Agenda Item 4

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
Public Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 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."

In Person Locations

SOUTHERN NV
Sunrise Children's Foundation
2795 E Desert Inn Rd #200
Las Vegas, NV 89121

NORTHERN NV
Child Care Services Center
961 Matley Lane, #110
Reno, NV 89502

Virtual Meeting is held via Zoom Tele-Conference, to join click HERE **Meeting ID**: 815 9023 7818 **Passcode**: 308879

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, Language Access, 5 minutes

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Chair
Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair
Nayesdi Badillo. Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

- Tiffany Alston called meeting to order at 9:10am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call
- Nayesdi Badillo shared instructions for interpretation and language options

Members in Attendance:

1. Tiffany Alston- Seat J, University of Nevada, Sunrise Children's Foundation
2. Elysa Arroyo- Seat R, Nevada Department of Education
3. Abbey Bernhardt- Seat O, National Alliance on Mental Illness
4. Tami Conn – Seat B, Division of Public and Behavioral Health
5. Edith Farmer – Seat A, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
6. Patrice Gardner- Seat K, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
7. Dr. Diane Nicolet- Seat F , Washoe County School District
8. Tina Springmeyer- Seat R , Director, Washoe County School District
9. Stephanie Vega – Seat I, Kindergarten Teacher, Washoe County School District
10. Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward- Seat G, Ward, Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
11. Dr. Linda Young- Seat R, President, The Village Foundation

Members Absent

1. Ashley Dines- Parent Leadership[p Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
2. Marty Elquist- Seat N, The Children's Cabinet
3. Carrie Paldi- Seat H, Learning Care Group

Public in Attendance

1. Ana Acosta-Rogers , Carson Douglas ECAC
2. Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Colleen Barrett
4. Sara Batey, First 5 Family Spotlight presenter
5. Janeese Black, Nevada Department of Education
6. Katelyn Cayetano, DBDriven
7. Mary Childrey, The Children's Cabinet
8. Tami Conn, Nevada Department of Education
9. Paulo Dorado, DBDriven
10. David Funk, Interpreter
11. Josefina Garcia, Interpreter
12. Kyla Hannah, Director Little Explorers Family Child Care (FCC)

13. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
14. Matthew Hoffman, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
15. Danielle Holmes, Director, The Children's Cabinet
16. Jerek Hough, CEO, Source Academy
17. Fred Johnson III, The Discovery Source
18. Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
19. Jennifer Lagana, The Children's Cabinet
20. Janice Lee, Pyramid Model, Nevada Department of Education
21. Michael Maxwell
22. Alison May, KinderCare
23. Craig Moebus, DBDriven
24. Dr. Nance, ECAC Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
25. Smriti Neupane, NICRP
26. Angela Oscanoa, Parent
27. Patti Oya, Director, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
28. Kate Pflughoeft, Associate PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
29. Darby Porter, Nevada State Library
30. Gerilyn Slicker, UNLV Assistant Professor
31. Chelsea Sliter
32. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
33. Micheal Tinsley, Chef Little Explorers Family Child Care (FCC)
34. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
35. Brooke Yarborough, Nevada Department of Education

2. Public Comment #1 **6 min**

Public Comment 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 three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction, control or advisory power.

- Darby Porter introduced herself as the new Youth Consultation for Nevada Library systems and is wanting to join in any way possible.
- Abbey Bernhardt wanted to make note of NAMI walks May 4th at Carson City Nugget and covers the Capital Strip, sponsorships available, link in Chat
- Kyla Hanna introduced herself as a Native American single mom Family Home Provider, in Spring Creek and is interested in helping

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

The Council approved 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

- Patrice Gardner motioned for flexible agenda
- Tami Conn seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries, flexible agenda approved

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2025 *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min**

The Council approved February 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

- Abbey Bernhardt motioned to approve meeting minutes with correction noted below
- Diane Nicolet seconds motion
- Unanimous vote, motion carries, meeting minutes approved
- Stephanie Vega shared edits via chat, noted: "Stephanie Vega brought up concerns of being a teacher in Kindergarten. Class size law (ratio) is 16 students: 1 teacher, and she has 28 students in her classroom at Washoe County School District. She has 14 ESL students, has foster students, and 2 students in special education strategies who spend most of the day in her classroom but are not counted by the district in her class size. This year she has an assistant, and ECLIP grant provides funds for the payroll, next year the funding is no longer available. Looking for support from ECAC"

