



General ECAC Public Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING held via Zoom.com **CLICK [HERE](#) to JOIN US**

S. NV In-Person Location: Sunrise Children's Foundation 2795 Desert Inn Rd #100, Las Vegas, NV 89121

N. NV In-Person Location: Child Care Services Center 961 Matley Lane, #110 Reno, NV 89502

ATTENDANCE

15 of 20 Members' Present (75%)

1. **A** - Edith Farmer, MA Supervisor, Child Care Licensing Department of Supportive Services
2. **B** - Tami Conn, Deputy Bureau Chief Division of Public and Behavioral Health
3. **C** - Brooke Yarborough, Social Services Chief 2, Division of Social Services, Nevada Department of Human Services
4. **E** - Betsy Newman, Part C Coordinator, Clinical Program Planner II, Nevada Department of Human Services, IDEA Part C, Aging and Disability Services Division
5. **G** - Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward Associate Professor, Early Childhood Multilingual and Special Education, UNLV
6. **H** - Deetra Stewart, Family Home Care Provider,
7. **I** - Dr. Stephanie Vega, Ph.D., Teacher, Washoe County School District
8. **J** - Tiffany Alston, Director of Programs, Sunrise Children's Foundation
9. **K** - Patrice Gardner, M.Ed, ECAC Vice Chair, Education Programs Supervisor, NV Head Start Collaboration Director Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
10. **L** - Dazzrael Lyke, Developmental Specialist 4, Aging And Disability Services Division.
11. **N** - Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager, The Children's Cabinet
12. **O** - Abbey Bernhardt, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Nevada Chapter
13. **R** - Laura Brown, Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator, Acclero Head Start
14. **R** - Tina Springmeyer, Director, Department of Child and Family Services
15. **R** - Brianna Cambra Provider Support Director, The Children's Cabinet

5 of 20 Members' Absent

1. **D** - Jennese Black Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education
2. **F** - Dr. Diane Nicolet, Trustee, Washoe County School District."
3. **M** - Kathy Yoder Bass, Non-Profit Provider
4. **R** - Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Associate Professor, The Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, UNLV
5. **R** - Dr. Linda Young, Founder, The Village Foundation, Former CCSD School Board Trustee

Public In Attendance

1. Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Mary Childrey, Children's Cabinet
3. Valerie Dicus- Interpreter
4. Dionne Gant, Community Member
5. Leyden Gisell, Community Member
6. Lela Gonzales, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
7. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
8. Matthew Hoffman, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
9. Danielle Holmes, Program Director, The Children's Cabinet
10. Jerek Hough, Founder of Abbreviated Learning
11. Paulo- Interpreter
12. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communications and Engagement Co-Chair
13. Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
14. Peach Koon, Rural Nevada ECAC
15. Janice Lee, Pyramid Model
16. Kelley Melendez, Community Member
17. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education



18. Smriti Neupane, Research Analyst, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP)
19. Sabrina Petrel via Firefly Notes
20. Kate Pflughoeft, PDG B-5 Grant Associate Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
21. Darby Porter, Youth Services Consultant, Nevada State Library System
22. Sarah Smith, University of Reno, Nevada
23. Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
24. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
25. Lakesha Washington, The Children's Cabinet
26. Lindsey Wood-Lopez, Community Member
27. Ye Zhu, Community Member



MINUTES

1. Welcome, Roll Call

- Tiffany Alston started meeting at 9:00 am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call, noted above

2. Public Comment #1 6 min

Public Comments not given during this agenda item

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

The Council approved a flexible agenda.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Patrice Gardner motioned for a Flexible Agenda
- Abbey Bernhardt seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion passed, Flexible Agenda approved

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January and February (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Council approved both January 21 and February 18, 2026, meeting minutes.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Brianna Cambra motioned for a January 21, 2026, Minutes to be approved as is
- Brooke Yarborough seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion passed, January Minutes approved
- Abbey Bernhardt abstained

- Abbey Bernhardt motioned for February 18, 2026, Minutes to be approved as is

- Patrice Gardner seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion passed, February Minutes approved

5. Strategic Planning Update (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Council was updated on the transition for the Strategic Plan

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston explained the process that the Council experienced when being presented with, reviewing and eventually approving both Motions 1 and 2, from the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee, outlined below:
 - This process took place during the General ECAC Special Sessions meeting on February 18, 2026.
 - Executive Leadership was named as the Subcommittee responsible for taking the needed steps to prepare for ECAC to make a smooth transition with the new Strategic Plan, steps are including but not limited to the following:
 - Create Guidance Document
 - New Workplans
 - Updated Policies And Procedures
 - Naming Of Subcommittees
 - Identifying Roles



- Adding Support Roles
- All other recommended actions
- Executive Leadership expects to be busy for the next 2 months, getting the Subcommittees ready for transitions

6. Subcommittee Updates (*Informational, Discussion*)

Subcommittees gave updates to the Council, noted below.

