Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council
Starting Early is Starting Right on Time

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Executive Leadership Subcommittee Public Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, Time: 11:00am.-12:30pm

Virtual Meeting ID 874 7306 4118 Passcode: 931429

Attendance

Members' Present

- Tiffany Alston, Executive Leadership/Policy and Finance Co- Chair
- Patrice Gardner, Executive Leadership Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Tiffany Olivas, Family Leadership and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Brianna Cambra, Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Marty Elquist, Data Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Data Subcommittee Co-chair
- Dr. Jamelle Nance, Communication and Engagement Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair

Members Not Present

- Dr. Jerek Hough, Workforce Development Co-Chair
- Jamie Mendez, Workforce Development Co-Chair

Members of the Public

- Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Coordinator, NDE, Office of Early Leader and Development
- Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Manager, NDE, Office of Early Learning and Development
- Anna Whitehead, Community Member
- Brooke Yarborough, Social Services Chief 2, Nevada Department of Health & Human Services
- Alexis Marin, Community Member
- Maddison Practor, Community Member
- Anna Villatoro, Family Leadership and Engagement Subcommittee Member, The Children Cabinet
- Kathy Yoder Bass, Non-profit Provider, ECAC Member
- Sabrina Petrel, Community member

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- Patrice Gardner welcomed attendees and called the Executive Leadership Subcommittee meeting to order.
- Sabrina Jones conducted roll call and shared the attendance link for participants.

2. Public Comment #1

- Patrice Gardner opened the first public comment period for matters appearing on the agenda.
- No public comment was offered.

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (For Possible Action)

- Tiffany Alston moved to approve a flexible agenda.
- Denise Tanata seconded the motion.
- The motion carried with no opposition.

4. Approval of July 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

- Members were given an opportunity to identify edits or corrections to the July 7, 2026, meeting minutes; no corrections were requested.
- Brianna Cambra moved to approve July 7, 2026, meeting minutes.
- Tiffany Olivas seconded the motion.
- The motion carried with no opposition or abstention.

5. Co-Chair Report

- Patrice Gardner announced that the ECAC Systems Coordinator position had been filled and welcomed Sabrina Jones in the role.
- Tiffany Alston raised the need to revisit the Executive Leadership Subcommittee's annual meeting calendar and consider whether one summer meeting should be omitted because the Subcommittee meets monthly.

6. Subcommittee Updates

- Data Subcommittee: Marty Elquist reported that the Subcommittee discussed technical assistance from EC Data Lab to support development of an early childhood integrated data system and implementation of ECAC Strategic Plan activities. The next Data meeting was identified as August 20, 2026.
- Policy and Finance Subcommittee: Denise Tanata reported that the Subcommittee moved to monthly meetings due to increased policy activity. Recent work included reviewing early childhood governance history, refining the work plan, and identifying opportunities to coordinate recommendations and activities with other ECAC subcommittees.
- Workforce Development Subcommittee: No update was provided; the Workforce Development Co-Chairs were not present.
- Communication and Engagement Subcommittee: Dr. Jamelle Nance and Brianna Cambra reported work plan updates, plans to restart the ECAC Facebook presence, development of a social media planning tool, and preparation for transition and internal training related to management of the ECAC website. Laura Brown was recognized for stepping into the Subcommittee secretary role.
- Family Leadership and Engagement Subcommittee: Tiffany Olivas reported that the July meeting was not held due to lack of quorum. She noted the need for a Co-Chair and recognized Darby Porter as the new secretary. Tiffany Alston reported that Zepporah Cousins, an Early Head Start parent, had expressed interest in serving as Co-Chair and she would be connecting with Tiffany Olivas.

7. Executive Leadership Subcommittee Work Plan (Review and Discussion)

- Patrice Gardner lead the review of activities aligned with Strategic Plan Objective 1.3, focused on strengthening ECAC organizational capacity and infrastructure.
- The restructuring and onboarding of the Workforce Development and Family Leadership and Engagement Subcommittees were considered substantially complete.
- The ECAC Bylaws revision was considered complete. Follow-up regarding the Council seat list and Boards and Commissions remains ongoing.
- Members discussed development of an ECAC historical timeline/archive to document Council milestones, accomplishments, contributions, and growth.