5. Child Care Subsidy Presentation *(Discussion, Informational,)* **10 min**

Brooke Yarborough presented behalf of Child Care Subsidy changes, providing updates for providers and families.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair
Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair
Brooke Yarborough, Child Care Agency Manager, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

- Brooke Yarbough introduced herself and explained to the process happening with Lass Vegas Urban League and the State taking over Subsidy.
- Tiffany Alston asked what the caseload will look like with the changes
- Brooke described that they had over 1300 children on subsidy and now they only have budget for 7500
- They are hoping to take advantage of payroll/staffing budget being lower than LVUL and using those funds to allow more children. They have already made changes in payment process with payments being made within 14 days, and applications being processed in less than 30 days- both huge strides
- Tifany asked how big their pilot program is and when N. NV will be included
- Brooke Yarbough stated they started with 18 providers in January, onboarded 45 in February, onboarded 60 in March and so far have been able to keep up with the time frames
- Southern Nv is to be completed by June 2025, then incorporate N. Nv by July 2026
- Tina Springmeyer asked if there is a breakdown per county, Brooke Yarbough to get the breakdown to her

6. First 5 Nevada Family Leadership Council Updates, Parent Spotlight *(Information, Discussion)*-**10 minutes-**Council Updates / **10 minutes-**Spotlight

The Council heard First 5 Nevada Family Leadership updates with *Sara Batey,* for "Parent Spotlight", shared her experience within the Early Childhood System of Nevada.

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
Parent Spotlight Guest Presenter option- Sara Batey

- Anna Villatoro introduced Sara Batey, Parent Spotlight presenter, as well as showing the members pictures of families were able to experience the Charter Bus up to Carson City, provided by SNECAC. Sara Batey and her family enjoyed seeing the legislation sessions and learning how the Government structure works.
- Sara Batey described her experience with the members, sharing that her first day as a mom her son would not stop crying.
    - The nurse told her to put baby down
    - The Social Security office sent his card with the name spelled wrong
    - Child care they chose did not pass licensing and could not provide care
    - Mom was laid off after 3 days back.
    - Baby needed surgery and was not able to get in until 14 months old.
    - son was not keeping up with peers at the age of 18 months
    - he didn't not qualify even though he needed some help.

  - She is not allowed to access her sons medical record's as she is not on the insurance.
- Tiffany Alston shared meanings of Acronyms used:
  - NEIS: Nevada Early Intervention Services, ENT: Ear Nose Throat Doctor
- Sara Bates would like for licensing to check the daily sheets to see what happens during the day.
- Anna Villatoro thanked Sara Bates and explained this is why we have the Parents Voice
- Janeese Black thanked Sara Bates and described she has a similar story
- Dr. Dianne Nicolet brought up this be an example of the needs of SB82, having the intention offering the services together for families and having an office that will report to proper authorities
- Tiffany Alston thanked Sara Bates and asked Anna Villatoro to share the link for the upcoming events

7. ECAC Vacant Seats, Membership Renewal Process and Recruitment Planning *(Discussion, Informational)*
The Council heard renewals, reviewed how to apply/ renew ECAC Membership and plan action steps for recruitment.
Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist
- Tiffany invited Sabrina Jones and Brandi Hearst to share the information with the members.
- Sabrina Jones let members know to email and let her know if they are renewing or not so we can recruit for a members as needed, shared the Seats that are open as of now and we will be receiving updates application status, described the proper steps to apply as a member, the process can take up to 3 months.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet shared that the membership application has the wrong mailing address it is now:
  1 State of Nevada Way, Las Vegas, NV 89119
- Tiffany asked if there are any Northern NV Notary Services that are free.
- Dr. Diane Nicolet brought up Notary is free through banks
- Stephanie Vega also mentioned that her bank offers it for free as does University of Nevada, Reno.
- Tiffany Alston thanked everyone for their information

8. Free Notary Service brought to you by **Sunrise Children's Foundation.**
Members in the Las Vegas Area can receive a free notary service for their Nevada ECAC Membership Renewal. Appointments required, to schedule an appointment and for location information, contact Anna. Email: asosa@sunrisechildren.org
Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair
Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair
- Informational item for members use.

