 - Recommendations to have some of the joint interim standing committees hold presentations during the 2026 interim to address some of the current barriers and policy issues that we had identified through the ECAC, focused on:
 - Early care and education,
 - Access and affordability,
 - Workforce supports and compensation,
 - Systems alignment and governance.
 - Revenue
 - Recommendation to the Governor to assess and consider opportunities for the early childhood governance structure
- Denise Tanata continues by explaining that those policies have been approved and published – next steps:
 - What are some of the strategies that we need to do as an as the ECAC to move these forward?
 - What do we think we can do as an ECAC?
- Denise Tanata then brings up the concern that we publish the Annual Report and (most likely) not many, if anyone actually sees it, suggesting this subcommittee recommend to the General ECAC or Executive Leadership what strategies or activities we should take on to ensure:
 - ECAC has an audience in front of the legislature to push this work forward
 - ECAC has a representative at the Governor's office to push this work forward
- Tiffany Olivas suggested creating strategies that we can use to disseminate the ECAC report, being more proactive, and sharing the annual reports with more than just the Governor's office.
- Denise Tanata says it's a great idea, asking Dr. Nance for thoughts about that or how that may or may not align with the communications plan.
- Dr. Nance suggests the report is in a format that most will understand; breaking it down into sections could be an easier way to deliver that information on social media, to be shared amongst the public.
- Denise Tanata asks if ECAC has Social Media.
- Tiffany Olivas remembers that Anna Severns was running it for a while.





- Denise Tanata, maybe a starting point is to have an email with this report that goes to ECAC Partners.
 - Do we have a partner list?
- Dr. Nance shared that she has an older partner list.
- Brianna Cambra asks who needs to approve the draft and the branding before it goes out to the public? We don't have good internal approval triggers yet. The Communications and Engagement Subcommittee recommended to the Executive Leadership Subcommittee to identify an approval mechanism for subcommittees to share public-facing communications, including who to inform and why.
- Denise Tanata shares that a good first step is getting the Partner List and identifying an approval process.
- Anna Binder suggests making sure our municipalities are included in that because each city has their own agenda or initiative of early childhood as:
 - Many are partners in this, and so maybe they don't look at our report.
 - Idea: let's give it to them and maybe ask them where we could partner or something like that.
- Denise Tanata suggests an activity to coordinate with the Communication Subcommittee to have a list of folks and then work with Executive Leadership just to get an email sent out.
 - Look into Social Media for ECAC, LinkedIn being one of them.
- Denise Tanata recommends putting together a toolkit for partners on how to share the information. I think beyond that, as well as collaborating with the Communication Subcommittee, making sure it's communicated with other key stakeholders.
 - We would need strategies to implement the recommendation.
 - How do we ensure that we're making the asks directly to the joint interim standing committees and the Governor's office to be able to have these presentations or make the request for these presentations?
 - Start with interim standing committees and who's chairing these.
 - Ask Executive Leadership for someone to make the ask of the chairs on the interim committees to have presentations. Now is the time, or very early in 2026, to make those asks for presentations.
 - Figure out who's supposed to do what on behalf of the ECAC.
- Anna Binder announced that the Developmental Disability Council was contacted by the Veterans Aging and Disability Committee about 3 weeks ago for a list of priorities, and then they reached back out on Tuesday to schedule presentations.
- Denise Tanata suggests we continue this agenda item for our meeting in January, and suggested we stay ahead of the interim schedule for the legislature and the Governor.
- Homework - take a look at these recommendations again, re-familiarize ourselves, and look at the specifics:
 - Ask and think through what some of the key activities are that we need to do as an ECAC to move these forward.
 - Example- if we're going to have presentations, who's going to be doing the presentations?
 - What are they going to say?
 - What do we want to make sure that we're covering?
 - In January, start to tackle that activity list and put a work plan together.
- Stephanie Vega requests that we include the teachers' unions.

