Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
Executive Leadership Subcommittee
Public Meeting
Tuesday, August 05, 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 **Can't log in to Zoom?** Click HERE for directions

Meeting 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 the meeting to order at 11:12am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members' Present
1. Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
2. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Cherry Clark, Nevada Early Intervention Services
4. Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
5. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
6. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
7. Amanda Haboush Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
8. Derek Hough, District Manager, Source Academy
9. Dr. Jamel Nance, Communication and Engagement Co- Chair
10. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co-Chair

Members Absent
1. Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
2. Darby Porter, Nevada Library System
3. Donya Segoviano, Business Process Analyst III, Division of Welfare & Supportive Services
4. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet
5. Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative

Public in Attendance
1. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Sabrina Jones, ECAC System Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Rachel Stepina PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
4. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
5. Candace L. Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services

2. Public Comment #1 5 min.
Public Comment 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 two minutes. Public Comment #2 will provide an opportunity for public comment on any matter within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction, control, or advisory power.
- No Comment

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min.**
The Subcommittee approved a flexible agenda. The Subcommittee 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 at any time during the ECAC Executive Leadership Subcommittee Meeting Agenda.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
- Tiffany Alston motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Abbey Bernhardt seconded the motion.
- Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved.

4. Minutes from July 01, 2025 *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min.**
The Subcommittee approved July 01, 2025, Minutes
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
- Tiffany Olivas let members know two corrections were needed which were:
  - Add last name to Tiffany on Agenda Item #5, 9th bullet
  - North spelled wrong at Agenda Item #11
- Tiffany Alston motioned to approve Minutes from July 01, 2025, meeting with above changes
- Ashley Dines seconded the motion
- Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved

5. Strategic Planning Retreat Survey (Discussion, for Possible Action)
The Subcommittee members shared availability to join the Strategic Planning Retreat this Fall using Menti survey.
Link: https://www.menti.com/alsweqmdp4pe
Code: 1157 6432
Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator & Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist
- Subcommittee reviewed results of the survey and discussed that there were many members who were not able to complete the survey due to technical issues.
- Brandi Hearst offered to have members email the dates they are not available, and she can add the dates manually to the results
- Patrice Gardner suggested having a new survey, perhaps a doodle poll, with just the dates and resend to all members
- Amanda Haboush Deloye also agreed that we should resend the poll and resend quickly so that we have enough time as it is August and Retreat could be September or October 2025.
- After Discussions it was decided for Brandi Hearst to create a Survey or Doodle Poll after the meeting and send to Executive Leadership members to do the dates they can or cannot attend, then to send the same poll/survey to the rest of the subcommittee's members and General ECAC Members by Friday August 8th, 2025 using the top 3 dates picked by the Leadership Subcommittee as the options for the Retreat. Members to complete before the end of the month. Brandi Hearst to go to each subcommittee meeting ready to facilitate the survey as needed in August.

6. Strategic Planning *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **10 min**
The Subcommittee continues discussing strategic planning preparations to be ready to move forward and review Menti results from this Subcommittee.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair
- Patrice Gardner asked Rachel Stepina if there are any updates to the Strategic Planning and the Vendor situation
- Rachel Stepina has no additional updates from NDE, reminded the members that we are going to need to move forward and continue Strategic Planning on each of the agendas in the Subcommittees to record the information discussed and move forward even without the vendors present as we wait
- Rachel Stepina will be looking into the amount of time the Retreat will be happening, 1 day or 2 days, etc.

7. Annual Report Plan & Policy Priority Discussion (*Discussion for Possible Action)* **10 min**
The Subcommittee discussed planning of the 2025 Annual Report, prepare for upcoming discussions regarding the Nevada ECAC Policy Priorities and ECAC Subcommittees to identify system-level issues they have encountered in relation to making progress toward their Subcommittee's specific goals and objectives.
Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Sabrina Jones led the conversation and reviewed the Proactive policy Priorities and introduced the members to the plan that the Policy Subcommittee is looking into for the Annual Reporting, Policy and Finance Subcommittee is putting together a list of recommendations to present to the General ECAC to be included in our report, including us waiting to get the legislators too understand Early Childhood better and get them to know the key issues and have a stronger voice in the 2027 sessions.
    - Get these key issues on their radar during the interim, through meetings.
    - The timeline to get information is between now and Sept 2025
    - Each subcommittee meeting to identify key issues and barriers.
    - The Co-Chairs of the Policy and finance subcommittee will be leading this agenda item at each of the meetings,
- Patrice Gardner summarized the above information for members to digest
- Denise is offering to attend all subcommittee meetings to lead this item and engage with each each of the subcommittees
- Identify topics/items they would like to have added to our annual report.
- Allows bill draft development
- Goal is to establish an office, a department, anything focused on early childhood.

