Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Executive Leadership Subcommittee
Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 02, 2025
11:00 am-12:30 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."

Location: Meetings are held via Zoom.com. To join, **CLICK HERE.**
Meeting ID: 874 7306 4118 **Passcode:** 931429 **Can't Log in to Zoom?** Click **HERE** for directions.

MINUTES

Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
- Tiffany Alston called the meeting to order at 11:05 am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members' Present
1. Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
2. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Co- Chair
4. Cherry Clark, Nevada Early Intervention Services
5. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
6. Amanda Haboush Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
7. Jerek Hough, District Manager, Source Academy
8. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co- Chair
9. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
10. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet

Members Absent
1. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
2. Dr. Elizabeth Glover, CEO of Echoes of Excellence
3. Darby Porter, Nevada Library System
4. Kathy Yoder-Bass, Provider Representative

Public in Attendance
1. Ali Caliendo, Community member
2. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
4. Sabrina Schnur
5. Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Candace Vaughn, Administrative Assistant, Division of Child and Family Services, State of Nevada
7. Brooke Yarborough, Child Care and Development Program, Department of Supportive Services, State of Nevada

2. Public Comment #1 5 min.
Public Comment is not given during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda.
- No Comment

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min.**
The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Tiffany Olivas motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Denise Tanata seconded the motion.
- Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved.

4. Approval of Minutes from October 07, October 29, and October 30, 2025 *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min.**
The Subcommittee reviewed 3 sets of October Minutes.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- **10.07.25**
  - Dr. Jamelle Nance's name misspelled in Members Present
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye motioned to approve the October 07, 2025, Minutes with noted adjustment
  - Marty Elquist seconded the motion.
  - Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved.
  - Abbey Bernhardt, Denise Tanata, and Brianna Cambra abstained
- **10.29.2025**
  - Denise Tanata, Marty Elquist, and Tiffany Olivas mentioned and/or emailed edits found
  - Dr. Elizabeth Glover is absent and under present on both records
  - Amanda Haboush Deloye motioned to table October 29 and 30 Minutes to allow time for adjustments
  - Marty Elquist seconded the motion.
  - Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved.

5. Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 (PDG B-5) Overview *(Discussion, Informational)* **20 min**
The Subcommittee heard an overview of the state's PDG B-5 Proposal.
Rachel Stepina, Preschool and Development Grant Birth -5 Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

- Rachel Stepina gave an overview of the application to the Subcommittee members
  - Shared that the application was put together with help from the PDG team.
  - It was 75 pages long, including documentation, and Governors designated letter, and an acronym glossary
  - They prioritized letters of recommendation
  - The ECAC legislative mandates and governance were included
- 4 Key Areas highlighted throughout
  - Governance
  - Communication
  - Collaboration
  - Parent Voice
- 3 figures under Critical Element 1.
  - Statewide early care and education needs assessment and Strategic Plan.
    - Pause and define early care and education
    - Applicants asked to propose for the entire Early Childhood system, not just early care and education
    - Negotiations are ongoing to develop the notice of funding opportunities.
    - Consistent terminology throughout the application to match the Federal Verbiage
  - Needs Assessments included:
    - Proposed to streamline those common data points collected in early childhood needs assessments

- We're exceeding expectations in terms of the number of needs assessments collected and how people can access them.
- Propose a dive into a meta-analysis of existing assessments
- Identify common points that are often asked by different funders when requiring a needs assessment.
- Bring that information into a commonplace on a digital platform.
- Expecting to link the Early Childhood Integrated Data System with Needs Assessments
- Many of those common data elements are things that have already been defined

Critical Element 3

- 3 categories to bucket the goals
- Parent Choice Family Engagement
  - Enhance family-centered tools
  - Family Engagement and decision making
- Category 1: Reconcile Fragmented Elements into one system
  - Governance Connection Alignment
  - Professional paths
  - Cohesive financing strategy
  - Streamline use of system technology
- Category 2 Expand Program availability and sustainability
  - Strengthen Early Childhood Associations
  - Nevada Head Start Association
  - Family Child Care Association of Nevada.
  - Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.
  - Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children
  - Business Supports and Resources
- Category 3 Align or Share information and Data Systems
  - Integrate Head Start data into Infinite Campus to help identify children's needs and long-term growth, and partnerships
  - Establish a digital ecosystem for quality improvement
  - Dropping the “R” for “rating” in QRIS
  - Data literacy
  - Built on the foundation of the Best Practices for Data Collection statement from our Data and Evaluation Subcommittee
  - Statewide liaison for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System
- Asked for 15 million, the ceiling of the grant application
  - If offered more funds, it is planned to request funds for the State Pre-K pilot.

