



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council
 Workforce Development Subcommittee Public Meeting
 Tuesday, June 30, 2026 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Location	Zoom Meeting Link	Meeting ID	Passcode
VIRTUAL Zoom online platform	Workforce Development	894 0430 3882	924963

ATTENDANCE

11 of 14 Members Present / 8 Quorum

1. Jennese Black, K-8 ELA Education Program Professional, State of Nevada Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Learning
2. Patrice Gardner, ECAC VICE CHAIR, Education Programs Supervisor, NV Head Start Collaboration Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Jerek Hough, Founder, Abbreviated Learning
4. Dazzrael Lyke, Developmental Specialist 4, Aging And Disability Services Division
5. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Shelly Nye, Program Director, The Nevada Registry
7. Dr. Denise Sidney, College of Southern Nevada Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, 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, University of Nevada, Las Vega
11. Brooke Yarborough, Social Services Chief 2, Nevada Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services

3 of 14 Members Absent

1. Brianna Cambra , Provider Support Director, The Children’s Cabinet
2. Lela Gonzales, Workforce Development Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
3. 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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

- Jamie Mendez called meeting to order at 11:34 am
- Brandi Hearst =Conducted Roll call, above

2. Public Comment #1

- No comment made

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (For Possible Action)

- Patrice Gardner Motioned for a Flexible Agenda
- Rachel Stepina seconded
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

4. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair shared an update:

Jamie Mendez introduced Dr. Jerek Hpoiugh, now appointed ECAC Member and Co-Chair of this Subcommittee

5. Consent Agenda for May Minutes Review and Approval(For Possible Action)

Materials: May minutes

- Jamie noted a format error in the last bullet on page 3
- Item fixe so the list was directly under the bullet
- Patrice Gardner motioned to approve the minutes with the edit mentioned above
- Dr. Densie Sidney seconded
- Members voted unanimously, motion passes

6. Information and Discussion Regarding Preschool Development Grant, Birth-5 (PDG B-5) Sustainability Plan (Information and Discussion)

PDG Team discussed the sustainability plan that ECAC has a consultant role in

Materials: [PDG B-5 Sustainability Plan](#)

- Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager discussed the overview of the sustainability plan, including:
 - PDG Team review night approach in each subcommittee meeting,
 - Ongoing deliverables impacting access to professional development and services for the ECE workforce:
- NevAEYC Annual Conference Scholarship
- Workforce Incentives
- Business Academy
 - Spiral Up Expansion
 - CDA Expansion
 - Early Childhood Support Network
 - Nevada Association for Infant and Toddler Early Childhood Mental Health
 - Nevada Ready! Professional Development Program
 - After 42 months of program implementation, federal funding is concluding, making a sustainability plan critical to the program's success
- PDG B-5 TEAM Reviewed the Sustainability Plan in the following steps:
 - Reviewed elements across Early Childhood Advisory Council Subcommittees
 - Discussed during General Council meeting on May 21, 2026
 - Additional reviews scheduled for the July meeting
- PDG B-5 Team Approached presentation of the plan as follows:
 - Presented sustainability framework to ground attendees familiar with prior meetings
 - Approach developed with technical assistance support related to PDG B-5 program evaluation
 - Five-Task Framework
 - **Task 1:** Completed at ECAC general meeting on May 21st — refined the list of activities to sustain
 - **Tasks 2-3 (Recent Weeks):** Evaluated feasibility of sustaining activities with partners; emphasized maximizing efforts on external partnerships to ensure successful transferability throughout July
 - NDE-Specific Timeline: Nevada Department of Education-driven internal activities will transition into sustainability in July

- **Task 4 (Next Phase):** Will develop the actual sustainability plan and corresponding action plans based on results from the feasibility assessments conducted

7. Information and Discussion Regarding Member Representation *(Information and Discussion)*

The Members will discuss "who is who" to identify each Member's Early Childhood Sector along with their Early Childhood System workforce representation.