8. Ad Hoc Committee Final Update and Task Hand Off (Discussion, Informational)

The members of this Subcommittee are to be updated on the work of the Policy and Finance Ad Hoc Committee and learn what is to be completed under the Subcommittee.

Denise Tanata & Kathy Yoder Bass, Ad Hoc Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata reminded members that the Ad Hoc Committee has completed the early childhood funding matrix, where we are tracking, from a program level, funding for early childhood programs and services. Some services have dropped off because of the ending of the COVID funds, the biennium budget and changes, and now with the PDG funds.
- The Overview section of the document includes the purpose of the early childhood funding matrix and how it could be utilized.
- **Priority 1-**
 - Programs that had already experienced funding loss





- Those who were at imminent risk
- Those that lost significant funding in fiscal year 25, so through June 30th of 25, resulting in a loss.
- Loss of services or FTES, as well as programs that are funded by the PDGB 5 grant through December 30th of this year, that have no alternative funding secured
- Priority 2 –
 - Those that could be at risk of losing funding
 - Likely to experience funding cuts during the state fiscal biennium (through June 2026)
- Created another tab for pending data:
 - We have quite a few programs where we just were not able to pull the data and information together, so we have quite a long list there.
 - Each program listed shows the funding sources for fiscal years 24, 25, and 26, as well as the loss of funding between FY25 and FY26.
- Priority 1 includes:
 - Child care subsidy program
 - Child care emergency grants
 - Child care startup grants
 - Child care telehealth benefits program
 - Employer capacity building program
- Denise Tanata asks Brianna Cambra if she agrees that the employer capacity program belongs in Priority 2 instead of Priority 1?
- Brianna Cambra agrees to the suggested move to Priority 2.
- Added to Priority 1:
 - The First Five Nevada Campaign
 - Expect significant financial loss on that program as of July or January 1
 - Child Care Provider Action Committee
 - Family Child Care Association
- If it's on priority one or priority two, then all of the financial data, or the majority of it, is included.
- We are continuing to do work with the Children's Funding Project on the Early Childhood Fiscal Map.
- The fiscal map needs to be updated:
 - Have a group to begin getting trained and doing an overview of the process.
 - May have an opportunity if the new PDG application is approved to actually be able to expand on that, and potentially have our early childhood fiscal map have some programmatic level data.
 - Enables us to show data in a more robust format.
 - Compare all of the state and federal funding sources that are coming in to support early childhood
 - Look at it on a more programmatic level to help the gap analysis and identify how much funding is needed to fill those gaps.

9. Agenda Items for January 20, 2026, Meeting *(Discussion, Informational)*

The Subcommittee will discuss what to add to the January 20, 2026, agenda.

Denise Tanata, Subcommittee Co-Chair

- Denise Tanata proposes that we continue the discussion on policy priorities, strategies, and activities.
- Leave the early childhood system funding matrix as a standing agenda item.
- Brianna Cambra spent time as a group looking at the ECE master communication list through a policy lens to make sure that all of the policy makers that we want to share messaging with are on that.
- Denise Tanata requests that the policy strategies discussion be added as part of the work plan development activities.
- Lela Gonzales asks to see if Rachel Stepina can provide any information about PDG?

Denise Tanata will contact Rachel and see if she's presenting at General ECAC or if subcommittees are better.





9. Remaining 2025 ECAC Meetings (Informational)

New dates announced:

- Systems Alignment: **12.17.25 @1:00pm CANCELLED**, 1.28.26 @1:00pm
- Executive Leadership 1.06.26 11:00am
- Data and Evaluation 1.15.26 @ 1:00pm
- Policy And Finance 1.20.26 3:30pm
- General ECAC 1.21.26 9:00am
- Communication and Engagement 1.27.26 11:30am

10. Member Updates and Share-Outs (Discussion, Informational), 5 min

Members of this Subcommittee can make announcements or share any information that is beneficial to the ECAC and its members.

- No comment

11. Public Comment #2 (Discussion for Possible Action)

Public comments will be made 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

Denise Tanata adjourned the meeting at 2:01 pm