Executive Leadership – Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Chair/Vice Chair

- Patrice Gardner thanked the Systems Alignment Subcommittee, and discussed adding an Ad Hoc for Bylaws review, outlined below:
 - Requested an Ad Hoc to review and update the Bylaws
- Patrice Gardner Motioned to create an Ad Hoc to update the Bylaws, add policies reflective of new Strategic Plan, review NRS codes and editing as needed
- Brooke Yarborough seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion passes
- The Executive Leadership Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee is created
 - Members who expressed interest in joining the Ad Hoc:
 - Marty Elquist, Jamie Mendez, Tami Conn, Abbey Bernhardt, Brooke Yarborough, Brianna Cambra, Tiffany Alston, Tiffany Olivas, Adriana Lemus
- Co-Chairs still needed for the following Subcommittees:
 - Policy and Finance
 - Workforce Development
 - Family Leadership and Engagement
- Reminders:
 - Systems Alignment members to complete the Subcommittee Transition Request Form to sign up for a new subcommittee
 - Reminders: Appointed Council Members are to participate in at least one Subcommittee
 - Executive Leadership Subcommittee will now only allow Co-Chairs on the roster, although the meeting is always open to the public
- **Systems Alignment – Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs**
 - Tiffany Olivas thanked all of the members for putting in the work and helping us to achieve the goals, naming the members who consistently attended and asked for the members to continue to help with aligning the system through other Subcommittee work.
- **Communications and Engagement – Dr. Jamelle Nance and Brianna Cambra, Co-Chairs**
 - Dr. Jamelle Nance announced that the next meeting on April 28, 2026, website design is exciting and invites Brianna Cambra to review
 - Brianna Cambra shared that the website design has been chosen, page content has been updated
- **Policy and Finance –Denise Tanata, Co- Chair,**
 - Denise Tanata shared she is still in need of a Co-Chair
- **Data – Marty Elquist and Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Co-Chairs**

7. Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Data Updates (*Informational, Discussion*)

OELD to present the Council with updates that include but are not limited to available public reports, the ECAC Data Catalogue survey, progress on the EC Data Lab Cohort Project, and other data-related information.

Matthew Hoffman, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development



Funding Visualization Tool

- New screenshot feature allows organizations (like community services agencies) to see how much money they save families using state pre-K funds
- Goal: Promote universal pre-K access and help partners market their impact

Interactive Stadium Graphic

- Updated version
- fully interactive on public early childhood report
- Uses data from Infinite Campus with tagged funding types:
 - Head Start
 - Early Head Start
 - Title One
 - State Pre-K
 - General Pre-K (covers various programs including half-day

Allegiant Stadium comparison:

- Compared to Allegiant Stadium which Holds 65,000 people-
- Pre-K costs \$8,400 per child (vs. \$20,000 Super Bowl tickets)
- Vision: Fill the entire stadium with enrolled children (ages 3-4)
- Personal goal: Fill the lower bowl with universal pre-K for four-year-olds before retirement
- Currently the first year of data shows as a benchmark for tracking growth

QRIS

- Updates monthly with provider QRIS ratings
- Filterable data by:
 - Program setting
 - Name
 - Region
 - County
 - Star rating
- Allows data downloads for internal and external partners
- Simplifies data requests from partners like Brooke

EC Data Lab

- Recently completed 6-month cohort on analytic readiness at Georgia State
- Now part of 12-month cohort
- **Goals:**
 - Use early childhood data to answer critical questions from state partners
 - Works with program leaders across agencies to identify real-world data integration use cases
 - Prioritize data use for decision-making
 - Host four meetings to participating state agency partners such as Child Care Licensing
- Edith farmer shared the Licensing Data Reports: Child Care Facility Capacity Monthly Reports, Lined here: <https://www.dss.nv.gov/child-care/child-care-licensing-ccl/nvchildcarecapacity/>

8. Early Childhood System (ECS) Info-graphic (Informational, Discussion) 10 min

Members presented with Systems Alignment Early Childhood System Infographic
Tiffany Olivas & Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Tiffany Olivas shared the Systems Alignment Early Childhood System (ECS) Infographic and explained the creative process
 - Infographic to be used to educate those new to the ECS, or those who do not understand what all is involved within the ECS.