6. Strategic Planning Check In, Updates and Discussion *(Informational, Discussion)* **20 min**

The Subcommittee reviewed the Strategic Plan and discussed next steps.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston reviewed the plans of the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc, suggested the idea of sending the goals created at the retreat, along with the draft of the strategic plan, so members can review and add thoughts and feedback to make the goals our own
  - After goals are finalized, Members are to discuss and decide which subcommittees stay, change, or are added or combined
- Denise Tanata asked if subcommittees are to pause meetings until further notice
- Tiffany Alston suggests keeping that decision amongst the co-chairs of each subcommittee
- Brianna Cambra suggests pausing her subcommittee meetings until it is known what goals they are working towards, as that is their next step

- Brandi Hearst asked if they want to pause January or keep January as they are not scheduling December
- Dr. Nance and Brianna Cambra agree to keep the January meeting, and depending on the strategic plan, it is possible to add a February meeting
- Denise Tanata would like to hold off on meetings until goals and objectives are solidified and wants to have the subcommittee meet if we have the policy recommendations in place, as they will need to start working on that right away.
- If the policy recommendations are going to change, we would want to wait until those are solid.
- The Ad Hoc committee will be reviewing the wording and verbiage given by the Public Works team for goals
  - There was a lot of good work that did not translate well.
- Tiffany Alston Appointed Members of Ad Hoc:
  - Brianna Cambra, Rachel Stepina, Abbey Bernhardt, Tiffany Olivas, Denise Tanata, Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Dr. Jamelle Nance, Brandi Hearst, Patrice Gardner
- **Co-Chairs**: Densie Tanata and Abbey Bernhardt
- **First Meeting:** December 15th 9am-11am

7. ECAC Marketing Updates *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **15 min**
The Subcommittee discussed the next steps within the Marketing project
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
- Tiffany Olivas asked why we were trying to change the logo.
- Brianna Cambra, being part of the original meeting, explained that the website is being updated, Purdue Marion is the vendor to get the website redone, and suggested moving forward with a clean logo for a fresh start
- Members reviewed logos and decided on #67
- Brandi Hearst to contact Purdue Marion with #67 as the logo to use and ask for variations with fonts and placement/shapes

8. 2026 Executive Leadership Meeting Schedule *(Discussion for Action)* **5 min**
Subcommittee to revisit the Executive Leadership 2026 Meeting Schedule discussion with the knowledge of the ECAC Subcommittee placements and decide on what next year will look like for this Subcommittee and their meeting times. Decisions to be made at today's meeting to allow time for creating the ECAC Meeting Schedule for all Subcommittees.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Meet in January on the first Tuesday of January 2026 and decide if any changes are needed for the 2026 meeting schedule for this Subcommittee.

9. Subcommittee Membership Application Process Review *(Discussion, Informational)* **10 min**
This Subcommittee tabled this item due to time.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair
Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator
Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Specialist
- Tabled, loss of quorum

10. Subcommittee Activity Updates *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **10 min**
Each Subcommittee can present or discuss action items, updates, progress, and its needs, moving forward to succeed in completing Work Plan goals.
- **Executive Leadership:** Tiffany Alston & Patrice Gardner
- **Systems Alignment:** Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt

- **Data and Evaluation:** Amanda Haboush Deloye and Marty Elquist
- **Policy and Finance:** Denise Tanata, Vacancy
- **Communication and Engagement:** Dr. Jamelle Nance & Brianna Cambra
- Tabled, loss of quorum

11. First Five Nevada Family Leadership Council *(Informational, Discussion)* **10 min.**
The Subcommittee will hear updates regarding the work of the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council.
Anna Villatoro and Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet
- Tabled. loss of quorum

12. First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **5 min.**
The Subcommittee did not have a monthly Inclusion Request Report to review.
Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
- No report available

13. Agenda Items for January 2025 *(Discussion and Possible Action)* **5 min.**
Subcommittee members are to email their items to add to the January Executive Leadership Agenda.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
- Email your items, if any, within the next 2 weeks

14. 2026 Meetings Scheduled So Far (*Informational)*
- Policy and Finance: 1.20.26 @ 3:30pm
- Communication and Engagement1.27.26, 11:30am
- General ECAC Meeting 1.21.26 9:00am
- Data and Evaluation: 1.15.26 @1:00pm

15. Member Updates and Share-Outs *(Discussion, Informational),* **5 min**
Members of this Subcommittee did not make announcements
- Tabled, loss of quorum

16. Public Comment #2
Public Comment not made during this agenda item on any matter within the Subcommittee's control or advisory power.
- Tabled, loss of quorum

17. Adjournment
- Tiffany Alston adjourned the meeting at 12:54 pm

3 Action Steps
- Schedule to be adjusted in January to reflect any changes needed
- Members to email their agenda items within the next two weeks
- Subcommittee to review and discuss the applicant process for subcommittees

One Sentence Summary: This Subcommittee reviewed logos and decided on the direction for ECAC to take for Marketing, decided to wait until January for meeting schedule changes in case the Strategic Plan has changes that affect the members, and discussed the Strategic Planning Retreat.