Agenda item #4

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

**Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)**
**Public Meeting**
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**
**9:00am-12:00pm**

"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."

**Virtual Meeting**: Meetings are held Via Zoom Tele-Conference. To join the meeting, click HERE
**Meeting ID**: 815 9023 7818 **Passcode**: 308879
**Can't log in to Zoom?** Click HERE for instructions

# MINUTES

1. **Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call and Language Access Instructions, 5 minutes**
   *Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair*
   *Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*
   *Nayesdi Badillo. Early Childhood Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education*

- Tiffany Alston started meeting at 9:05am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

**Members in Attendance (13):**

- Tiffany Alston- Seat J, University of Nevada, Sunrise Children's Foundation
- Elysa Arroyo- Seat R, Nevada Department of Education
- Abbey Bernhardt- Seat O, National Alliance on Mental Illness
- Tami Conn – Seat B, Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- Ashley Dines- Parent Leadership[p Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Marty Elquist- Seat N, The Children's Cabinet
- Edith Farmer – Seat A, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
- Patrice Gardner- Seat K, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dr. Diane Nicolet- Seat F , Washoe County School District
- Tina Springmeyer- Seat R , Director, Washoe County School District
- Stephanie Vega – Seat I, Kindergarten Teacher, Washoe County School District
- Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward- Seat G, Ward, Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Dr. Linda Young- Seat R, President, The Village Foundation

**Members Not in Attendance: (2)**

- Joan Jackson – Seat D , Education Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Education
- Carrie Paldi- Seat H, Learning Care Group
- Vacant- Seat C
- Seat E
- Seat L
- Vacant- Seat M
- Vacant- Seat P
- Seat Q
- Seat -R

**Public In Attendance: (29)**

- Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Laura Brown, Monitoring and Compliance Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Joycelene Bumagat, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy
- Brianna Cambra, Provider Support Director, The Children's Cabinet
- Sarah Carone, Local ECAC
- Mary Childrey, Provider Development Manager, The Children's Cabinet
- Danielle Holmes, Quality and Community Relations Director, The Children's Cabinet
- Julie Houchins, Senior Director of Early Education, United Way
- Tiffany Hyzer, Northeastern Nevada Pyramid Model Program Coach, Elko ECAC
- Fred Johnson III, Regional Sales Manager, The Discovery Source
- Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Lela Gonzales, Project Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
- Janice Lee, State Coordinator, Nevada Pyramid Model
- Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada
- Nina McCartney- Owner of BCBA, Behavior Consultant
- Meghann McQuillan- Education and Information Officer, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Alejando Melecio , Parent
- Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communications Co-Chair
- Tiffany Olivas- ECCS Manager 2, The Children's Cabinet
- Patti Oya, Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Kate Pflughoeft, PDG B-5 Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Dana Preece, Birth-3rd Grade Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Steven Romero, Grant Analysis, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
- Deetra Stewart, Family Child Care
- Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Systems Consultant, The Children's Cabinet
- Anna Villatoro, ECCS Parent Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet

1. **Public Comment #1** 6 min
   Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Council Chair of the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council will impose a time limit of two minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control or advisory power.
   - No Comment

2. **Approval of Flexible Agenda** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min**
   The Council to vote to approve a flexible agenda. The Council may take agenda items out of order; combine two or more agenda items for consideration; remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda.
   *Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
   *Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*
   - Abbey Bernhardt motioned for flexible agenda
   - Ashley Dines seconds motion
   - Unanimous vote, motion carries, flexible agenda approved

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2024** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min**
The Council will discuss and vote to approve November 20, 2024, meeting minutes.
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
*Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*

- Jamie Mendez pointed out that Item 13 has word correction "Internet/Intent"
- Patrice Gardner motioned to approve November 20, 2024- meeting minutes with correction of line 13
- Dr. Linda Young seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries, meeting minutes approved

4. **First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council Updates, Parent Spotlight** *(Information, Discussion)* **15 minutes-**Spotlight, **15 minutes-**Council Updates
The Council will view the First 5 Nevada Family Leadership presentation and listen to Alejandra's story during the "Parent Spotlight, experiences within the Early Childhood System.
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
*Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*
*Ashley Dines and Anna Villatoro, Parent Leadership Coordinators, The Children's Cabinet*
*Alejandra Melecio, Parent Spotlight Guest Presenter*

