



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Public Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

5:30 pm-7:30 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.”

This meeting is VIRTUAL ONLY, via Zoom Tele-Conference. To join, click [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 815 9023 7818

Passcode: 308879

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, Language Access

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

- Tiffany Alston called meeting to order at 5:38 PM
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call
- Nayesdi Badillo shared instructions for interpretation and language options

Members in Attendance:

1. Tiffany Alston- Seat J, Sunrise Children’s Foundation
2. Elysa Arroyo- Seat R, Nevada Department of Education
3. Abbey Bernhardt- Seat O, National Alliance on Mental Illness
4. Ashley Dines- Parent Leadership Coordinator, The Children’s Cabinet
5. Marty Elquist- Seat N, The Children’s Cabinet
6. Edith Farmer – Seat A, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
7. Patrice Gardner- Seat K, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
8. Dr. Diane Nicolet- Seat F, Washoe County School District
9. Carrie Paldi- Seat H, Learning Care Group
10. Tina Springmeyer- Seat R, Director, Washoe County School District
11. Stephanie Vega – Seat I, Kindergarten Teacher, Washoe County School District
12. Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward- Seat G, Ward, Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Members Absent

1. Tami Conn – Seat B, Division of Public and Behavioral Health
2. Dr. Linda Young- Seat R, President, The Village Foundation

Public in Attendance

1. Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Janeese Black, Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education
3. Laura Brown, Acelero
4. Becca Chappell
5. Mary Childrey, The Children’s Cabinet
6. Annette Dawson-Owens
7. Brianna Dotson, Universal Pre-K Precentor
8. Josefina Garcia, Interpreter



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9. David Gardner, Interpreter
10. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Support Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
11. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, NICRP
12. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
13. Laurie Henderson
14. Julie Houchins, United Way of Southern Nevada
15. Nancy Hughes
16. Tiffany Hyzer, LOCAL ECAC Chair
17. Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
18. Sara Kharrat, Quality Rating Improvement System, Nevada Department of Education
19. Marisa Lecroix
20. Claudia Lemus
21. Candace Lewis Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services
22. Leondria Littlejohn
23. Leticia Lopez
24. Meghann McQuillan, Education and Information Officer, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
25. Alejandra Melecio
26. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
27. Rhayvin Monet Glenn
28. Kate O.
29. Kate Pflughoeft, PDG B-5 Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
30. Darby Porter, Youth Services, Nevada State Library Systems
31. Dana Preece, B-3 Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
32. Melody Prince, CLA
33. Mary Regan,
34. Paola Rovera
35. Anna Severns, Nevada PK!Ready, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
36. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
37. Deetra Stewart
38. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
39. Melody Trejo, Molina Healthcare
40. Savannah Valenzuela
41. Anna Villatoro, Family Leadership Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
42. Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, UNLV Associate Professor
43. Pamela Williams
44. Kathy Yoder-Bass, Provider representative

2. Public Comment #1 6 min

Public Comments 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 Council Chair of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council will impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control or advisory power.

- Nancy asked if the government is going to take Child Care away too
- Nayesdi Badillo states PDG B-5 is looking for Family Engagement for families engaging within the community.
- Julie Houchins announced Family Child Care Pilot Program that United Way in partnership with The Nevada Department of Education and the Preschool Development Grant B-5.
- Jenna Weglarz Ward shared UNLV sending a 15-minute survey for a research study on understanding the experiences of early



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care and education providers working with infants and toddlers with disabilities.

- Kate Pflughoeft shared that Preschool Essential Exploration Kits this summer for 3-year-olds,
- Janeice Black- Apple providing workshops and training on apple products for free, Nevada Ready Pre-K programs and other providers use Apple or have the capability to have grant-funded products they can now learn how to use

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

The Council approved a flexible agenda. The Council may take agenda items out of order; combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Ashley Dines motioned for flexible agenda
- Carrie Paldi seconded the motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries, flexible agenda approved

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2025 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Council approved March 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- *Agenda Item 5 is covered with white*
- Jenna Weglarz-Ward motioned to approve meeting minutes with correction noted below
- Abbey Bernhardt seconded the motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries, meeting minutes approved
- Brandi Hearst to check minutes online and if errors are seen, members and website will be updated with the new version.

5. First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council Updates, Parent Spotlight (*Informational, Discussion*)

The Council heard First 5 Nevada Family Leadership updates, "Parent Spotlight" guest speaker, sharing their experience within the Early Childhood System of Nevada.

