



General ECAC Public Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting Location: Zoom.com To join, click [HERE](#)

ATTENDANCE

12 of 20 Members Present

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. **F** - Dr. Diane Nicolet, Trustee, Washoe County School District
4. **H** - Deetra Stewart, Family Home Care Provider
5. **I** - Dr. Stephanie Vega, Ph.D., Teacher, Washoe County School District
6. **J** - Tiffany Alston, Director of Programs, Sunrise Children's Foundation
7. **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
8. **L** - Dazzrael Lyke, Developmental Specialist 4, Aging And Disability Services Division
9. **N** - Tiffany Olivas, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager, The Children's Cabinet
10. **R** - Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Associate Professor, The Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy, UNLV
11. **R** - Brianna Cambra Provider Support Director, The Children's Cabinet
12. **R** - Tina Springmeyer, Director, Department of Child and Family Services

8 of 20 Members Absent

1. **C** - Brooke Yarborough, Social Services Chief 2, Division of Social Services, Nevada Department of Human Services
2. **D** - Jennese Black Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education
3. **E** - Betsy Newman, Part C Coordinator, Clinical Program Planner II, Department of Human Services, IDEA Part C, Aging and Disability Services Division
4. **G** - Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward Associate Professor, Early Childhood Multilingual and Special Education, UNLV
5. **M** - Kathy Yoder Bass, Non-Profit Provider
6. **O** - Abbey Bernhardt, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Nevada Chapter
7. **R** - Laura Brown, Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator, Acelero Head Start
8. **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. Jennifer Bevacqua, Community Member
3. Mary Childrey, Community Member
4. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
5. Matthew Hoffman, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Jerek Hough, Pending ECAC Member
7. Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
8. Rhonda Laughlin, Pending ECAC Member
9. Janice Lee, Pyramid Model
10. Octavia McLaurin, Subcommittee Member
11. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
12. Carrie Paldi, Community Member
13. Christine Pebbles, Guest Presenter
14. Darby Porter, Subcommittee Member
15. Anna Severens, Local ECAC Chair
16. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
17. Anna Villatoro, Subcommittee Member
18. Paulo, Interpreter



19. Keny, Community Member

20. Karina, Interpreter

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

- Tiffany Alston welcomed participants, called meeting to order at 5:46 PM
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call, noted above
 - Announced \$50 incentives for qualified participants
- Nayasdi Badillo explained Spanish interpretation access

2. Public Comment #1

- Janice Lee shared information regarding a research opportunity for parents and caregivers of school-aged children or young adults with disabilities. Requested and received permission to post the study flyer in the chat.
- Deetra Stewart reported concerns from family childcare providers regarding special use permit requirements in Las Vegas.
 - Shared that Group Home Providers licensed for 12 children have been advised to reduce enrollment to six children
 - Waiting for permit issues to be addressed
 - Northern NV is Exempt
 - Expressed concern about the impact on child care providers
- Edith Farmer clarified that Clark County, and the City of Las Vegas require group care facilities to obtain special use permits.
 - Clarified that:
 - Reducing enrollment to six children is optional
 - Confirmed providers can remain licensed for 12 children pending permit approval

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

The Council approved a flexible agenda

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Brianna Cambra seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

4. Approval of March 18, 2026, Meeting Minutes (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

The Council approved March meeting minutes.

- Edits requested:
 - Under Systems Alignment updates, "member" should be plural
 - Rachel Stepina requested removal of her name from the attendance list, as she did not attend the March meeting.
 - Formatting in "Nevada Family Leadership Council Updates" for the competencies listed in the rubric.
- Patrice Gardner motioned to approve March 18, 2026, meeting minutes with above noted corrections.
- Tiffany Olivas seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

5. Subcommittee Updates (*Informational, Discussion*)

- **Executive Leadership** – Tiffany Alston, Chair and Patrice Gardner, Vice Chair
 - Continued work on updating council bylaws.
 - Announced the successful filling of the Tribal Representative seat.
 - One parent seat remains vacant and encouraged interested parents to apply.
 - Discussed potential rescheduling of the June Executive Leadership meeting due to chair conflicts.



