Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
Executive Leadership Subcommittee
Public Meeting
Tuesday, July 01, 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.com. CLICK HERE to join

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 1:06 pm
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

Members' Present

1. Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
2. Cherry Clark, NEIS
3. Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
4. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Chair
5. Armanda Haboush Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
6. Derek Hough, District Manager Source Academy
7. Dr Jamel Nance, Communication and Engagement Co- Chair
8. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co Chair
9. Darby Porter, Nevada Library System
10. Denise Tanata, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Advisor, The Children's Cabinet

Members Absent

1. Elysa Arroyo, Policy and Finance Co-Chair
2. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Marty Elquist, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
4. Dona Segoviano, Business Process Analyst III, Division of Welfare & Supportive Services
5. Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative

Public in Attendance

1. Nayesdi Badillo, Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Jamie Mendez, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
4. Dana Preece, B-3 Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
5. Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
7. Candace L. Vaughn, Department of Child and Family Services
8. Patty West, Employer Support Program, 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 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.

- Denise Tanata requested to skip Agendas Item #7 as she did not submit the report to discuss.

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

- Ashley Dines motioned to approve a flexible agenda
- Amanda Haboush Deloye seconded the motion.
- Members voted, motion passes, flexible agenda approved.

4. Minutes from May 06, 2025 (Discussion for Possible Action) **3 min.**
The Subcommittee approved May 06, 2025, Minutes
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Darby Porter motioned to approve Minutes from May 06, 2025, Meeting
- Amanda Haboush Deloye seconded the motion
- Members voted, Motion passes, Flexible Agenda approved

5. Strategic Planning Preparation (Discussion for Possible Action) **10 min**
The Subcommittee discussed and prepared for the 2025-2027 Strategic Planning Vendor.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Patrice let members know we have a vendor in line, and we want official paperwork to announce.
- We want to be ready to move forward, so we are offering brainstorming to generate priorities and identify specifics for planning.
- Tiffany Alston suggests moving to agenda items 6,7,8 and 9 so that we can spend most of the time left planning.
    - Members followed Tiffany Alston's lead and came back to this agenda item around 11:25am.
- Members discussed times of the year for Strategic Planning retreat, deciding not to plan the retreat near any of the fall/winter holidays, leaning majority of the work to be done in Aug/Sept/Oct.
- It was decided to have Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones facilitate a survey at the beginning of every Subcommittee meeting to get date results on dates that most members can make it as well as who would like to attend,
- Denise Tanata wanted to be sure we accommodate the vendor and what they can do / what their needs are to prep and for fast turnaround and if they are even available on the date we request for the retreat.
- Tiffany Alston shared that the main thought is for September October timeframe and the vendors using existing meetings. spaces available to ECAC, July is reserved for documentation retrieval and uploading for background knowledge.
- Rachel Stepina brought upon the Las Vegas and Carson City Parent Summits' happening in September and shared that it may be a good time for us to request parent involvement, and to make sure we are checking out what else is happening on days we are looking at as to not duplicate events.
- Tiffany Alston suggests having a Norh location and a South location (possible Cooperative Extension or the new meeting space at NICRP for South meetings) along with virtual, brought up travel fund availability and if it is easier for travel from Reno to Vegas or Vegas to Reno?
- Denise Tanata recalled the last retreat where people traveled to Vegas as majority was in Southern /Nevada, lessening costs and agreed the virtual retreat option would be good for those people not able to attend but can be difficult engagement. Then, we want to hear their ideas and we will need facilitators to lead virtually.
- Tiffany made note that the Hybrid option would be one of toughest options and shared that Darby Porter posted in the chat that libraries have nice meeting spaces, then shared Sunrise Children's Foundation is another option.
- Tiffany Alston then asked a new question of who we should decide to invite to the retreat from our partners.

- Tiffany Alston first looked at Systems Alignment and Communication and Engagement Subcommittees for suggestions
- Tiffany Olivas suggested inviting Maternal Health professionals and large employers
- Tiffany Alston wants to add elected officials to the list of potential partners who aren't typically considered ECE
- Denise Tanata suggested having partners who are interested in doing a presentation, showing us their priorities, show them we want to hear their ideas and actually partner with them; then suggested to think about the engagement strategies why would they be coming to ECAC
- Dr. Nance brought Patagonia and said that they might have insight for implementation of family-friendly policies
- Tiffany Alston remembered having questions from last time that were asked by the members and asked Dr Nance if she might have access to those as we could try to use them again to help us navigate this.
- Amanda Haboush Deloye suggests working with The Children's Cabinet to learn how to bridge policy and family friendly practices, brainstorm and determine what we need to do, figure out what we want to gain and what's in it for the potential partners
- Darby Porter let the subcommittee know she has contacts in Lincoln County from a previous comment that we didn't have representatives so she is offering to reach out.
- 'Patty West offered to support by getting information from The Children's Cabinet
- Tiffany Olivas suggests gathering information separately from the potential partners, then consider their priorities when creating the strategic plan around that knowledge.
- Dana Preece has family in the Chamber of Commerce at Battle Mountain and will see if there is access to the directors
- Cherry Clark suggests we get the strategic plan done sooner rather than later.
- Rachel explains the request of collecting or brainstorming the priority documents as it would be helpful for the vendor to get to know the ECAC to better understand how to meet our needs and priorities.
- Tiffany Alston understood and asked the members to know this information; would we want to create an Ad Hoc or keep it in this Subcommittee?
- Denise Tanata says historically the Ad Hoc mostly reviewed applications and did minimal work and thinks we can do the work in this subcommittee.
- Patrice Gardner agrees to keep the Executive Leadership meeting as the "Ad Hoc" and not create an actual Ad Hoc.
- Tiffany Alston allowed members a chance to speak up, it was decided that Strategic Planning is a Standing Item.
- Review:
    - Identify Funds from PDG and how much
    - Identify Location
    - Talk about partners
    - Homework- Review of the RFP
    - Create Menti Survey (Brandi Hearst/Sabrina Jones)
- Dr Nance offers to support the "Elected Officials" portion
- Tiffany Alston wonders if we should have dates so we can get RSVPs in
- Denise Tanata reminds members that we need to have vendor and know vendor availability
- Rachel Stepina suggests gathering a range of Information like dates that work or don't work, travel funds needed
- Tiffany Alston asks the members what the big dream would be or asks for the ECAC to transform for bettering the ECE System
- Patrice Gardner says engagement from elected officials
- Denise Tanata said she also thinks its prioritization as the Early Childhood System is just BIG
- Tiffany Olivas says to get all core sectors across the state to believe in the ECAC or even know about it.
- Ashley Dines wants to see the families they have worked with start using their voice more within the ECAC
- Anna Villatoro agreed with Ashley Dines and having the families be a part of the meetings
- Dana Preece wants more rural engagement

