Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

**Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)**
**Executive Leadership Subcommittee**
Public Meeting
Tuesday, May 06, 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

**Minute Summary**

**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 11:10am
- Brandi Hearst conducted roll call

**Members Present**

1. Tiffany Alston, ECAC Chair
2. Patrice Gardner, ECAC Vice Chair
3. Amanda Haboush Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
4. Jerek Hough, District Manager Source Academy
5. Dr. Nance, Community & Engagement Co- Chair
6. Tiffany Olivas, Systems Alignment Co- Chair
7. Kathy Yoder Bass, Provider Representative

**Members Absent**

1. Elysa Arroyo Policy and Finance Co-Chair
2. Abbey Bernhardt, Systems Alignment Co-Chair
3. Ashley Dines, Parent Representative
4. Marty Elquist Data and Evaluation Co-Chair
5. Donya Segoviano, Business Process Analyst III Division of Welfare & Supportive Services
6. Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair

**Public In Attendance**

1. Brandi Hearst, ECAC Administrative Coordinator, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
2. Sabrina Jones, ECAC Systems Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
3. Anna Villatoro, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet
4. Brianna Cambra, Communication Ad-Hoc Co- Chair
5. Jamie Mendez, Early Childhood Workforce Specialist, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
6. Rachel Stepina, Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
7. Fred Johnson III, Community Member

**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.

- 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 ECAC Executive Leadership Subcommittee Meeting Agenda at any time.

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

- Tiffany Alston motions to approve Flexible Agenda
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye seconds the motion
- Members vote unanimously, motion carries

**4. Minutes from March 04 and April 01, 2025** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **3 min.**

The Subcommittee approved BOTH March 04, 2025, Minutes (revised) and April 01, 2025 minutes on 2 separate votes.

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

- Amanda Haboush-Deloye motions to approve **March** Meeting Minutes
- Kathy Yoder Bass seconds' motion
- Members vote unanimously, motion carries
- Kathy Yoder Bass motions to approve **April** Meeting Minutes
- Tiffany Olivas' seconds' motion
- Members vote unanimously, motion carries

**5. Subcommittee Key Messaging** *(Discussion, Informational)* **5 min**

The Subcommittee presented with a Key Messaging Template from Communication and Engagement Ad-Hoc Co-Chairs and review the purpose and guidelines for key messages.

*Dr. Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chair, Brianna Cambra, Communication Ad-Hoc Co-Chair*

- Brianna Cambra explained where the Key Messaging idea came from and how to use the template created for all subcommittees to use.
- What are the goals and main purpose of the ECAC?
  - Get community aware of ECAC
  - How to interact with ECAC / Opportunities to participate.
  - Think through communication goals, think through supportive tasks, analysis and tools to keep things on track.
  - Conversation started with First 5
    - Document to share with subcommittees that would be shared to First 5 to communicate messaging
    - Subcommittees to plan and share, think through what they want to say
    - Share with Communication and Engagement to review, support
    - Deliver to First Five for communication to public.
- **Column A**: Target Audience for the message
- **Column B**: The Key Message- up to 3 ideas/topics that relate

- **Column C**: Desired Action, what are you wanting or asking from the audience?
- **Column D**: Specific timelines, seasonal? Monthly? End/Start date?
- **Column E**: Is this for social media? For newsletters? Email? Website?
- **Column F**: Links to resources that are specific (Flyers, documents etc)
- Tiffany Alston expressed how this is a great step into aligning subcommittees and may be the link to align the workplan.
- Tiffany Olivas said once we identify how the ECAC is represented using the Sector Survey results, we use this tool to see where we have an expert (or no expert) and get information to or from them for messaging
- Brianna Cambra responded that Sabrina Jones and Brandi Hearst would use this form in each meeting as needed to communicate to the Communication Subcommittee about items that are being discussed
- Dr. Nance shares that this is a tool for ECAC to be proactive and stay on target with messaging
- Patrice Gardner agrees and loves how it will align the Subcommittees

**6. Legislative Session Updates** *(Informational, Discussion)* **10 min**

Subcommittee updated on policy and legislation topics in Nevada.