9. Data Dictionary Search Demonstration *(Discussion, Possible Action)* **15 min**
The Council discussed the new Data Dictionary Search capabilities .
Matthew Hoffman, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
Craig Moebus, DBDriven
- Matthew Hoffman described the Data Dictionary, which is to actually use the data collected, instead of having it sit in an EXCEL sheet.
- Craig Moebus shared the data base and how it would work for the State of Nevada and the data collected by NICRP
- Matthew Hoffman explained that we are wanting to keep the Data Dictionary and having the data public ESIDS for the Department of Education in the State of NV is a project that we are hoping to work towards
  - ESIDS Early Childhood Integrated Data System- Tracking data from 0-old age
- Patrice Gardner described if we don't have the data to back us, we cant prove the actual needs of the children of Nevada, and their families., data not stored, it would show visually
- Dr. Diane Nicolet- clarified that NO personal information adult or child is stored here
- Matthew Hoffman- Agreed that there is no PPI* stored

- Matthew Hoffman and the Nevada Department of Education wants to work closer with ECAC and integrate programs and systems using the data and showing the needs of the people
- Janeese Black- what is the sustainability of this since data is evolving
- Matthew Hoffman- DBDriven has projected the cost of maintaining and explained the more integrated we are, the more impotent it becomes, the easier it is to get funding for
- Janeese Black- Will the data be able to show correlations between the teacher prep programs and pay for high quality centers and showing the outcomes of the students?
- Matthew Hoffman described that the point is not to show results of academic scores but to show the experiences of the child and the family.
- Matthew Hoffman requested permission from General ECAC to launch the Data Dictionary Project.
- Tiffany Alston asked the Members if that would like to make a motion to approve
  - Dr. Diane Nicolet motioned to approve the Data Dictionary Launch
  - Elysa Arroyo seconds motion
  - Members voted, Motion carries with no opposition
- Tiffany Alston shared the meaning of the acronyms used:
  - QRIS-Quality Rating Improvement System
  - PPI- Personal Identifying Information
  - PDG- Preschool Development Grant
  - PIR- Program Information Report (Head Start Report used Nationwide)

10. Nevada Legislation Updates *(Discussion, Informational)* **7 min**

The Council updated on legislation from various sources and the members involved that have the possibility of affecting Nevada families and youth as well as Early Childhood System employees.

Dr. Jamelle Nance to share updates on current legislation and where SB82 and AB236 are at overall.

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Vice Chair

Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair

- Tiffany Alston invited Dr. Nance to share legislative updates
- Dr. Nance thanked everyone for making Children's Week at Legislation such a success
  - SB82- centered around Early Childhood Services (Systems). Sen Angie Taylor is interested in backing this bill.
  - Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) is offering a package to help others understand the bill before they get in front of the
  - legislation, waiting for the date to get SB82 heard before deadline of 4.11.25
  - Explained that all of the Early Childhood bills so far have passed the first step
  - Expect bill changes in verbiage s this always happens
  - AB 185- prohibits Hoa's from stopping Family home care from operating, Deetra Stewart presented her experience,
  - Denise Tanata co-presented on this bill as well as other providers and families, and a past assembly member called in
  - supporting this bill
  - AB 236- Assembly Board bill, ECAC is a board but ours is Federally mandated with Head Start, we aren't necessarily
  - targeting us but of course we are keeping our eye and ears open and will update out
  - BDR 16- Universal Pre-K is Senator backed, waiting to see if it moves forward
- Stephanie Vega asked about AB155 which is specific on class size, and wonders if we should be watching that one
- Dr. Nance will be looking into that bill and getting that information to Stephaine Vega via email. Dr. Nance invited everyone to the weekly meetings and offered help to anyone wanting to learn how to present their stories in legislation

11. Subcommittee Updates and Workplan *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **20 Minutes**

Discussed updates, recommendations and workplan progress from ECAC Subcommittees.

- **Executive Leadership** – Tiffany Alston and Patrice Gardner, Co-Chairs

- Patrice Gardner asked for volunteers for the NevAEYC table, email Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones if you can volunteer time
- Sabrina Jones shared the link for the partner report and asked for everyone to be sire to submit their reports and the new easier format, email Brandi Hearst if any problems with the form

- **Systems Alignment** – Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt, Co-Chairs
  - Abbey Bernhardt shared that they have been working on sector gaps and who we are missing in within the EC Systems representation of the ECAC
- **Communications and Engagement** – Dr. Jamelle Nance, Co-Chair
  - Dr. Jamelle Nance- shared there was no meeting in March, rescheduled for 4/08/25
- **Communication and Engagement Ad-Hoc** - Brianna Cambra & Dr. Jamelle Nance, Co-Chairs.
  - Dr. Jamelle Nance shared that the Ad-Hoc meeting this week centered around aligning the Data and Communication Subcommittees and Communication Subcommittee being the piece to bring in the people representing the gaps found from the Data Subcommittee and getting their involvement. Also seeing the families being more involved and asking their input on what is accessible or not, and how to best communicate with the families
- **Policy and Finance** – Elysa Arroyo and Denise Tanata, Co- Chairs
  - Elyse Arroyo shared that the new Co-Chair is Denise Tanata, and they have been working on finding the sources of funding and completing the Statewide template