Materials: [Member ECS Workforce Representation](#)

- Tabled Due to Time

8. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Workforce Framework and Workplan Alignment

(Information and Discussion)

Members presented with "Nevada Early Care and Education Workforce Framework" '

Materials: [Nevada ECE Workforce Framework Presentation](#)

- Jamie Mendez presented the Nevada Early Care and Education Workforce Framework detailing that the Framework
 - Launched in Summer 2023
 - Cross-state effort
 - Involving NDE, the Children's Cabinet, and other partners.
 - Goal: Strengthen and support professionals caring for young learners.
 - Five Priority Areas:
 1. Professional development
 2. livable wage
 3. supportive workplace
 4. workforce data
 5. advocacy efforts.
 - priority areas align directly with subcommittee work plan objectives; intended as a resource for developing future goals.
- "Workforce Framework Memo"
 - developed with Start Early Consulting (
 - providing status updates and recommendations
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward asked for clarification on the definition of "early childhood workforce."
- Concern: Materials may lean heavily toward childcare space; questioned if the scope is birth-to-8 or more specific.
- Recommendation: Clarify the definition now to assist with survey responses and future focus/representation.
- Survey Feedback: After viewing the definitions slide, suggested placing the definitions (Understanding, Developing, Advising) at the top of the survey for external sharers.
- Brandi Hearst (ECAC Administrative Coordinator)
- Logistics Support: Offered to post a working link in the chat and managed screen sharing for the presentation slideshow upon request.
- Rachel Stepina shared that defining the "workforce" was discussed during strategic planning.
- Action: Agreed to make defining "early childhood workforce" an explicit activity/action item within the work plan to ensure clarity.
- Importance: Emphasized that all sectors make up the early childhood system; conversations should not lean solely toward childcare/early care to avoid missing gaps.
- Patrice Gardner compared an Advisory to a Regulatory Body:
 - An Advisory Council recommends, informs, elevates voice) vs.
 - a Regulatory Body enforces rules and regulations, acquires things
 - The subcommittee's role is to:
 - Inform
 - recommend
 - review data

- With the added Responsibility to:
 - Elevate stakeholder voice
 - influence policy without direct power to approve/deny or implement regulations.
 - conscious effort to support the full system (not just one sector).
 - Mentioned current ECAC members include NEIS and higher learning to reflect the full workforce.
- Next step to formalize a Workforce definition
- Dr. Jerek Hough shared the Workforce Questionnaire, purposed to determine direction for the Subcommittee and understand member expertise levels without assumption.
 - Survey divided into three buckets:
 - Understanding (basic awareness)
 - Developing (some familiarity)
 - Advising (strong comprehension/expertise).
 - Includes an open-ended section for additional comments.
 - Review results at the next meeting.
 - Goal is to identify missing components in the system.

9. Information and Discussion Regarding July 14, 2026, Agenda *(Information and Discussion)*

- Item 7 to be bumped to next agenda
- Workplan to be an Agenda Item again
- Definition of Workforce, discussion
- Review results of Workforce Questionnaire

10. Information and Discussion Regarding Member Updates *(Informational and Discussion)*

Members shared their updates

- Shelly Nye announced Preparing to reconvene the Registry Advisory Committee, details as follows:
 - Focus: Revising the career ladder pathway
 - Work aligns closely with this subcommittee
 - External Partnership
 - Contracted with the National Workforce Registry Alliance for expert advisement
 - Following a process many states have already completed successfully
 - Have had informal discussions over time
 - Stakeholder invitations coming in 1–2 weeks
 - Advisory committee to be manageable size
 - Requests this Subcommittee make recommendations for appropriate representatives from this subcommittee who could bridge the registry, subcommittee, and broader ECAC work
 - Open to input on whether members from other ECAC subcommittees should also participate
- Shelly Nye shared some historical context:
 - General advisory committee has not met for many years
 - Previously "training approval system" (2005–2017)
 - NV registry Website lists original committee representation
 - similar structure planned for new committee
 - More stakeholders exist now due to ECAC work.\
 - Goals of the new committee::
 - Wants all relevant sectors represented (families, childcare, etc.)
 - As not everyone can hold a seat, information flow back to subcommittee will ensure voices are heard\

11. Public Comment #2

- Deetra Stewart shared that the Family Child Cre Providers are dealing with Special use permits in the south, but northern Nevada Family Child Care Providers receives an exemption, thanking partners for their support through trying times.

12. Upcoming Meetings *(For reference and subject to change)*

Family Leadership and Engagement: 07.02.26, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Executive Leadership: 7.07.26, 11:00 am -12:30 pm

Workforce Development: 7.14.26, TBD

General ECAC: 7.15.26, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Policy and Finance: 7.23.26, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Communication & Engagement: 7.28.26, 11:30 am

Data: 08.20.26, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

13. Adjournment

- Jamie Mendez adjourned meeting at 1:26 pm

- Brandi Hearst to send out a poll for the Members to decide on a tome with a quick turnaround as meeting is on 7.14.26

- Dr. Jerek Hough to analyze data from questionnaire

- Deetra Stewart may send out questionnaire to other providers