- Ashley Dines explained her intentions with how to navigate families to uplift them and having conversations with them and knowing that not every parent is "biological"
- Anna Villatoro announced parent summits in Vegas, Elko, and Reno. Focused on recruiting families from rural and tribal regions included, along with Children's Week transportation to S NV families to go to N. NV collaborated with NICRP.
- Alejandra Melecio shared her story about her 4 children living in Nevada and working with the Early Childhood Systems

5. **Local ECAC Celebrations and Updates** *(Information Discussion)* **10 minutes**
The Council celebrated Local ECAC Carson/Douglas with Chair Tiffany Olivas, who will share progress from their Work Plan and activities accomplished. Chair and Vice Chair to request a volunteer for March and-or May meeting
*Local ECAC in celebration: Carson/Douglas ECAC – Tiffany Olivas Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*

- Tiffany Olivas led this agenda item and described the history of her Local ECAC, as the Chair she has had year of experience in the region she represents and has seen the growth of the Early Childhood System and the workforce as well as building relationships and networking withe community.
    - They have worked with State Museums and other child friendly public spaces as well as building community partnerships, creating awareness of family friendly policies incorporated into their initiatives including an ECE Career Tech Ed program building a strong Workforce for our future.
- Tiffany Alston thanked Tiffany Olivas for her hard work and efforts and celebrated her vision for the Early Childhood community in her region.
- Dr. Linda Young asked about the Tech Academies within the state and if they are replicated throughout Nevada and applauds Tiffany Olivas as the need for skilled workforce is real.
- Deetra Stewart brought up the need to recruit people for the Early Childhood Workforce and agrees that the information shared is a great route to recruit people who are interested and to get tarted in the high schools- where is the funding coming from?

6. **Subcommittee Updates and Workplan** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **20 Minutes**
Discussed updates, recommendations and workplan progress from ECAC Subcommittees
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
*Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*

a. **Executive Leadership** – Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs
    - Patrice Gardner announced that the General ECAC meeting schedule now allows for 2 evening meeting's May and September, 5:30-7:30pm virtually only and hoping to include more families

b. **Systems Alignment** – Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs
   - Tiffany Olivas described the continuing deep dives into the work plans and finding the goals and activities that they are working towards and working towards more goals to accomplished.

c. **Communications and Engagement** – Dr. Jamelle Nance, Co-Chair
   - Announced that 3.11 meeting will be rescheduled for Children's Week, doodle poll to be sent out.
   - Co-Chair position open
   - Ad-Hoc is officially back up and meetings starting 2.18.25

d. **Policy and Finance** – Elysa Arroyo, Co- Chair

e. **Data and Evaluation** – Marty Elquist and Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Co-Chairs
   - Marty Elquist described how this subcommittee will be stating the Data Collection and usage best practices that we want pothers to adopt when collecting data will be presented in the March General ECAC, Key talking points have been worked on so tat we can share with the legislation session and us the Data dictionary to measure the gaps and find out what we need and what we have while protecting the data we have to keep families safe.
   - Next meeting 2.20.25
   - Dr. Young asked if they have "a top 5" points across the system and Early Childhood.
   - Marty Elquist states she understands the question and is taking it to the Subcommittee to discuss

7. **State Agency and Partner Summary Report Updates** *(Information, for Discussion)***20-25 minutes**
This is an opportunity to briefly share an update of relevant progress or new initiatives such as programs or services and issues relevant to the ECAC Strategic Plan and work of the Council.
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
*Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair*

- **Nevada Local ECAC's**
  - Tribal, Ashleigh Baker
  - Elko/Northeastern, Kelly Melendez and Sarah Carone
    - Sarah Carone described how the Mini grant funding her local ECAC received last year was beneficial for the community Collaborated with Dr's and had a community wide brain development
    - Participated in Nevesi Mini Conference in Elko sponsoring family engagement sessions
    - Hosted Don Monopoly who gave a family concert
    - Sponsored teacher training, we just thank the ECAC for that funding
  - Southern Nevada, Amanda Haboush-Deloye
    - Joycelene Bumangata shared that the Southern Nevada ECAC meeting dates are available online and the next meeting is Wednesday, February 19th.
    - Planning visits to the mayor, council members policy makers who are available
    - SNECAC partnered with NICRP and the Children's Cabinet to offer transportation for Children's Week at the Legislator in Carson City.
  - Tri-Counties Lynn, Storey and Mineral Counties, Evelyn Knight
  - Washoe County, Melissa Burnham and Anna Severns
  - *Carson/Douglas, Tiffany Olivas *sharing in Agenda Item 5*
- **Nevada Department of Education (NDE)**
  - Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD)
    - PDG B-5 Grant, Rachel Stepina
    - QRIS, Sara Kharrat
  - Office of Inclusive Education, Cate Guzy
  - Nevada Ready!Pre-K VACANT
- **Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**
  - **Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)**
    - Child Care and Development Program (CCDP),

