Executive Leadership Subcommittee
Public Meeting
Tuesday, February 03, 2026
11:00 am-12:30 pm
Virtual Meeting Location: Zoom.com To join, **CLICK HERE**
Meeting ID: 874 7306 4118 **Passcode:** 931429 **Can't Log in to Zoom?** Click **HERE** for directions.

MINUTES

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

Members' Present
1. Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
2. Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
3. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
4. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
5. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
6. Jerek Hough, District Manager, Source Academy
7. Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair
8. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
9. Darby Porter, Nevada Library System
10. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabin
11. Kathy Yoder-Bass, Provider Representative

Member's Absent
1. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
2. Cherry Clark, Nevada Early Intervention Services
3. Dr. Elizabeth Glover, CEO of Echoes of Excellence

Public in Attendance
1. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Brooke Yarborough, Social Services Chief 2, Division of Social Services, Nevada Department of Human Services
4. Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

2. Public Comment #1 5 min.
Public Comment was not given during this agenda item
- 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
- Brianna Cambra motioned to approve a flexible agenda
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye seconded the motion.
  - Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved.

4. Approval of October 30, 2025, and January 06, 2026, Minutes *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min.**
The Subcommittee approved the October 30, 2025, and January 06, 2026, minutes.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Members reviewed and discussed both sets of Minutes, corrections and additions noted below:
  - 10.30.25 edits:
    - More photos showing "context" and "big picture."
  - 1.06.26 edits:
    - on Subcommittee Updates agenda item, Communication is missing a semi-colon before the sub bullets
    - update to say, "state representatives who work within CCDP."

10.30.25 REVISED MINUTES:

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve the October 30, 2025, Minutes with requested pictures added
- Tiffany Olivas seconded the motion.
- Members voted, motion passes, October minutes approved.

1.06.26 MINUTES:

- Kathy Yoder Bass motioned to approve the January minutes with the above edits
- Tiffany Alston seconded the motion.
- Members voted, motion passes, January minutes approved.

5. Subcommittee Administrative Transition *(Discussion for Possible Action)* ***10*** **min**
The members discussed the first steps to the administrative transition,
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Patrice Gardner introduced the subject of having each subcommittee have one person volunteer to take minutes.
- Sabrina Jones shared information on the task of taking minutes and asked for volunteers
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye shares her concern about not having enough time, stating minutes are just what they are going to be and not formal like what is provided now, without support
- Subcommittee discussed the use of AI as a tool for minutes.
- Brianna Cambra asked if any permissions are needed from meeting participants and offered to help other subcommittees by taking minutes, but prefers not to take minutes for the subcommittee she is a co-chair of.
- Rachel Stepina and Marty Elquist both shared that using AI for other tasks has been a useful time-saving tool
- Brandi Hearst described her AI experiences with minutes and noted that the transcription from Zoom was entirely too long, requiring more edits than it was worth; however, it is a good tool for use to fill in the blanks.
- Patrice Gardner shared that paid subscriptions yielded better results with AI tools.
- Marty Elquist and Brianna Cambra offered to look into ways AI can be used for ECAC Minutes as a tool

6. Overview of Strategic Planning Progress & Proposed Subcommittee Structure *(Informational, Discussion)* ***10*** **min**
The Subcommittee heard an update on the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee's progress.
Materials: *Draft Subcommittee Structure with Discussion and Decision Points*
Denise Tanata, Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair

- Denise Tanata shared that the Final Ad Hoc meeting is 2.11.26 and listed out completed steps, followed by what's next:
  - Strategic Plan Goals have been finalized, there are 4
  - Draft of Objectives done, committee to work on verbiage
  - the New Subcommittee structure to be discussed today
    - Discuss subcommittee's current structure (each assigned a goal). Instead, subcommittees can work together to achieve goals and be assigned objectives.

