



**Nevada Early Childhood
Advisory Council**
Policy & Finance Ad Hoc Committee
Public Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
10:00am-11:00am

“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.”

Meeting Location: Meeting is held using TEAMS, join us [HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 236 647 067 343 6 **Passcode:** Jj9AE6zH

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Denise Tanata and Kathy Yoder-Bass, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs

- Denise Tanata welcomed the members and started meeting at 10:03 am
- Denise Tanata conducted roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
2. Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
3. Kathy Yoder Bass, Child Care Provider
4. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
5. Lela Gonzales, Project Coordinator, The Children's Cabinet
6. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

1. Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education

2. Public Comment #1

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 Co-Chairs may impose a time limit of three minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Committee’s jurisdiction, control, or advisory power.

- No comment

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

The Committee approved a flexible agenda.

Denise Tanata and Kathy Yoder-Bass, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs

- Kathy Yoder-Bass motioned for a Flexible Agenda
- Lela Gonzales seconded motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

4. Approval of an August 22, 2025 Minutes *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

The Committee approved August 22, 2025 Minutes

Denise Tanata and Kathy Yoder-Bass, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs





- Denise Tanata asked if any corrections or edits were needed to the minutes.
- Lela Gonzales requested to edit the minutes to correct the spelling of her last name from “Gonzalez” to “Gonzales” throughout the document.
- Tiffany Olivas noted that Lela’s name was missing from the list of “Members Present” and requested to edit the document to include Lela under the list of members present at the meeting.
- Tiffany Olivas motioned for approval of the minutes from August 22, 2025 with the corrections noted to add Lela Gonzales to the list of Member Present and correct the spelling of Lela’s last name throughout the document.
- Kathy Yoder-Bass seconded the motion
- Members voted unanimously, motion carries

5. Funding Matrix (Discussion for Possible Action)

Committee progressed on Funding Matrix.

Denise Tanata and Kathy Yoder-Bass, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs

- Members discussed progress on getting the updated information for the matrix, as delegated during the August meeting
- Tiffany Olivas shared that she reached out to several representatives at The Children’s Cabinet and affiliated partners to request budget information and impact statements.
 - Information was requested and received for the Child Care Telehealth Benefits Program and the Child Care Employer Capacity Building Program.
 - She is waiting on responses for the Early Childhood Community Health Worker Program and the Nevada Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association.
 - Already provided them with a deadline of October 30th to submit the requested information for inclusion.
- Denise Tanata reported that she is working on updating all of the fiscal numbers for all other programs provided by The Children’s Cabinet, including the childcare subsidy program
 - some information collected,
 - still needs to enter it into the matrix.
 - Childcare subsidy program changed funding dates for FY25 -
 - moving from a state fiscal year to a federal fiscal year,
 - will need to do some calculations to align with the matrix.
- Lela Gonzales reported that she and Jamie Mendez were reaching out to Robin Marx-Mackerly at NevAEYC to get information for the Child Care Provider Stipends Program.
 - Lela will follow up on the request.
 - Kathy Yoder-Bass added that she recalled the amount for that program being \$8 million in the first round and \$11 million in the second round. Lela Gonzales responded that they are trying to determine if those amounts also included FTEs.
 - Rachel Stepina clarified that the purpose for including this program is to show historic utilization of funds since this program is currently not receiving any funding.
 - Denise Tanata confirmed and added that part of what we are trying to demonstrate is that there were a lot of ARPA funded programs that were eliminated which benefited families and providers, and what impact the loss of those cuts were.
- Rachel Stepina provided an update on the ECILP Literacy grants since Jamie Mendez was not able to attend the meeting.
 - reported that they have the FY24 numbers and clarified that they are able to input the information directly into the Matrix,
 - Explained that ECILP grants were allocated in the 2025 Legislative Session a
 - Committee discussed how to present that information in the Matrix.
- Lela Gonzales provided an update on the UNR Extension Workforce Development Program and the Home Visiting program.



- Confirmed that the Workforce Development Program was part of the PDG funded projects
 - Rachel confirmed that it is a PDG project, not a continuation of ARPA.
 - It is partially CCDF funded as well.
 - The matrix was updated to allow for the multiple funding streams.
 - Denise Tanata also clarified that the funding amounts should be broken out into state fiscal year amounts under the appropriate column on the matrix.
 - Rachel Stepina offered to assist with getting the numbers for the PDG funded projects.
- Denise Tanata also pointed out that we can provide notes for any specific funding consideration in last column.
- Rachel Stepina also provided an update for the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) program, including changes from the 2025 session that includes funding for the KEA.
- Denise Tanata asked about inclusion of the Language Access Program and whether that needs to be included on the Priority 1 list.
- Rachel Stepina clarified that there are two programs which are funded by PDG. S
 - United Way of Southern Nevada had a program that was funded with federal resources, but that funding has ended.
 - Clarified that the Office of New Americans provides support for state agencies and that this work may be able to continue with the Department of Education.
 - will include notes for the matrix on this program.
- Rachel Stepina added that there are still several PDG programs that are not included on the matrix.
- Denise Tanata responded that Rachel Stepina can add those programs directly into the document or provide Committee with the information to add.
- The Ad Hoc Committee members discussed technical logistics for determining how to allocate funding across fiscal years, particularly for programs that have funding streams that do not align with the state fiscal year.
 - Committee confirmed that we are focusing on getting state fiscal year data, as available or practical
 - Will note any issues, including estimations, in the notes column.
- The Ad Hoc Committee discussed the potential of including other home visiting programs, not just the one from UNR which is being funded, partially, through PDG.
- Denise Tanata will reach out to the home visiting programs listed on First 5 Nevada to see if they have information to share.
- Kathy Yoder-Bass also asked about including the Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
 - Will conduct outreach to see if she can get the required information.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will review what can, and what cannot, be included in the matrix - based on availability of data - at the next meeting.
 - Denise Tanata will add an additional sheet on the matrix to add programs that may be at risk.

6. Committee to pick new October Meeting Date *Discussion for Possible Action)*

Committee picked new date to reschedule 10.29.25 meeting.

Denise Tanata and Kathy Yoder-Bass, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs

- The October meeting was rescheduled from October 29th, which conflicts with the ECAC Strategic Planning Retreat, to October 20th at 8:30am.

7. Agenda Items for next meeting on new October 2025 date *(Discussion, Informational)*

The Committee added to October 2025 agenda

Denise Tanata and Kathy Yoder-Bass, Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs

- Continue Agenda Item #5 - Funding Matrix, including a review of which programs may need to be removed due to a lack of data.
- Review priorities for PDG application, aligned with EC Funding Matrix - Rachel Stepina (20 minutes)



8. Public Comment #2 (*Discussion for Possible Action*)

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 included on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Committee Co-Chair will impose a time limit of three minutes.

- No comment

9. Adjournment

- Denise Tanata adjourned meeting at 11:05 am