*Dr. Nance, Communication and Engagement Co-Chai*

- Dr. Nance appreciated Tiffany Alston and how she led the Head Start Rally, discussed:
  - Federal lawmakers are responding to emails from home providers, especially Congressman Horsford and some other federal delegates.
  - Fox 5 had a special feature with Tiffany Alston and Sunrise Children's Foundation
  - Review Communication Key Messaging form
  - 28 days until a bill is Signed or Dies
  - Specifically for the Department of Ed, looking at pupil-centered funding plans
  - identifying where the funds for early childhood hearing on the 7th and 8th of May.
  - CAA still hosting Legislative update meetings on Tuesday at 11:30am.
  - On May 5th Senate Bill 78, revises provisions related to boards and commission. was heard in Assembly, now reconciling financial concerns.
    - Possibility it impacts the ECAC, recognizing ECAC in a safe zone because of Head Start mandates.
  - April 25 Governor Lombardo introduced his Education Accountability Act, strong focus on financial literacy for K-12
  - April 29th Senator Cannizaro introduced the Educate Act, SB460
    - Aims to provide qualified teachers in all classrooms, at every school
    - Improving student outcomes
    - Give students a foundation by expanding Pre-K
    - Bill thought to improve the accountability measures for publicly funded schools
    - Planning for the future of public education in Nevada. as we rank 47th in the nation.
  - For messaging and communication, gain their perspective on early childhood – meet them where they are at
    - Deliver information showing the importance of early childhood
    - making that connection of Childcare all the way from birth to kindergarten
- Key Messages to reiterate:
  - Show if we don't Invest in child care, family child care, center-based child care, Pre-K, Head Start, the numbers will get worse for K-12.
  - AB185, HOA bill for Home Providers to be able to exist, will be heard at 3:30pm today
  - May 5th-May 17 non-exempt bills have to be in the second house, or they will be dead.
- Patrice Gardner hoping Patti Oya will have updates at our General ECAC meeting from NDE as they have been following closely

- Anna Villatoro asked if CAA is collecting parent stories in regard to head star or child care?
- Dr. Nance said they ARE collecting stories, especially for Nevada Specific stories
  - Day without Child Care on May 12th, 9:30-10:30am to raise some awareness for how needed Child Care is.
  - Link: https://nhsa.org/take-action/
- Tiffany Alston- Subsidy dollars and DWSS plans, hands are tied, what is the information you can share about ways we can impact those dollars? Same with HeadStart, what can we do? Is it time for groups t organize? What can we do?
- Dr. Nance explained "We need to guide them and their decision making as they need support and perspective to actually know and see what it would be like without Child Care and ECE professionals.
- Tiffany Alston asked who about the best people we can or should be talking to
- Dr. Nance responded that Brooke Yarborough or Lisa Ford is our best bet and DWSS has been more open with sharing information
- Tiffany Alston asked Executive Leadership Subcommittee if we should draft a letter from the ECAC that we want to partner with DWSS ?
- Dr. Nance responded that the letter should be about what quality looks like in early childhood, why funds are important and suggestions on how to best utilize the budget
- Tiffany Alston asked if there is a link where we could find the information of when they will be meeting on the budget for subsidy because "they" are distracting us and we miss meetings and conversations.

**7. Best Practices Statement** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **10 min**
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair*
*Marty Elquist and Amanda Haboush-Deloye, Data and Evaluation Co-Chairs*
- TABLED due to time, will still be voted on at ECAC meeting May 21, 2025

**8. General ECAC Meeting Agenda Review** *(Discussion and Possible Action)* **5 min.**
Subcommittee to review current agenda and decide what items to keep and/or remove to prepare for a shorter meeting. If available time, requests for additional items to be considered. This General ECAC meeting is scheduled for a VIRTUAL 2-hour meeting in the evening from 5:30-7:30pm.
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC*
- Executive Leadership team to review and decide what to keep and what to bump to July meeting.
- Anna Villatoro mentioned there is a parent Spotlight guest speaker who had confirmed, Patrice Gardner let Brandi Hearst know to keep that item. They discussed having 5 minutes per parent Family Leadership updates, 10 min total
- The Data Dictionary item was discussed as a possible item we to move, Brandi Hearst added that this item was on a time crunch, it was decided to allow the item to stay with 10 minutes instead of 20 minutes.
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye brought up making sure we present these items to parents in a language that is easy for them to understand and is easy for them to relate to, like the Data Dictionary as it is a website that will be useful for parents.
- Keep the NAMI Agenda item suggested by Abbey Bernhardt as they offer helpful community services for youth needing help with Mental Health.
- Pathway to Universal Pre-K presentation time to be shortened.
- Tiffany Alston asked Brandi Hearst to make sure presenters were aware of the audience being family members and educators who cant typically make it during the day time meetings, to use intentional sharing for families, thinking about information do they want to share to families about their topic? Tiffany Alston added if presenters want more time they can opt to move to July.
- Patrice Gardner and Tiffany Alston discussed contacting specific agencies within the we want to present at the meeting