12. State Agency and Partner Summary Report Updates *(Information/Discussion)***20-25 minutes**

Nevada Local ECAC's, Nevada ECAC partners along with Nevada Early Childhood System Agencies And Programs had opportunity to briefly share an update of relevant progress, new initiatives, services and upcoming challenges 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

- Tiffany Alston invited partners to share their updates and reports.

Nevada Local ECAC

- Southern Nevada, Amanda Haboush-Deloye and Smriti Neupane shared that NICRP hosted 8th Children's Week with the theme related to the over all well-being of children, provided the charter bus with 32 families and summary will be distributed next week.

Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

- **Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD), Patti Oya**
  - PDG B-5 Grant, Rachel Stepina, Kate Pflueghoft
    - Kate Pflueghoft shared that the Preschool essential packs for students starting kindergarten in 2026 to help children be prepared to start school
    - Stephnie Vega thanked Kate for the kits and described all of the materials in the kits which helped her families last year.
    - NevAEYC = Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH), Tami Conn
  - Tami Conn shared that Title V block grant needs assessment survey is coming out for public and professionals available in several languages, share with your networks, the company is Alterim, it will be the name of the email it is not spam.

Nevada ECAC Early Childhood Partnering Agencies and Programs

- Nevada Child Care Provider Committee (CCPAC), Carrie Paldi and Lela Gonzales
  - Lela Gonzalez shared her experience at legislation AB 185 in legislation brought up CCDF state investment funding and Universal Pre-K being advanced and thanked NICRP for their support as well as Pyramid Model, Janice Lee

Shared Opportunities for All

- Share opportunities of: Funding, Grant, Training, Workshops, Events, Conferences Professional Development, or Outreach
- NDE Department of Teaching and Learning information from Janeese Black: Literacy leads and trainers have a training session April 9, 10 and 11- 9-1pm
- Tiffany Alston shared March 31 - April 2- Region 9 Head start association is hosting a conference on Early Childhood STEM at Red Rock Las Vegas

13. Agenda Items for May 21, 2025 VIRTUAL Meeting *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **5 minutes**

Council discussed agenda items for meeting on May 21, 2025

Tiffany Alston, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Chair

Patrice Gardner, Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council, Vice Chair

- Tiffany Alston reminded members May 21, 2025 is an EVENING meeting Virtual only and explained why we have 2 evening meetings
- Abbey Bernhardt wants to add NAMI Western in Carson City NV has had 8-year-old children texting for help with their needs of the children reaching out for help. Laura@namiwesternnevada.org
- Matthew Hoffman- placeholder for Data dictionary updates, email him to confirm

14. Upcoming Meetings *(Informational only)* **0 min**

- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee: 3.20.25 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment Subcommittee: 3.26.25 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership Subcommittee: 4.01.25, 11:00am
- Policy and Finance Subcommittee: 4.10.25, 1:00pm
- Communications and Engagement Ad Hoc: 4.15.25 1:30pm
- Communication and Engagement: 5.13.25, 9:00am
- General ECAC Meeting 5.21.25, 5:30pm-7:30pm VIRTUAL ONLY

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

Public comment 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 three minutes.

- Deetra Stewart gave a shout out to CAA for their assistance to help others lift their voices and sharing their stories
- Anna Villatoro thanked Tiffany Alston for her leadership and her intentional sharing of acronyms

16. Adjournment

Tiffany Alston adjourned meeting at 11:11am

3 Action Steps:

1. Brandi Hearst to reach out to Matthew Hoffman for agenda information for May
2. Members to email Sabrina if renewing or resigning from membership
3. Members to email Brandi Hearst or Sabrina Jones if they can volunteer for NevAEYC conference table

One Sentence Summary: The General ECAC approved the Databases Launch proposal from Data And Evaluation Subcommittee with Matthew Hoffman of NDE, heard workplan updates and progress from other Subcommittees and were updated on both legislative sessions and Child Care subsidy plans.