



**Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Public Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 11:30-12:30 pm  
**Virtual Meeting, Located on Zoom.com [Join HERE](#)**

**ATTENDANCE**

**12 of 16 MEMBER'S PRESENT**

1. Jennese Black, K-8 ELA Education Program Professional, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Learning
2. Laura Brown, Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator, Acelero Head Start
3. Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children's Cabinet
4. Cherry Clark, Developmental Specialist III, Nevada Early Intervention Services
5. Edith Farmer, Child Care Facilities Supervisor, Department of Social Services
6. Dr Jerek Hough, Owner, Abbreviated Learning
7. Tiara Huerta, Senior Manager, Waterworks
8. Adriana Lemus, Parent and First 5 Nevada Family Leader
9. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
10. Brittany Morris, SPED- Itinerant Early Childhood Teacher, Washoe County School District
11. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication & Engagement Co-Chair
12. Carrie Paldi, District Manager, Learning Care Group

**4 of 16 MEMBER'S ABSENT**

1. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
2. Elizabeth Glover, CEO, Echoes of Excellence
3. Kendra Moore, Sr. Partnership Director, McGraw-Hill Education
4. Darby Porter, Youth Services Consultant, Nevada Library Systems

**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

**MINUTES**



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

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

- Dr. Jamelle Nance called meeting to order at 11:33 am
- Brandi Heart Conducted Roll call, noted above

### **2. Public Comment #1**

Public Comment not given during this agenda item

- No comment made

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

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

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

- Jamie Mendez motioned to approve a Flexible Agenda
- Laura Brown seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

### **4. Approval of January 27, 2026, Meeting Minutes (Discussion for Possible Action) 5 minutes**

The Subcommittee approved the January minutes.

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

- Laura Brown requested a change to the word Altus to Atlas on page 4 under Member Shares
- Edith Farmer motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes with edit on page 4
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

### **5. Communication & Engagement Subcommittee Updates (Discussion, for Possible Action) 10 min**

Members presented with updates for this Subcommittee from new Strategic Plan

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

- The Members were presented with Subcommittee expectations and updates such as roles, structure and meeting attendance, details outlined below:

#### **Subcommittee's Structure:**

- 2 Co-Chairs consisting of:
  - 1 appointed member
  - 1 Subcommittee /Non-Appointed member

**OR**

- 2 Appointed Members

#### **Bi- monthly meetings for all Subcommittees**

- Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Schedule stays the same, meets on the ODD Months

#### **Attendance and Quorum:**

- Subcommittees must have a simple majority to hold meetings



- members present must be at least 50% +1
- if there is not a "simple majority" (quorum), meetings cannot start or continue

### **NEW: Subcommittee Secretary and their Responsibilities**

• Dr. Nance shared with members that there is a secretary position open and listed out the following structure of the Secretary role:

- Taking Meeting Minutes
  - Assist with Screenshare
  - Take roll call using Attendance Sheet on Drive
  - Watch Quorum before and during the meeting
  - Other roles as assigned
  - Trainings provided
- Brianna Cambra added that the volunteer role is open until the end of this meeting and after that we will look into appointing someone to help with this role.
- Dr. Nance let members know that there is support and trainings taking place
- Jamie Mendez showed some interest in the Secretary role; however, Co-Chairs need to be committed to their Subcommittee and won't have the time to dedicate to the Secretary role in full.

### **6. Head Start Updates (Discussion, Informational) 15 min**

Members presented with Head Start's Family Engagement experiences,  
*Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair, Director of Programs at Sunrise Children's Foundation*

#### **Tiffany Alston**

#### **Key Success Factors:**

- Families need a program to anchor themselves to (Head Start provides one)
- Nevada ECAC families are currently connected to both:
  - First Five Nevada Leadership Council
  - Children's Advocacy Alliance's Parent Ambassadors Program
- Families have a comfortable setting to ask questions outside larger groups

#### **Training Approach:**

- Deliver information in bite-sized pieces
- Break up complex topics into manageable segments
- Essential piece for Head Start governance

#### **Governance Structure:**

- Head Start model:
  - Policy council is made up of 51+% members are families
  - Other +-49 % is made up of Agency Board of Directors
- Executive Leadership Subcommittee could serve as "board mentor space " for families

