



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) Executive Leadership Subcommittee

Public Meeting

Tuesday, September 02, 2025

11:00am-12:30pm

“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 teleconference. To join [CLICK HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 874 7306 4118

Passcode: 931429

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MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call 7 min.

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

- Patrice Gardner called meeting to order at 11:06am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members' Present

1. Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
2. Cherry Clark, Nevada Early Intervention Services
3. Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
4. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
5. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
6. Amanda Haboush Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
7. Jerek Hough, District Manager, Source Academy
8. Dr. Jamel 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
11. Kathy Yoder-Bass, Provider Representative

Members Absent

1. Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
2. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Darby Porter, Nevada Library System

Public in Attendance

1. JoAnn Cox, Public Works
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. Octavia McLaurin, Child Care Owner
5. Kristen McNeil, Public Works
6. Linda Rhodes, Public Works
7. Rachel Stepina PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
8. Kate Verville, Public Works
9. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet

2. Public Comment #1 5 min.

Public Comment taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda.

- No Comment





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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

- Marty Elquist motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Kathy Yoder-Bass seconded the motion.
- Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved.

4. Minutes from August 05, 2025 (*Discussion for Possible Action*) **3 min.**

The Subcommittee approved August 05, 2025 Minutes

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

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye motioned to approve Minutes from July 01, 2025, meeting with above changes
- Tiffany Olivas seconded the motion
- Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved

5. Preparing for Transitions- Looking into Meeting Prep (*Discussion for Possible Action*) **10 min**

The Subcommittee reviewed public meeting tasks.

Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development

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

- Rachel Stepina shared the work that goes into streamlined meetings that Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones do behind the screen shared the meetings checklist and discussed that finding is being looked into but as of now there isn't an avenue of funding we need to discuss how to be proactive with strategies to move forward with all of the work and no funding for support.
- Denise Tanata, having been in a role before with taking minutes and creating agendas for ECAC, volunteered the Ad Hoc she co-chairs as the practice meeting for practicing the ins and outs of hosting a meeting and completing tasks that go along with it.

6. Strategic Plan Presentation (*Informational, Discussion*) **15-20 min**

Subcommittee was introduced to Public Works and heard their presentation.

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

With Kristen McNei, Linda Rhodes, JoAnn Cox, and Kate Everville of Public Works

- Patrice Gardner opened this item with a round robin so members could introduce themselves to Public Works
- Public Works gave a brief presentation for Strategic Planning, starting with their team member introductions.
- Conducting 2 Surveys
 - Community Stakeholders Survey (community members, family members, educators)
 - Internal Survey
- Main Goals:
 - Responsive to population
 - Family Engagement
 - Community Partners
 - Transparency
 - Process and timeline goes in order of Research, Assess Progress, forecasting, identify action steps
 - Community Engagement:
 - Leadership, first-hand experience, focus groups and workshops, surveys, early childhood, community, vision
- Actionable Strategic Plan is to be used as a guide to reach the goals of the Council.





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- Denise Tanata asked about NRS requirements and what our actual capacity is to be successful and accomplish the goals to keep things achievable.
- Public Works asked what we would consider successful?
 - Denise Tanata said systems focused, and achievable goals
 - Marty Elquist added advancing roles of a comprehensive Early Childhood System for Nevada, who is ECAC and not losing sight of best practices or roles and responsibility
 - Patrice Gardner noted that she liked the ease of using the Work Plan and user friendly parts for everyone
- Public Works asked what would we want to change?
 - Marty Elquist- identify better strategies to address challenges, things were paused because we "ran out of time" but was the actual reason?
 - Anna Villatoro would like to see simpler ways for Families to be engaged and including them more
 - Rachel Stepina added for families to be decision makers intentionally
 - Patrice Gardner added not only families, but having the State decision makers such as Policy makers and Legislation as they are making decisions on funding and not knowing anything about the Early Childhood System of Nevada
 - Amanda Haboush Deloye- include the local Council to align and meet the ECAC goals as Southern Nevada Local ECAC Organizer I don't know how to fit in or move the mission forward.
- Patrice Gardner- with no funding, we need some level of funding as we need admin support

7. Strategic Planning Survey Results (*Discussion for Possible Action*) **15 min**

The Subcommittee reviewed Strategic Planning Survey responses

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

- Patrice Gardner and Brandi Hearst discussed the results with the members of the subcommittee to show what weeks were best for the majority of who opted to complete the survey.
- The Best Week is October 1-5; however, the results of the surveys and interviews being conducted will be available after middle of October. The second best week would be October 20-26, and the Third Week would be 10/27 through 10/30, in which there are no ECAC meetings, and the reporting will be finished.
- Public Works agreed to lead the retreat
- After discussions THE FOLLOWING WAS DECIDED:

Dates of Retreat:

October 29 and October 30

Location:

- First option: Sunrise Children's Foundation
- Second option: Amanda Haboush Deloye offered UNLV/NICRP up to 50 people, may not be big enough, is parking an issue?
- Third option: Kathy Yoder Bass offered her school which has easy access to hybrid options- The Hills Preschool in North Las Vegas
- Brandi Hearst to send out Save The Date with all of the details
- Times will be chosen in coming weeks

8. Subcommittee Activity Updates (*Discussion for Possible Action*) **10 min**

Each Subcommittee had option to discuss their successes.

- **Executive Leadership:** Tiffany Alston & Patrice Gardner
 - Patrice Gardner reminded everyone of 5:30-7:30pm ECAC Meeting and clarified that we are able to again do incentives





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- **Systems Alignment:** Tiffany Olivas and Abbey Bernhardt- no update
- **Data and Evaluation:** Amanda Haboush-Deloye and Marty Elquist
 - Marty Elquist shared
 - Grateful for working with Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development
 - Linking our data to a longitude online system
 - Working on Data Dictionary: Early Childhood System, policy leaders, components of early childhood data, why collecting data is important, how will data be used
- **Policy and Finance:** Elysa Arroyo and Denise Tanata
 - Denise Tanata let members know that they are working towards formulating their policy recommendations
 - Policy survey out
 - Need more General ECAC members as we only have 4 , 32 total responses
 - The Ad Hoc met for the first time to go over the Funding Matrix
 - Have only 3 month of meetings scheduled with a November 2025 completion date.
 - We are hoping to use this to advocate for funding where needed
- **Communication and Engagement:** Dr. Jamelle Nance- no update

9. First Five Nevada Family Leadership Council (*Informational, Discussion*) **10 min.**

The Subcommittee heard updates regarding Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council.

Ashley Dines, Anna Villatoro and Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet

- Ashley Dines announces Adrianna Lemus will join our Parent Spotlight for General ECAC on 9.17.25, updates in Partner Summary Report

10. First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests (*Discussion for Possible Action*) **5 min.**

Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair

- Nothing to report, we will have reports for next month

11. Agenda Items for October 07, 2025 (*Discussion and Possible Action*) **5 min.**

Subcommittee members added to the October Executive Leadership Agenda.

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

- Keep agenda item #5 as continuing discussion
- Transition discussion with funding update
- Rachel Stepina added Strategic planning. Public Works agenda item, 20-30 minutes

12. Upcoming Meetings (*Informational*) **0 min**

- Communication and Engagement 9.09.25, 9:00am
- Policy and Finance: 9.11.25, 1:00pm
- Communication Ad-Hoc: 9.16.25, 1:30pm
- Data and Evaluation: 9.18.25, 1:00pm
- Policy and Engagement: 9.24.25, 10:00am
- Systems Alignment: 9.24.25, 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership: 10.07.25, 11:00am
- **General ECAC: 9.17.25, 5:30pm- Virtual Only**





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- New Member Orientation: 10.14.25 1pm **Register Online:** <https://forms.gle/zNZ3z7Me5r3n7xRk6>

13. Member Updates and Share-Outs (*Discussion, Informational*), 5 min

Members of this Subcommittee made announcements to the ECAC.

- Amanda Haboush Deloye shared events:
 - 9.11.25 Open House celebrating their new space at NICRP
 - 9.30.25 at the Tuscany- Family Keds events, families leading all sessions
 - 10.11.25 Step Up For kids, Child Mayor applications are now open

14. Public Comment #2 (*Discussion, Informational*), 6 min

Public Comment taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Subcommittee's control or advisory power.

- No comment

15. Adjournment

- Patrice Gardner adjourned meeting at 12:38pm

3 Action Items

- Brandi Hearst to send invites and a graphic to network for the incentive program and General ECAC meeting.
- Subcommittees to write a letter to ask for funding and demonstrate the need for funding
- Brandi Hearst to send the Members of ECAC and Subcommittees an invite to the retreat once all details are final, by 9.22.25

One Sentence Summary: The Executive Leadership Subcommittee discussed and reviewed the Retreat survey results, met and heard a presentation from the next strategic planning vendor, public works, heard the task list for running just one public meeting, and was given homework to have each subcommittee write a letter requesting funds and explaining why it is needed.