- Tiffany Alston confirms and highlights the top 3 themes/requests:
  - Engagement
  - Funding
  - Leverage (power)
  - Asks: What do we need to MASTER
  - Asks: What do we need to MANAGE, to transform
- Patrice Gardner says to manage the ECAC, if we don't get funding, we have to look at how we're going to run without any admin support.
- Denise Tanata discusses the strategic planning process.
  - Looking at what we want to do,
  - What are the steps to get there?
  - Where do we need to start?
  - What is the role of ECAC versus other entities like the state agencies that are involved, the advocacy partners.
  - We might be just taking on more than we can handle right as a group.
  - the focus and capacity, and especially what the capacity *is going to be* of this group.
- Dr Nance suggests looking at what it will look like if we don't get into the Governor's office and what that could look like because we all have to work together.

6. F**irst Five Nevada Family Leadership Council** (*Informational, Discussion)* **10 min.**
The Subcommittee heard updates regarding the work of the Nevada Early Childhood Family Leadership Council.
Ashley Dines, Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet

- Ashley Dines announced that the month of July has two Parent Summits- one in Las Vegas and one in Elko, both have wait lists
- Next Meeting 8.21.25
- Hosting multiple orientations in July

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

- Item skipped at Denises Request

8. Early Childhood Research Briefs Newsletter Topics (Discussion for Possible Action) **10 min.**
The Subcommittee reviewed topics for the Early Childhood Research Briefs Newsletter.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Denise Tanata asked why all the topics have the same verbiage after the topic, all of them say inclusion/suspension.
- Amanda Haboush Deloy explained that they take the AI searches and double check that the words or context matches what our needs are far as the federal verbiage restrictions by cross referencing the categories.
- Rachel Stepina added context that we wanted to add this as an agenda item so that we could make sure research. topics had a focus on being relatable to children in Nevada.
- Amanda Haboush Deloye mentioned that they will add more ideas for August as they had run out of ideas at the time of writing the topic lists out, and suggested possibility of having an article about what the researchers are doing in Nevada.
- Rachel Stepina suggests topics to elevate current proposed such as availability of our food programs and impact on rural areas using national articles and national research
- Patrice Gardner suggests looking at topics depending on how the Bills get approved, on how the families can get approved for services or programs that are available, also suggesting we send a survey out to the members for ideas they can share with Amanda for topics past August.

9. Agenda Items for August 05, 2025, Executive Leadership Meeting (Discussion and Possible Action) **5 min.**
Subcommittee members can request additional items to add to the August Executive Leadership Agenda.
Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair

- Items Tabled or skipped
- Strategic Planning to be priority/standing item until January 2026

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

- Communication and Engagement 7.08.25, 9:00am
- Policy and Finance: 7.10.25, 1:00pm
- Communication Ad-Hoc: 7.15.25, 1:30pm
- General ECAC: 7.16.25, 9:00am
- Data and Evaluation: 7.17.25, 1:00pm
- Systems Alignment: 7.23.25. 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership: 8.05.25, 11:00am
- New Member Orientation: 8.12.25 11:00am-12:30pm via Zoom
    - **Register at:** **https://forms.gle/zNZ3z7Me5r3n7xRk6**

11. Public Comment #2 (Discussion for Possible Action), **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 will impose a time limit of three minutes.

- Tiffany Alston made a public Comment for Candace Vaughn Lewis to know she was able to comment now
- Candace Vaughn Lewis thanks Tiffany Alston and said her comment was already said by others
- Dr Nance shared that a CAA meeting starts in an hour for anyone who wants to join.

Adjournment

- Patrice Gardner adjourned meeting at 12:40pm

- **3 Action Steps**
    - Subcommittee Members to review RFP
    - Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones put together a Menti Survey
    - Denise Tanata to send Inclusion report over for August before meeting is in progress

- **One Sentence Summary:** The Subcommittee was able to determine the work of getting ready for the strategic planning vendor and partnering with them will stay within the Executive Leadership Team and the Executive Leadership Subcommittee and NOT an Ad Hoc, the Subcommittee discussed the steps they want to take as they put together three strong highlights to start with.