#### **Family Engagement Integration:**

- Create events/activities around family engagement
- ECAC shares information with partnering agencies for collaborative planning
- ECAC maintains intentional presence at events
- Goal: families could eventually staff ECAC tables

#### **Data Stories & Leadership:**



- First Five Family Leadership Council has been inviting families to share stories at ECAC meetings for nearly 2 years
- Need to create space for stories and support families afterward
- Leadership development opportunities must accompany governance training

#### **Current Challenges:**

##### • **Surface-level engagement -**

- Focused on **quantity** (attendance numbers) **vs. quality** of interactions
- Need qualitative feedback from families to strengthen engagement
- Families are currently **only involved**, not truly engaged

#### **Barriers to Family Participation:**

- Not providing requested information to families in a timely manner
- Feedback not given to families promptly
- Families not experiencing same processes
- Meetings often scheduled during the day when families are unavailable
- Language barriers
- Family Burn-out
  - Tend to rely on the same family leaders

#### **Tools or Strategies to Consider:**

- Tiffany Alston shared that adapting a structure that allows families to participate in meaningful decision making. One of the guides that Head Start programs use is the parent, family, community engagement framework.

Community needs assessments and program self-assessments are important. The family partnership process is key - Head Start families are anchored to a program, so they participate in a family partnership process where families can implement goal setting and have conversations around that, which deepens engagement as well.

##### • **Other strategies include:**

- Family Leadership Pathways
- Mechanism to collect Family Stories
- Feedback to Action Loop
- Tiffany Alston stated effective family engagement is rooted in shared governance, intentional structures, and commitment to elevating family voice beyond participation."
- Jamie Mendez asked what potential impact parents could meet with outside agencies , and what about walking quorum?
- Tiffany Olivas shared that the purpose of the Subcommittee is to engage with families, and that doesn't mean they have to be voting members. The makeup of the meetings will provide ample opportunity to participate even if they aren't a voting member. We also don't have the anchor establishment issue yet, and we are looking at making the Family Leadership meetings more engaging and less formal.
- Brianna Cambra shares that walking quorum is when the group is reaching a consensus, a decision or process is decided - that it's not stating that members can't be in any conversation.
- Adriana Lemus asked (Chat) if a technology can be a barrier
- Brittany Morris asked (Chat) if we should use an exit survey to receive feedback?

#### **7. Outreach Tracker Review (Discussion and Review) 5 min**

Members can review and update the Outreach Tracker for upcoming events.

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

- Dr. Nance shared the Outreach Event Tracker and showed Members current events being tracked, listed below:
- Most recent event shared was the NevAEYC Conference April 24-25, 2026



- Members discussed the purpose of the tracker
  - Purpose is to make sure that we are checking if there's any events happening that we need to make note of or
    - Add these events into our tracker to determine if we might want to join or we know not to join again because of our experiences.
- Upcoming or just past events to consider adding:
  - **May 11, 2026**, Day Without Child Care
    - childcare centers who are actively participating in that day a
    - elected officials visiting their centers.
    - Hills Preschool with Kathy Yoder-Bass
  - **April 24, 2026**, ECAC was represented In the interim education committee meeting
  - **April 28, 2026**, Department of Human Services has an event, will need to research the name
  - **May 12, 2026**, Child welfare, need details to add to tracker
- Dr. Nance expressed that using the tracker allows us to have a visual aid where we can see the intersections with the work that we're all doing
- Brandi Hearst to add Childcare Symposium to Event Tracker and received details from Sabrina Jones

### **8. Family Share Template (Discussion and Review) 5 min**

Members to receive progress of Family Share Template when aligned with Website.