- Need to minimize the number of subcommittees currently drafted(7)
- Decide on subcommittee names
- Decide which ones to keep, which ones are concluded
- Decide which ones to combine, if any

• N*OTE: The word goals should be "Proposed Objectives."*
• Patrice Gardner asked for examples of combinations of subcommittees to be presented to the Executive Leadership Subcommittee.
• Marty Elquist agrees to condense the numbers down, doesn't want to be afraid of the work ahead because of more subcommittees, but rather looks at the big picture of more subcommittees means streamlined goals as the groups would be smaller and interested in the goals, instead of half of a subcommittee wanting to work on one goal and the other half inserted in the other goal, loosing engagement.
• Tiffany Alston suggests Finance and Executive Leadership as a possible combination
  ○ shared that the retreat showed how many people are engaged and want to be involved
• Tiffany Olivas repeated that we can't lead in fear, and wants to point out that the Family Engagement Subcommittee was the one we were really excited about, and having a place for families to engage in.
• Denise Tanata thanked everyone for their ideas and thoughts and let everyone know that we did not need to make a final decision; the ideas shared will go to the Ad Hoc to discuss.
• Denise Tanata discussed the idea of intermixing goals, so each goal is worked on in collaboration with 2 or more subcommittees
  ○ Subcommittees have assigned objectives
  ○ Asked if members oppose
• Marty Elquist and Patrice Gardner both spoke about collaborating on goals and having objectives assigned instead
• No opposing views heard .

7. Potential Implementation Strategies for Interim Policy *(Informational, Discussion)* **10 min**
Members were presented with the potential implementation strategies for the interim policy recommendations.
Materials*: Goals and Draft Objectives with Discussion and Decision Points*
Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Subcommittee Co-Chair
• Working on specific activities and strategies to support implementation of the Interim Policy Recommendations that were included in the 2025 Annual Report, including:
• making requests to some of the interim committees.
• issues were identified by the ECAC, including:
  ○ early care and education access,
  ○ affordability,
  ○ the early childhood workforce, support, compensation,
  ○ systems alignment, governance,
  ○ funding needs and potential revenue streams
• Denise Tanata continued with the Annual Report, explaining what is involved and reported on. She then asks the members, "We do the reports, but who is reading them?"
  ○ Who can start implementing the messages?
  ○ Who can present it for us?
  ○ Who can help with the tasks?
• This led to the idea of creating the Call-to-Action Interest Form, which encourages members of ECAC, Subcommittees, Partners, Local ECAC's, and community participation by volunteering their skill set to help ECAC with their messaging, potentially reaching the correct audiences.

- An email with the 2025 Annual Report and Call-to-Action Form was sent to all partners, all ECAC, and Subcommittee members
- So far 11 responses

• Denise Tanata personally requests that all ECAC members complete the form.

8. Subcommittee Updates *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **10 min**
No Subcommittee updates
• Tabled

9. ECAC Subcommittee Membership *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **20 minutes**
Members will hear the administrative side of Subcommittee Membership in upcoming meetings.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
Brandi Hearst, Ecac Administrative Coordinator
Sabrina Jones, Ecac Systems Specialist
• Tabled

10. First Five Nevada Family Leadership Council *(Informational, Discussion)* **10 min.**
The Subcommittee was not presented with updates.
Anna Villatoro and Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet
• Tabled

11. First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **5 min.**
The Subcommittee had no reports to review.
Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
• Denise Tanata shared that there was nothing to report

12. Agenda Items for March 2026 Meeting *(Discussion and Possible Action)* **5 min.**
Subcommittee members added to the February Executive Leadership Agenda.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair, and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
• Patrice Gardner adds to have Subcommittee Structure should be looked at after the goals and objectives are solidified
• Brianna Cambra adds for Marty Elquist, who left early- Review the purpose and role of the Executive Leadership Subcommittee
• NOTE: New Logo communication to Local ECACs

13. Member Updates *(Discussion, Informational),* **5 min**
Members of this Subcommittee made announcements.
• Tiffany Alston shared that Child Care providers are preparing to speak out on Public Comment about how the Subsidy barriers are affecting them

14. Public Comment #2
Public Comment was not given.
• No Comment

15. Upcoming Meetings (*Informational)*
Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee 2.11.26 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
Policy and Finance: 2.17.26 @3:30 pm

General ECAC: Special Session 2.18.26, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Data and Evaluation: 2.19.26, 1:00 pm
Systems Alignment: 2.25.26, 1:00 pm
Executive Leadership: 3. 03.26, 11:00 am
Communication and Engagement: No FEB/MARCH Meeting

16. Adjournment
Patrice Gardner adjourned the meeting at 12:26 pm.

3 Action Steps:
Tiffany Alston to send pictures to Brandi Hearst for the October 30, 2025
Members requested to complete the Call-to-Action Interest Form
Members requested to attend the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Meeting on 2.11.26

One Sentence Summary: The Subcommittee discussed the proposed subcommittee structure and how to align the goals with the subcommittee grouping, with the subcommittee goals, and how to support each Subcommittee with minutes and administrative tasks, also reviewing the policy