Ashley Dines and Anna Villatoro, Parent Leadership, The Children's Cabinet

Parent Spotlight Guest Presenter

- Early Intervention for young children with disabilities, resources for families Dr Jenna Weglarz Ward is hosting
- Anna Villatoro announced the Elko Parent Summit being July 10, 2025
- Adrianna was representing Neva and advocating for children's issues
- Angela is the parent spotlight presenter, presented in Spanish and told her story
- Tiffany Alston thanked Angela for sharing in front of so many people and let Anna Villatoro and Ashley Dines know she is grateful to them for providing a space for the families to share their experiences.
- Stephanie Vega brought up that children reenact what their parents do so we need to model and advocate for ourselves and others, the more voice and opportunity we provide for our children

6. Data Dictionary Update (*Discussion, Possible Action*)

The Council to view and discuss updates for the online Database for parent/family and educator audience.

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

- Matthew Hoffman tabled item due to being ill

7. Nevada's Pathway to Universal Pre-K (UPK) Updates (*Informational*)

Council heard presentation on Nevada's Pathway to Universal Pre-K (UPK), outlining the collaborative,



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data-informed methods used, review key findings, and present phased recommendations

Brianne Dotson, Strategic Resource Planning and Implementation, WestEd

- Briana Dotson shared NDE and its plan for UPK using focus groups with providers and families and
 - 65% of yr. olds in NV to have access to State funded high quality pre-k, as of now it is 15,000 less.
- 4 elements:

- Phase 1 building foundation
- Phase 2 scaling access and systems
- Phase 3 sustain quality
- Interested in feedback from ECAC and participants
- Use enrollment liability criteria, ESLIP was around 2,000 finance for capital projects, need more classrooms and funding, more administrative unified applications and enrollment, information and resource hub, teacher pathways, where are the open seats, teacher work force. How can we ensure high quality teachers, offer flexible paths, assessing preparedness and needed support for Pre-K teachers
- Used a Padlet to collect feedback on phase 1 from the meeting participants.
- Asked about the role of teachers in Preschool and Pre-K taking advantage of the programs offered for educating the teachers, then the teacher leave and go to the school district for the pay
- Brianne Dotson said they found the same problems in other areas.

8. Nevada Legislation Updates (*Discussion, Informational*)

The Subcommittee hear updates on current legislation for Nevada's families and Early Childhood Systems overall.

Dr. Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair

- Dr. Nance shared May 12th 2025 was a day without childcare, showing legislatures and community the importance of child care and showing that we need champions who will stand by the children and the local people, we are already losing the funds
- Subsidy and NV does not invest beyond what is required.
- Dr. Nance explained she is proud of our advocates in Department of welfare supportive services, Family Child Care providers and everyone else participating and bridging up concerns and budgets and actively advocating for child care as we need it to keep our economy going In week 16, 12 days left so Legislatures are super busy Interim session is end of process SB82 was the Boards and Councils being reviewed for being "needed". ECAC is mandated as we are required for HeadStart We want law makers and our community to know why we are here and that we are needed, May 5th Assembly ways means addresses financial concerns, and Governors Education Bill is still bang watched
- Tiffany Alston shared the acronym meanings: AB is assembly Bill , SB is Senate Bill
- Dr. Nance continued sharing SB 460-Senator Cannizaro Educate Bill has some im-plications for allocations for Pre-K but it may not be as much as we thought initially Senator and Governors bills are similar and hopefully will be working together\ AB 185 prohibits HOA's from stopping home care providers, this has made it through work session on May 16th there is opposition from HOA's, bill does not include communities for 55+ populations
- Densie Tanata described how they worked through concerns, it passed Senate Health and Human Services Committee, enquires HOA's to allow at minimum of 1 per 200 units
- Dr. Nance shared the following dates:
 - May 23rd, all non-exempt bills must pass the second house.
 - May 28th, all exempt bills must be heard from committee
 - June 2nd Session will wrap up
- Denise Tanata answered a question from chat- SB82 increases eligibility for the Nevada Ready Pre-K program from 200% of federal poverty level to 250% of federal poverty level, budget closed on 2709 (Nevada Pre-K) maintaining the gaining for the Nevada Ready Pre-K program but removed literacy program funding\



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- Tiffany Alston asked how parents can get involved?
- Dr. Nance shared three child advocacy ambassador training, which gives you an overview of the Nevada Legislature and how to Participate in the legislative session, also email me if you are interested and I can shred more resources
- Densie Tanata shared the legislature website has space to share opinions on bills by calling or emails within their system online

9. Data and Evaluation Subcommittee: “Best Practice” Statement *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The General ECAC heard the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee present Best Practices Statement for Data Collection, after review and discussion the Council to vote on approval of the statement.