- **Bylaws Ad Hoc** – Patrice Gardner and Marty Elquist, Co-Chairs
 - Conducted two meetings.
 - Identified inconsistencies related to council seat descriptions resulting from codification and organizational changes.
 - Working with Boards and Commissions to resolve issues related to seat conflicts and compensation to parents.
 - Remains on track to present updated Bylaws for approval at the July Executive Leadership Subcommittee meeting
- **Communications and Engagement** – Dr. Jamelle Nance and Brianna Cambra, Co-Chairs
 - Brianna Cambra shared that their Subcommittee is:
 - Starting to work on Workplan alignment
 - Meeting with Subcommittee Co-Chairs to identify key messaging
- **Policy and Finance** –Denise Tanata and Tiffany Alston, Co- Chairs
 - Tiffany Alston shared that:
 - Dr. Stephanie Vega volunteered as secretary.
 - Members opted for monthly meetings through October
 - November was mentioned; however, October is the correct month
 - Updated schedule reflecting updates sent to Members
- **Data** – Marty Elquist and Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Co-Chairs
 - Amanda Haboush-Deloye shared that the Subcommittee has:
 - Developed a parent data feedback form in English and Spanish
 - Incorporated feedback from parent groups regarding parent data book
 - Name wasn't recalled in meeting, officially it is "Understanding Early Childhood Data, A Parents Guide"
 - Preparing the form for final ECAC approval before distribution.
 - Planning similar outreach efforts for early childhood professionals and legislators.
 - Discussing future data dashboard development
- **Family Leadership and Engagement**- Tiffany Olivas, Chair
 - Tiffany Olivas shared that the initial meeting did not reach quorum
 - Meeting time was used to brief participants to ECAC and Open Meeting Law processes
 - Meeting rescheduled
 - Emphasized the importance of family voice and leadership within ECAC
- **Workforce Development**- Jamie Mendez and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs
 - Jamie Mendez shared that Lela Gonzalez volunteered to be secretary, and also shared:
 - Reviewed Workplan and Subcommittee protocols with Members
 - Subcommittee will meet monthly
 - Plan to transition to bi-monthly once settled

6. Nevada's Child Health Screening Transformation *(Discussion, Informational)*

Members presented with Behavioral Health mandates.

Materials: [Children's Behavioral Health Screening Transformation PowerPoint](#)

Christine Pebbles, Nevada Health Authority, Behavioral Health Clinical Advisor

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner & Family Nurse Practitioner, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-C

- Christine Pebbles introduced herself as a psychiatric and family nurse practitioner practicing in the community
 - Behavioral Health Clinical Advisor for the Nevada Health Authority and Division of Medicaid
 - Parent of 4 children, grandmother of 2; has children with mental health needs including autism
 - Volunteered for this transformation personally due to family experience with delayed diagnoses
- Christine Pebbles discussed the purpose of the Health Screening:
 - Goal to Improve statewide screening to be more preventative in nature
 - Create a shared platform
 - Utilizing specific screening tools in Nevada



- Screeners to identify 2 things:
 - Who needs assistance and
 - What type of assistance
- Follow-up interventions based on results
- Identify youth and children far ahead of:
 - Crises
 - Dysfunction
 - Difficulties in school or at home
- Department of Justice and State of Nevada reached agreement in January 2025
 - Alleviate issues with children being sent outside homes/communities for mental health care
 - Reduce out-of-state placements and psychiatric residential facility placements that were inappropriate
 - Transform multiple areas of the current mental health system including screening
- Screening Tool Criteria (Per Settlement Requirements)
 - Brief: 10 minutes or less (optimally 5 minutes)
 - Mental health specific: Autism, developmental delay, intellectual delay, ADHD, depression, suicidal ideation
 - Developmentally appropriate: Age-targeted (e.g., 6-year-old tool ≠ teenager tool)
 - Validated: Must go through research to confirm effectiveness
- Three Levels of Screening
 - Screening Tools: Brief, quick screenings done in primary care/outpatient settings
 - Clinical Assessment: Asks more questions to assess appropriate level of care and urgency
 - Comprehensive Assessment: Full evaluation by practitioner (therapist, nurse practitioner) including family/medical/psychosocial history and treatment plan development
- Selected Screening Tools
- Timeline & Touchpoints
 - State will implement toll-free line for parents/teachers/community concerns
 - Website with screening tools available for self-completion
 - Screenings offered in:
 - Primary care
 - Pediatric care
 - Outpatient mental health
- Periodic screening required:
 - At least twice yearly
 - Screenings when starting or referred to services for any growth/development delays
 - Screen before eligibility for psychiatric facility care
- Collaborative Partnerships
 - Child welfare/foster care system screening
 - Child welfare emergency shelter screening
 - Juvenile justice/detention/youth parole screening
 - Working with counties on these agreements
- Brianna Cambra asked about Part B and Part C partners and universal screening, sharing concern about:
 - Workforce understaffing
 - Recruitment of professionals needed
- Christine Pebbles expressed workforce is the #1 concern going forward, sharing her own experiences:
 - Her own child was hospitalized multiple times for bipolar disorder
 - diagnosed at age 14
 - Despite financial means/good insurance still had 3–6 month wait times for care
 - Recognized that not having accessible care is unacceptable for her family as well as for others
 - Workforce shortage contributed to DOJ agreement
 - Too many children are:



- Sent out-of-state
- Sent to facilities with high levels of care
- Health issues not caught in time
- Next Step:
 - Determine who will actually do this work;
 - Focus On:
 - Attracting Passionate People
 - Quality Care
 - Retention
 - Adequate Training
 - Support
- Dr. Diane Nicolet asked how they define "Youth "
- Christine Pebbles answered that:
 - "Youth" generally means 18 and below but extends into early 20's
 - Focus group will include those with certain severity/acuity levels granting access to additional services:
 - Respite
 - Wrap-Around Care
 - Peer Support
 - Family support
- Dr. Nicolet asked about the involvement of public schools
- Christine Pebbles responded that schools are involved, explaining further that:
 - Heavy communication with Nevada Department of Education and other partners such as:
 - UNR
 - MTSS system
 - Various school districts
 - Schools are best environment since children spend more time there than home
 - Teachers see more than anyone else can imagine
 - Important to note that they don't want to turn schools into mental health settings
 - Not their specialty
 - Working collaboratively to help screen and catch issues early
- DOJ agreement provides opportunity to make changes happen
 - Forces State to improve
 - State funded initiative
 - Agreement link shared in chat

7. ECAC Chair and Vice Chair Election (Discussion for Possible Action). 15 min

The Council voted for ECAC Chair *Tiffany Alston* and Vice Chair *Patrice Gardner* for another term.

- Tiffany Alston invited nominations for others for the ECAC Chair and Vice Chair Position
- Sabrina Jones reviewed the Bylaws confirming that vote must occur vocally
- Brooke Yarborough nominated that Patrice Gardner and Tiffany Alston remain Chair and Vice Chair
- Tiffany Alston called a second time for nominees

Chair Nominee : Tiffany Alston

- Dr. Diane Nicolet I move to nominate Tiffany Alston to continue the fabulous work. She's just warming up and doing a great job to be chair
- Brooke Yarborough seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

ECAC Chair: Tiffany Alston



Vice Chair Nominee: Patrice Gardner

- Deetra Stewart moved to nominate Patrice Gardner as Co-Chair (Vice Chair) of ECAC
- Tiffany Olivas seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

ECAC Vice Chair: Patrice Gardner

8. Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 (PDG B-5) Sustainability & Updates *(For Discussion, Possible Action)*

The Council heard progress of the PDG B-5 sustainability framework.