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

- Brianna Cambra explained that the ECAC website expected to have a test website by June
  - Website will have an interior landing page
    - Landing page would be specific to families
    - feature parent and family "Parent Spotlight" stories and other experiences.
    - This feature aligns with what's happening on the website so no visual shares yet

### **9. Workplan Review (Discussion and Review) 15 min**

Members reviewed and discussed the Workplan and Objectives

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

- Dr. Nance presented the new Workplan to members, they discussed and reviewed the following:
  - Reviewed Goals and Objectives from new strategic plan
  - Explained their workplan has one major goal (unlike past versions with multiple goals)
    - allows focused approach on activities
  - Objective 4.1: Support implementation of coordinated statewide marketing, communication, and outreach approach for early childhood system
- Brianna Cambra explained this Subcommittee will help support communication tools, describing:
  - The website being the key component
  - Subcommittee Members will have roles in:
    - Ensuring communication is distributed through website
    - Potentially having someone contribute on quarterly or semi-annual basis to:
      - checking the links, making sure they're not broken,
      - making sure that the items that are old are archived
      - having regular communications with the executive leadership Subcommittee to discuss
        - social media posting schedules
        - access credentials
  - Proposed getting high-level activities aligned with Objective 4.1



- Added this could be the bulk of meeting time (added to agenda item 10)
- Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator shared that she is open to member feedback on the Workplan
  - Each meeting we have collected feedback from every Subcommittee on their needs for the Workplan layout, making changes on each one
  - pointed out that the 2025 Workplan is within the current Workplan's Excel workbook, 2nd tab on bottom
    - Included that the four (4) 2026-2030 Strategic Plan goals and their objectives are also available on Workplan Excel workbook
      - Space to add notes for the subcommittees collaborating within various opportunities
- Dr. Nance emphasized importance of Executive Leadership expecting Workplan updates in June, reiterating both objectives assigned to this Subcommittee, summarized below:
  - Objective 4.1: Coordinated communication strategy
  - Objective 4.2: Clear plan with consistent key messaging, elevating early childhood system priorities
    - Highlighted 4.2 as critical for upcoming session regarding key messaging
    - Suggesting the following items to consider:
      - Communication strategy with families
      - Outreach to early childhood sector leaders not represented in ECAC
      - Intersection with other subcommittees
- Rachel Stepina shared storytelling templates from multiple angles in chat, Referencing Advocacy Communication Solutions from National Leadership Academy
  - Tool is early childhood focused and may be useful for component development
  - Will have final early childhood language access plan by mid-July
  - Working with Nayesdi Badillo to refine tools and resources for accessibility across early childhood system
  - Offered to share information with group or other spaces
- Recently presented at United Way of Southern Nevada's Language Access Summit on language Access Across Community, Public, And Government Agencies statewide
  - Offered to share learnings from summit
- Finalizing sustainability plan for key deliverables from preschool development grant
  - Sustainability plan includes language access considerations for:
    - Early Childhood Advisory Council
    - First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council
    - Children's Advocacy Ambassadors Program
    - Offered to provide sustainability details and language access plan

**10. Agenda Items for May 26, 2026 Meeting (Discussion for Possible Action) 3 minutes**

The Subcommittee will discuss agenda items for the upcoming meeting on May 26, 2026  
*Dr. Nance & Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Review Work Plan and get activities ready for June Executive Leadership required update
- Include focus on high-level activities for Objective 4.1
- Outreach Tracker continue monthly

**11. Member Updates (Discussion, Informational), 5 min**

Members of this Subcommittee had no updates to share

- No updates

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

Public comment not given during this agenda item.



- No Comment

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

Communication & Engagement: 5.28.26, @ 11:30 am

Bylaws Ad Hoc: 5.04.26 10-11:00 am

Executive Leadership: 5.05.26, @ 11:00 am

Family Leadership and Engagement: 5.11.26, 10-11:00 am

Workforce Development 5.12.26, 11-12:00 pm

Policy and Finance: 5.19.26 @3:30 pm

Data and Evaluation: 6.18.26, @1:00 pm

General ECAC: 5.20.26, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

### **14. Adjournment**

- Dr Nance adjourned meeting at 12:28 pm

### **Action Steps:**

- Brandi Herst to add Child Symposium information to tracker after meeting with Sabrina Jones
- Braina Camba and Dr Nance to update members with Family Share Template once Website and template are aligned

### **One Sentence Summary:**

The Members were able to review the workplan in detail and explore the new features, discussing their objectives that have been assigned, as well as hearing some of the new website features and how that aligns nicely with this subcommittee.