



Workforce Development Subcommittee Public Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, | 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Located on Zoom.com

ATTENDANCE

11 of 12 Members Present

1. Jennese Black, K-8 ELA Education Program Professional, State of Nevada Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Learning
2. Brianna Cambra , Provider Support Director, The Children's Cabinet
3. Patrice Gardner, ECAC VICE CHAIR, Education Programs Supervisor, NV Head Start Collaboration Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
4. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Development Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
5. Jerek Hough, Founder, Abbreviated Learning
6. Dazzrael Lyke, Developmental Specialist 4, Aging And Disability Services Division
7. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
8. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
9. Deetra Stewart, Family Home Care Provider
10. Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Associate Professor, Early Childhood Multilingual and Special Education, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
11. Brooke Yarborough, Social Services Chief 2, Nevada Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services

1 of 12 Members Absent

1. Betsy Newman, Part C Coordinator, Clinical Program Planner II, Nevada Department of Human Services | IDEA Part C, Aging and Disability Services Division

Public in Attendance

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. Robin Marx Mackerly, NevAEYC President
4. Shelly Nye, Program Director, The Nevada Registry
5. Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet
6. Cade Rogan, Community Member
7. Denise Sidney, Professor, College of Southern Nevada.



MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call 3 min.

- Patrice Gardner called the meeting to order at 11:03 am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call, noted above

2. Public Comment #1 6 min.

Public Comment was not given during this agenda item

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

The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.

- Brianna Cambra motioned for a Flexible Agenda
- Dr. Jerek Hough seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion passed

4. Introduction to Workforce Development Subcommittee (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

Members reviewed the new Subcommittee structure

- Jamie Mendez reviewed the following:

- **Goal 2:**

Promote the growth and sustainability of a qualified and well prepared, respectfully compensated, and representative early childhood workforce.

- **Objective 2.1**

Advance coordinated and accessible career pathways that support entry, advancement, and professional growth across early childhood roles, including pathways that recognize experience, credentials, and lived expertise.

- **Objective 2.2**

Advocate for sustainable compensation strategies, including pay parity across early childhood settings and roles, to support workforce stability and recognize the value of the early childhood professions.

- **Objective 2.3**

Support strategies that strengthen recruitment and retention of a representative early childhood workforce, with an emphasis on reducing barriers to entry, increasing long-term career sustainability, and improving working conditions and supports.

- The Structure of the Subcommittee

- 2 Co-Chairs

- at least one Co-Chair is an ECAC Member

- Secretary

- Secretary role would help with admin tasks such as the following:

- Minutes
- Roll call
- Agenda with Co-Chair input
- Lela Gonzales volunteered to be Secretary

- Rachel Stepina asked if the Secretary is in a long-term or one-time ask

- Patrice Gardner explained that the Secretary role is long-term

- Jamie Mendez continued and explained the following topics:

- Attendance

- Quorum

- Reminded members if missing 3+ meetings could be asked to step down from being a member

- Members introduced themselves, getting to know one another



5. 2026 Meeting Schedule *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

Members agreed upon on a consistent meeting schedule

Materials: [2026 schedule](#)

- Jamie Mendez introduced the need for a consistent meeting schedule
- Patrice Gardner asked for context of meeting availability from Brandi Hearst
- Brandi Hearst let the Members know the day and month availability, as follows:
 - 1st week of the month: Thursday only
 - 2nd week of the month: Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday
 - 3rd week of the month - NOT OPEN
 - 4th Week of the month: Thursday only

attend all meetings, I also calculated in the prep time foreach that I would need to allocate my time to as well.

- Brooke Yarborough suggested meeting on the second Tuesday of the month



- Currently teaches on Tuesday nights and would not be available
 - Noted it would likely only affect one meeting per semester
 - Has another meeting on most Tuesdays, conflicts with 90-minute meeting times
- Lela Gonzales shared that she is available
 - Tuesday during day
 - Has commitments on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings each week
 - Would not be able to attend evening meetings on Tuesdays
- Dr. Jerek Hough suggested Thursday evening meetings as Tuesday evenings are heavy for some members
- Jamie Mendez proposed the following schedule:
 - June, July during the day
 - September in the evening
 - November during the day
- Rachel Stepina noted the meeting had already been running for 50 minutes and they were still in the middle of the agenda
 - Recommend 90-minute block for bi-monthly meetings
 - Pointed out only 3-4 meetings for the year
 - Explained 90 minutes would "best maximize and advance the priorities of the subcommittee"
- Deetra Stewart explained that An hour and a half is a long time to be away from children for home providers, suggesting the following:
 - An extra meeting month instead of extending meeting length

- Meeting Schedule as follows:
 - Meet during ODD Months
 - Add June meeting for foundational items
 - Next Meetings are:
 - Tuesday June 09 11:00 am-12:00 pm - Foundational Meeting
 - Tuesday July 14, 11:00 am-12:00pm
 - Evening meeting details will be finalized at July meeting
 - Poll to determine best evening time/day for September meeting

6. Workplan Review *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Subcommittee reviewed the Workplan together

Materials: [Workplan](#)

- Patrice Gardner quickly showed Members the Workplan and explained that starting next meeting we will be adding to this tool to get an idea of where we are going, building up the foundation

7. Agenda Items for July 12, 2026, Meeting *(Discussion and Possible Action)*

Members to email ideas to Co-Chairs.

- Item tabled due to time

8. Public Comment #2

- Public Comment was not given during this agenda item

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9. Adjournment

- Patrice Gardner adjourned meeting at 12:01 PM



- **Action items**

- Brandi Hearst to add meeting dates to 2026 Meeting schedule
- Brandi Hearst to send meeting dates as calendar invites to members
- Poll to be sent out for meeting times and days available in September

- **Summary:**

The Subcommittee spent their first meeting discussing the Structure, Roles, Goals and possible meeting schedule.