- Rachel Stepina provided an overview of the PDG B-5 sustainability planning process and outlined three requests for Council consideration:
 - To accept a formal role as a consulted partner in sustainability planning
 - Consider sustainability-related agenda items within subcommittee meetings
 - Review and potentially adopt sustainability action plans at a future ECAC meeting
- Sustainability framework includes five tasks:
 - Identify leadership and decision-making infrastructure
 - Refine the list of activities to sustain
 - Evaluate feasibility of sustaining activities
 - Develop the sustainability plan
 - Implement and monitor the sustainability plan
- Proposed governance structure to use RACI model:
 - **R**esponsible
 - **A**ccountable
 - **C**onsulted
 - **I**nformed
- Assuming Nevada ECAC is the “Consulted” role, responsibilities to include
 - To provide feedback
 - To give guidance on sustainability efforts.
- Discussed the process to review 80 activities to determine:
 - Which activities are complete or
 - What is no longer relevant
 - Which activities are desirable to sustain
 - Which activities are feasible to sustain based on:
 - Funding
 - Staffing
 - Expertise
 - Management Systems
 - Program Requirements
 - Feasible Activities will move into formal action planning and be
 - Presented to Council Members for review and possible adoption
 - PDG B-5 staff will:
 - Support Transition Activities
 - Knowledge Transfer
 - Implementation planning
- Tiffany Alston suggested creating a crosswalk between the ECAC Strategic Plan and the PDG B-5 Sustainability Plan
- Rachel Stepina agreed as there is substantial alignment
- Tiffany Olivas requested clarification regarding ECAC’s role in tracking implementation
- Rachel Stepina explained that sustainability activities integrated into ECAC Subcommittee work and monitored through established structures
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye asked whether new funding had been secured
- Rachel Stepina shared that new funding has not been awarded



- PDG B-5 program implementation ends June 30
- Sustainability planning activities completed before grant closeout
- Some future support opportunities are being explored but are not yet finalized

Approval Vote

- Tiffany Olivas motioned for the Nevada ECAC serve as consulting partner, providing feedback to the PDG B-5 team
- Brianna Cambra seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

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

The Council presented with NDE updates

- Matthew Hoffman reported that a test version of the searchable data catalog is now live
 - The catalog allows users to:
 - Search for early childhood data indicators
 - Access descriptions and related resources
 - Identify subject matter experts and contacts
 - View linked reports and supporting documents
 - designated users have ability to update information
 - Governance of the catalog should look like the following:
 - Data requests and modifications reviewed by subject matter experts
 - Final approval of updates overseen by ECAC Data Subcommittee
 - moving from testing to full implementation after additional review and feedback
 - Update on Nevada's participation in the Early Childhood Data Lab cohort with Alabama and Texas
 - Focused on:
 - Strengthening relationships
 - Collaboration across agencies rather than technology solutions alone
 - Announced upcoming facilitated meetings through EC Data Works involving Nevada state agencies and partners

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

Members presented with updates and heard a Parent Spotlight story from *Karina Aguilar*

- Anna Villatoro shared Parent Summit meetings are scheduled for July in Las Vegas and Reno
 - Parent Spotlight
 - Karina Aguilar shared her experience as a new mother
 - Moved to Nevada two years ago
 - Had challenges navigating resources and supports as a first-time parent
 - Learned about First Five Nevada through community events and family connections
 - Found:
 - Breastfeeding support.
 - Library story time
 - "Readers in Training" book events
 - Community opportunities
 - Connections with other parents
 - First Five Nevada helped her to:
 - Discovering available services
 - Build a support network
 - Share resources with other families



11. Nevada ECAC Partner Updates *(Informational, for Discussion)*

Nevada ECAC Partner Summary Report: <https://nvecac.com/ecac-reports-documents>

- Item tabled due to time
- Partners encouraged to give a quick update during Public Comment as an option

12. Agenda Items for the July 15, 2026, Meeting *(Discussion for Possible Action).*

Council did not discuss agenda items

- Item tabled due to time. Members can email their items to the Admin Team

13. Member Updates *(Discussion, Informational)*

Members of this Council can make announcements and share beneficial information

- Item tabled due to time

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

Public comments made during this agenda item.

- Brooke Yarborough shared contact information for providers and families:

Providers

Payment questions: **email-** CCDPPayments@dss.nv.gov

Families

Subsidy questions and case inquiries: **Phone-** (775) 684-0625 **Email-** CCDP@dss.nv.gov

- Deetra Stewart offered to distribute contacts to family child care and center-based providers

15. Upcoming Meetings *(Informational)*

Communications and Engagement: 5.26.26 @ 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Executive Leadership: 6.02.26 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Bylaws Ad Hoc: 6.8.26 @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Workforce Development: 6.09.26 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Data: 6.18.26 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Policy and Finance: 7.21.26 @ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

16. Adjournment

- Tiffany Alston adjourned this meeting at 7:35 pm