- Creation of the Visual Guide, which goes with the Infographic, has details related to the Infographic and verbiage definitions to help others understand.
- Executive Leadership approved Infographic for use in October 2025
- ECS Infographic found here: [ECS INFOGRAPHIC](#)

9. Website Revision Update (Informational, Discussion) 10 min

- This item skipped as it was discussed during Subcommittee Updates by the Communication and Engagement Co-Chairs

10. First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council Updates (Informational, Discussion) 10 min

Members presented with the Family Leadership Rubric and companion guide

Tiffany Olivas & Anna Villatoro, The Children's Cabinet

- Tiffany Olivas shared that the purpose of the Rubric is to be authentically engaging and respectful of the families and the audiences who are listening.
- The Rubric has the following 9 competencies:
 - Communication
 - Creating Safe Spaces
 - Active Listening
 - Respectful interactions
 - Respect for varied perspectives
 - Advanced preparation
 - Managing Group Decision process
 - Flexibility / adaptability
 - Time Management
- The Rubric was used to score ECAC meetings on the above competencies, results and user comments on the presentation link [Rubric Presentation](#)

11. Nevada ECAC Partner Updates (Information/Discussion)

Some Nevada ECAC Partners shared updates

Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

- **Office of Comprehensive Student Services (OCSS), Cate Guzy**
- **Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD), Michael Mitchell**
 - QRIS, Sara Kharrat
 - PDG B-5 Grant, Rachel Stepina
 - Nevada Ready!Pre-K, Marissa LaCroix

Nevada Department of Human Services (DHS)

- **Division of Supportive Services (DSS)**
 - Child Care and Development Program (CCDP), Brooke Yarborough
 - Child Care Licensing, Edith Farmer
- **Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)**
 - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH), Rhonda Lawrence
- **Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)**
 - Early Intervention Services, Dazzrael Lyke
 - Idea- Part C, Betsy Newman
- **Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)**
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Blanca Ayala
 - Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH), Tami Conn
 - Tami Conn shared that a survey will be coming soon to help secure funding for the CCDP Grant



- Nevada’s Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Title V Program administers the annual Title V Maternal and Child Block Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to help serve MCAH populations across Nevada.
- MCAH is asking input from the community as they identify the community’s needs in fostering the health of mothers, children, and families across Nevada.
- Survey open through April 15th, linked here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KWVYXKS>
- Oral Health Program, Jannette Gomez
- Nevada State Immunization Program, Tami Conn (temp)

Nevada Department of Administration (NDA)

- Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records, Darby Porter

Nevada ECAC Partners

- **HRSA: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Health Integration, Tiffany Olivas**
- **The First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council, Anna Villatoro**
- **Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC), Robin Marx-Mackerly and Carrie Paldi**
 - Jerek Hough announced that the NevAEYC has put out a statement letting Nevadans know that the T.E.A.C.H. programs is no longer receiving funding and asks for support from the community to receive future funding as there is a large need for TEACH
- **Nevada Child Care Provider Committee (CCPAC), Carrie Paldi and Lela Gonzales**
 - CCPAC is hosting a Webinar to highlight the need for state investment in the ECE sector. Please register if you would like to listen in and participate in the advocacy efforts. [Child Care Provider Action Committee \(CCPAC\) | Eventbrite](#)
- **Pyramid Model, Janice Lee**
- **Research and Needs Assessments (NICRP), Amanda Haboush-Deloye**
- **Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Jacquelyn Kleinedler**
- **Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA), Dr. Jamelle Nance**
- **Strong Start Prenatal to Three (PN-3), Dr. Jamelle Nance**
- **PCI, Dr. Jamelle Nance**
- **Head Start / Early Head Start, Laura Brown**

Local ECACs

- **Elko/Northeastern, Sarah Carone, Yosaba Arellano (State Representative)**
- **Southern Nevada, Amanda Haboush-Deloye**
- **Washoe County, Anna Severns and Kacey Edington**
- **Carson/Douglas, Tiffany Olivas**
- **Tribal, Ashleigh Baker**
- **Rural Nevada, Michael-Ann Lazzarino**
- **Lyon-Churchill, Evelyn Knight**

12. Agenda Items for May 20, 2026, Meeting (Discussion for Possible Action) 5 minutes

Council can request additional agenda items by emailing Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston reminded Members to email Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones if they have items to add

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

Members of this Council shared announcements.

- Abbey Bernhardt shared that Alliance for Mental Illness, Nevada Chapter is planning to have their annual NAMI Nevada Education Conference this November in Reno, Nevada.



- Still in need of a Venue
- Still accepting Guest Speakers in following capacity:
- Education
- Mental health care professionals
- and those with expertise particularly in neurodiversity.
- geared towards youth who struggle within the System
- Those who are interested send an email to abbeyfredenburgh@icloud.com

14. Public Comment #2 (Discussion for Possible Action) **6 min**

Public comments not given during this agenda item.

- No comment

15. Upcoming ECAC Meetings (*Informational*)

Executive Leadership: 4.07.26, @ 11:00 am

Data: 4.16.26, @1:00 pm

Communication and Engagement: 4.28.26 @ 11:30 am

Policy and Finance: 5.19.26 @3:30 pm

General ECAC: 5.20.26, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm (Virtual Only)

16. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting at 10:34 am

Action Steps:

- Members to email items to Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov and sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov for agenda as needed
- Tiffany Alston to share when subcommittees will be meeting after reviewing the progress of the Strategic Plan and recommended actions