- Cynthia Magana, Remove Cynthia as she is out indefinitley
- Child Care Services Centers (CCSC), Cynthia Magana- Remove from Report

- Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)
  - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH), Rhonda Lawrence

- **Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**
  - **Division of Public Behavior and Health (DPBH)**
    - Child Care Licensing, Edith Farmer
    - Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH), Tami Conn
    - Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Bianca Ayala
    - Nevada State Immunization Program, Kristy Zigenis
    - Oral Health Program, Jannette Gomez
- **Nevada ECAC Early Childhood Partnering Agencies and Programs**
  - HRSA: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Health Integration, Tiffany Olivas- nothing more to report
  - The First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council, Ashley Dines, Anna Villatoro
    - Ashley Dines described how to register for in person events
  - Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC), Carrie Paldi
  - Nevada Child Care Provider Committee (CCPAC), Carrie Paldi and Lela Gonzales
  - Pyramid Model, Janice Lee
  - Research and Needs Assessments (NICRP), Amanda Haboush-Deloye
  - Nevada Association for Research and Needs Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Jacquelyn Kleinedler
  - Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA), Strong Start Prenatal to Three (PN-3) and The Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI), Dr. Jamelle Nance and Annette Dawson-Owens
    - Dr. Jamelle Nance announced a Weekly legislation meeting to help keep everyone stay updated on sessions
- Shared Opportunities for All

  Open for sharing various Funding, Grant, Training, Workshops, Events, Conferences Professional Development, or Outreach opportunities.
  - Brandi Hearst described the Mini Grant opening for Local ECACs 2/10/25-2/28/25

**8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting on March 19, 2025** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **5 minutes**

Subcommittee decided on Agenda items for next meeting in March.

*Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
*Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Vice Chair*

- Marty Elquist requested to add : Data best practices statement for approval
- Dianne Nicolet requested to add agenda item to discuss legislation that effects ECAC and Children / families of NV - (Contacted Tami Conn)
- Tami Conn present or provide update of dissemination 10:33am
- Deetra Stewart added FCC association of Nevada- Wants to add Subsidy conversation for providers to understand -Contact Brooke

**9. Upcoming Meetings** *(Informational)* **1-2 min**

*Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair*
*Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Vice Chair*

a. Policy and Finance Subcommittee: 2.13.25, 1:00pf
b. Data and Evaluation Subcommittee: 2.20.25 1:00pm
c. Systems Alignment Subcommittee: 2.26.25 1:00pm
d. Executive Leadership Subcommittee: 3.04.25, 11:00am
e. General ECAC Meeting 3.19.25, 9:00am
f. ECAC New Member Orientation April 29th at 11:30am

- To register, email us at Brandi.hearst@doe.nv.gov and Sabrina.jones@doe.nv.gov

**10. Public Comment #2** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* ***6 min***

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control, or advisory power. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Council Chair will impose a time limit of two minutes.

- Dr. Young invited everyone to a Gala Fundraiser at JW Marriot
- Erica Barkley- Foster parent, works at Children's Cabinet and is bringing up the concern of subsidy with LVUL and she as denied and case worker is not responsive ended up her case being denied and information not communicated, she has waited over 60 days and said the Foster children have to now go back to child haven so not inly it is effecting the families being foster parents but it is effecting the children going back and forth and not having a stable place.
- Stephanie Vega brought up concerns of being a teacher in Kindergarten, law is 16 and she has 28 at Washoe CCSD, this year she has an assistant, and it is using the ECLIP grant funds for the assistant but next year the funding is no longer available. 14 ESL students, 2 who are there for resource support and has foster students who are not counted as an "in need" demographic looking for Support from ECAC

**11. Adjournment**

- Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting at 10:35am

- 3 Actions Steps:
  - Communications and Engagement Subcommittee to reschedule March meeting, members to complete a Doodle Poll for scheduling.
  - Local ECACs are to start reporting on the Partner Summary Report, the reporting link is emailed out every other month to Chairs.
  - Brandi Hearst to reach out to find support and resources for Stephanie Vega's concerns

- One Sentence Summary:
  - The General ECAC Committee met and discussed the progress of each department and/or partner, as well as talking about some ways the legislation could be a bigger part of our meetings so that we can all back the bills that effect children and families of Nevada