Marty Elquist and Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Co-Chairs of Data and Evaluation Subcommittee

- Marty Elquist shared that the Data and Evaluation Subcommittee is wanting a vote from the General ECAC to approve the statement on Data collection
- Amanda Hsboush read through the Best Practices Statement and what the Subcommittee ‘s process was in coming up with the statements, allowing overall voices to be heard, data is secure, the reasoning for why we bring up certain topics or ask certain questions, allowing for parents and community members to feel safe when sharing
- Dr. Dianne Nicolet shared to add a reference to the storage part of it so people aren’t tanking there is a ton of personal information situating in their offices
- Stephanie Vega asked if we should add a time limit to how long data is stored
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye suggested “Access to data that is stored physically or electronically will be restricted access to authorized personnel to safeguard.” Which was updated live on screen, then wording was decided to not be what was wanted.
- Marty Elquist suggested “Access to data that is stored physically or electronically will be safeguarded and restricted to authorized personnel”
- Dr Dianne Nicolet motioned to approve the statement with the Access to data that is stored physically or electronically will be safeguarded and restricted to authorized personnel” being added live on screen
- Carrie Paldi seconded motion
- Members vote unanimously, motion carries

10. Subcommittee Updates and Workplan *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

Discuss workplan, updates, recommendations and workplan progress from ECAC Subcommittees.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Specialist

- Tabled due to time

11. State Agency and Partner Summary Report Updates *(Information/Discussion)*

Nevada Local ECAC's, Nevada ECAC partners along with Nevada Early Childhood System Agencies and Programs can briefly share updates, relevant progress, new initiatives, services and upcoming challenges relevant to the ECAC Strategic Plan and work of the Council.

12. Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

- Office of Comprehensive Student Services (OCSS), Cate Guzy
- Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD), Patti Oya
- QRIS, Sara Kharrat
- PDG B-5 Grant, Rachel Stepina shared Northern Nevada children with disabilities summit in N NV



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- Nevada Ready!Pre-K

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)

- Child Care and Development Program (CCDP).
- Child Care Licensing, Edith Farmer

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)

- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH), Rhonda Lawrence

Division of Public Behavior and Health (DPBH)

- Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH), Tami Conn
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Blanca Ayala
- Nevada State Immunization Program
- Oral Health Program, Jannette Gomez

Nevada ECAC Early Childhood Partnering Agencies and Programs

- HRSA: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Health Integration- Tiffany Olivas
- The First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council- Ashley Dines, Anna Villatoro
- Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC)- Robin Marx-Mackerly, Carrie Paldi thanked everyone for coming to NevAEYC conference
- Nevada Child Care Provider Committee (CCPAC)- Carrie Paldi and Lela Gonzales shared that June 17 in Las Vegas at Child Care Services Center and Reno meeting at the Northern Child Care Services Center on July 22 for legislative outcomes
- Pyramid Model- Janice Lee
- Research and Needs Assessments, NICRP- Amanda Haboush-Deloye June 25, Las Vegas from 10-p.m. having the Early Childhood Research Symposium, with NDE and QRIS as partners
- Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health- Jacquelyn Kleinedler
- Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA), Strong Start Prenatal to Three (PN-3) and (PCI), Dr. Nance and Annette Dawson-Owens
- Nevada State Library Systems- Darby Porter

Nevada Local ECACs summary

- Elko/Northeastern, Kelly Melendez and Sarah Carone
- Southern Nevada, Amanda Haboush-Deloye shared that they are in process of planning Step Up for Kids for August, or October, either month on either date: 4th or 11th.
- Carson/Douglas, Tiffany Olivas
- Washoe County, Melissa Burnham and Anna Severns
- Tribal, Ashleigh Baker

Shared Opportunities for All:

- Denise Tanata announced the Leadership Academy Cohort Applications are now open
- Rachel Stepina announced the Local ECAC Supports, July 2025 we are offering a new wave of funds for Local ECACs who did not apply the first round.
- Brandi Hearst shared the 4 local ECACs who were getting the support:
 - Elko, Washoe, S. Nevada and Carson/Douglas ECACs

13. Agenda Items for July 16, 2025 Meeting at 9:00am (Discussion for Possible Action) 5 minutes



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Council can add and discuss agenda items for next meeting on July 16, 2025

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Vice Chair

- Items can be discussed within subcommittees and emailed to Executive Leadership team
- Add Matthew Hoffman/Agenda item tabled

14. Upcoming Meetings (Informational) 0 min

Data and Evaluation: No June Meeting

Systems Alignment: 5.28.25 1:00pm

Executive Leadership: 6.03.25, 11:00am

Policy and Finance: 6.12.25, 1:00pm

Communications and Engagement Ad Hoc: 6.17.25, 1:30pm

Communication and Engagement: 7.08.25, 9:00am

General ECAC Meeting 7.16.25, 9:00am

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

Public comments 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 the matter is included on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Council Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.

- No Comment

16. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting, thanking attendees at 7:25 pm