8. First Five Nevada Family Leadership Council *(Informational, Discussion)* **10 min.**
The Subcommittee heard the work of the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council.
Ashley Dines, Anna Villatoro and Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet

- Tiffany Olivas shared with the members about the Family Leadership group and their feedback using a rubric on how they felt the Nevada ECAC subcommittee meetings they attended within the last months were going from their perspectives. Some of the feedback included having the minutes and agendas linked in the chat for easy access, the Co-Chairs being flexible and welcoming, and parents needing the documents to view even though screen shared, as they do not know where they are or the website information if they are new to ECAC.
- Tiffany Olivas brought up the information from the past "hybrid" type of meetings that we have had to make new tools to see how we can reach more families in easier ways
- Tiffany Alston wants to include the rubric in New Member Orientation and use it for New Co-Chairs.

9. Early Childhood Research Brief Newsletter Topics *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **10 min.**
The Subcommittee reviewed topics for the Early Childhood Research Briefs Newsletter and identify additional topics and/or adjust the current list.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Anna Villatoro suggested adding healthy cooking classes for families to attend, such as the ones at UNR
- Patrice Gardner liked that idea and brought up the current administration's support of healthy eating
- Rachel Stepina brought to the Subcommittee's attention that they can add to the ECAC announcements

10. First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **5 min.**
The Subcommittee will discuss the monthly Inclusion Request Report and review any requests, as needed.
Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
Tabled for next meeting

11. Agenda Items for September 02, 2025, Executive Leadership Meeting *(Discussion and Possible Action)* **5 min.**
Subcommittee members discussed items to add to the September Executive Leadership Agenda.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Sabrina Jones suggested adding the administrative tasks start being discussed and involving members to delegate the activities to.
- Patrice Gardner thanked Sabrina Jones and described the coordination and tasks that are done now and how we want to shift these tasks to the Co-Chairs and how to be realistic about that view.
- Tiffany Alston wants to add "Plan B" with the Strategic Planning updates

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

- New Member Orientation: 8.12.25 1:00pm-2:30pm via Zoom
  - **Register Online: https://forms.gle/zNZ3z7Me5r3n7xRk6**
- Policy and Finance: 8.14.25, 1:00pm
- Communication Ad-Hoc: 8.19.25, 1:30pm
- Data and Evaluation: 8.21.25, 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment: 8.27.25, 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership: 9.02.25, 11:00am
- Communication and Engagement 9.09.25, 9:00am
- **General ECAC: 9.17.25, 5:30pm- Virtual Only**
- New Member Orientation: 10.14.25 11-12:30pm
  - **Register Online: https://forms.gle/zNZ3z7Me5r3n7xRk6**

13. Member Updates and Share-Outs *(Discussion, Informational),* **5 min**
To keep the Public Comment agenda item specific as a public space to comment, Members of The ECAC and/or its Subcommittee have this agenda item for announcements or items to share with the members and the Council.
Patrice Gardner advised members that WestEd may be reaching out to get feedback on revisions of Infant Toddler Guidelines

- Amanda Haboush Deloye announced on 9.11.25 at 8:30am Nevada Institute for Children and some of the centers under the School of Public Health moved into a new space, still on the UNLV campus, but, um, it's a...
- Tiffany Olivas shared the Sector survey results not being well received, asks the subcommittee if they prefer that Tiffany Olivas and/or Brandi Hearst get the members to complete the survey at the beginning of each meeting or if they prefer us to complete the chart and then get feedback later if changes are needed.
- Brandi Hearst offered to add Sector Survey to each Subcommittee Agenda adding if Tiffany Olivas cannot make the meeting Brandi Hearst can help facilitate that item and noted that the Sectors are also already listed on the Subcommittee Application as well as the New Member Orientation
- Dr. Nance shared the Communication Engagement Subcommittee as well as the Communication Ad Hoc have been working hard with the PMA group

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 action may be taken on the 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.

- No Comment

15. Adjournment

- Patrice Gardner adjourned meeting at 12:32pm

- 3 Action Items
  - Brandi Hearst to create an email Poll or Survey for Retreat Dates to Executive Leadership members after meeting as Menti did not work well
  - Brandi Hearst to email all subcommittee members the Sector Survey no later than Friday
  - Brandi Hearst to add to each agenda item the Sector Survey and help facilitate if Tiffany Olivas or Abbey Bernhardt can't make it.

- One Sentence Summary: The Subcommittee discussed the strategic plan retreat, dates the members could or could not make it, the technical difficulty Menti caused and solutions, as well as discussing the Sector Surveys from Systems Alignment, the Early Childhood Research Brief topics the members agreed to and the First Five Leadership Rubric being used.