- Patrice Gardner and Sabrina Jones will begin a first draft using existing records and the Strategic Plan, with input from long-standing partners to identify missing history.
- Denise Tanata emphasized the need to identify collaboration opportunities, crossover, and possible duplication among individual subcommittee work plans.
- The next step is to develop a broader master work plan or similar tool that provides an at-a-glance view of activities across subcommittees and helps identify shared work and collaboration opportunities.

8. Governor's Workforce Development Board Subcommittee Update

- Brianna Cambra reported that there were no new updates because the group had not met and the Child Care Subcommittee had not yet convened.
- Child Care Subcommittee planning included:
- The Chair had previously indicated plans to organize a meeting in October.
- The planned meeting would include local policy makers and participants from the February group.
- Brianna Cambra will follow up near the end of the month if a scheduling notice has not been received.

9. Planning Agenda Items for the September Meeting

- Brianna Cambra discussed adding a periodic review of the sectors represented across ECAC subcommittees to the Executive Leadership work plan, potentially as a biannual activity.
- Patrice Gardner discussed identifying legislative partners and coordinating this work with the Policy and Finance Subcommittee as the legislative session approaches.
- Denise Tanata reported that Policy and Finance planned to review the initial draft list and committee recommendations and had begun identifying legislators whose work may align with ECAC priorities.
- Patrice Gardner and Denise Tanata agreed to keep the next agenda item broadly titled 'Legislative Updates.'
- Members may send additional proposed agenda items to Patrice Gardner or Sabrina Jones before the next meeting.

10. Member Updates and Share-Out

- Marty Elquist reported that The Children's Cabinet submitted an HRSA grant application focused on early childhood comprehensive systems coordination, including continued work on a universal application and developmental screening.
- Denise Tanata reported that the Nevada Ready Pre-K Common Application launched in July and requested ECAC support in increasing awareness among partners. Members discussed the possibility of inviting a presenter to a future ECAC meeting to promote the application.
- Amanda Haboush Deloye noted the upcoming Step Up for Kids event in September.
- Dr. Jamelle Nance shared information about the Children's Advocacy Alliance Kids Count Data Breakfast in Reno and recognized early childhood nominees, including Marty Elquist and Rachel Stepina.

11. Public Comment #2

- Patrice Gardner opened the second public comment period for matters within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, control, or advisory authority.
- Marty Elquist shared an update on the Alternative Cost Methodology model:
- The model is complete and is intended to help childcare providers and policymakers understand the true cost of care.
- Marty Elquist announced the following:
- A training plan is being developed with Gina Capito and P5 Fiscal Strategies for childcare providers, advocates, community partners, and other stakeholders.

- Training announcements will be shared so stakeholders can learn how to use the tool and better understand the factors that drive quality and the true cost of care in Nevada.
- For Nevada Ready Pre-K providers, the tool can account for required quality criteria and help estimate the cost of providing a full-day option for working families.
- No additional public comment was offered.

12. Upcoming Meetings

- Patrice Gardner reminded members to review the upcoming ECAC meeting schedule and add applicable meetings to their calendars.

13. Adjournment

- Patrice Gardner thanked members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

Action Step Summary

- Patrice Gardner and Sabrina Jones: Develop a first draft of the ECAC historical timeline/archive using existing ECAC records and the Strategic Plan, then identify areas requiring additional historical input.
- Executive Leadership: Continue developing a master cross-subcommittee work plan/alignment tool to identify shared activities, collaboration opportunities, and duplication across subcommittees.
- Sabrina Jones: Add a periodic review of sector representation across ECAC subcommittees to the Executive Leadership work plan for future scheduling.
- Tiffany Alston: Connect Zepporah Cousins- Lee with Tiffany Olivas regarding the Family Leadership and Engagement Co-Chair opportunity.
- Brianna Cambra: Follow up with the Governor's Workforce Development Board Child Care Subcommittee Chair near the end of the month if an October scheduling notice has not been received.
- Policy and Finance / Executive Leadership: Coordinate on legislative partners and prepare a 'Legislative Updates' item for the next Executive Leadership meeting.
- ECAC/Communication and Engagement: Support outreach for the Nevada Ready Pre-K Common Application and consider a future ECAC presentation to increase awareness.
- Members: Send any additional proposed September agenda items to Patrice Gardner or Sabrina Jones.

Meeting Summary

The Executive Leadership Subcommittee approved its July minutes, reviewed progress across ECAC subcommittees and the Executive Leadership work plan, identified cross-subcommittee coordination and historical documentation as key next steps, and discussed legislative systems, funding, and outreach updates.