and they can come preprepared with family friendly information

- Best Practices statement from Data and Evaluation Subcommittee to get 5 minutes for a vote on the statement to be approved
- Sabrina Jones asked if we should be making a family friendly flyer
- The Subcommittee agreed that was a good idea, Kathy Yoder Bass added that QR codes and imageries easier for everyone to share on Social Media.
- Tiffany Alston brought up the NV ECAC having a Facebook page, Anna Severens has access to it and Amanda Haboush-Deloye will contact Anna Severens to create log in credentials for Brandi Hearst and Sabrina Jones.

**9. Strategic Planning Preparation** *(Discussion for Possible Action)* **10 min**

The Subcommittee started the discussion of the needs, discuss what action steps need to be completed to be "ready to move forward", asked for a poll for possible dates for retreat as we prepare for the 2025-2027 Strategic Planning Vendor.

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

*Rachel Stepina, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development*

- Patrice Gardner explained importance of being prepared when the Strategic Planning Vendor becomes contracted.
- Rachel Stepina shared that we are still waiting for a vendor to contract and offers recommendations such as:
    - Review RFP request for proposals to gain refreshed understanding of what was asked of this vendor and then look at some of those implications on the council. Found on public information page, linked here: https://nevadaepro.com/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=30DOE-S2882&external=true&parentUrl=close
    - Select a Date for Strategic Plan Retreat
    - Identify locations for retreat, Vendors need to partner with ECAC
    - Identify partners stakeholders that are critical to strategic planning
    - Identify documents or sources of information might be needed to develop background knowledge about the ECAC and our current work.
    - Discuss and decide if an Ad-Hoc Committee would be helpful or if this is work that will be put on this subcommittee or the General Council
- Tiffany Olivas asked if Rachel Stepina would like co-chairs to follow up directly to Rachel ?
- Patrice Gardner responded that we are actually creating a Survey to get perspective and add opportunities from Leadership members to develop the strategic plan as a whole
- Rachel Stepina agreed as this is an Executive Leadership decision
- Patrice Gardner asked Brandi Hearst when she would be able to get the survey out to everyone.
- Brandi Hearst described that some updates are needed, should be able to get out by end of week.
- Tiffany Alston described being happy that we don't have a strategic plan in place as we would have to go back and re-write it as we didn't foresee the funding get cut as it is now w an Admin change in the Government,.
- Sabrina Jones and Brandi Hearst to make a poll for Strategic Planning retreat dates, adding a question to answer specifically for days they CAN NOT make it.

**10. Executive Leadership Systems Alignment Discussion** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*,

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

- Tabled due to time

**11. Early Childhood Research Briefs Newsletter Topics** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

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

- Tabled due to time

**12. First Five Nevada Family Leadership Council** *(Informational, Discussion)*
*Ashley Dines, Anna Villatoro and Tiffany Olivas, The Children's Cabinet*
- Tabled due to time

**13. First Five Nevada Program Inclusion Requests** *(Discussion for Possible Action)*
*Denise Tanata, Policy and Finance Co-Chair*
- Item Tabled- due to time

**14. Work Plan Updates** *(Discussion, for Possible Action)*
- Item Tabled due to time

**15. Agenda Items for June 6, 2025 Executive Leadership Meeting** *(Discussion and Possible Action)*
*Tiffany Alston, Nevada ECAC Chair and Patrice Gardner, Nevada ECAC Vice Chair*
- Tabled Items

**16. Upcoming Meetings** (*Informational)* **0 min**
- Policy and Finance: 5.08.25, 1:00pm
- Data and Evaluation: 5.10.25, 1:00pm
- Communication & Engagement: 5.13.25, 9:00am
- Communication Ad-Hoc: 5.20.25, 1:30pm
- General ECAC: 5.21.25, 5:30pm-7:30pm, VIRTUAL ONLY
- Systems Alignment: 5.28.25. 1:00pm
- Executive Leadership: 6.03.25, 11:00am

**17. Public Comment #2** *(Discussion for Possible Action),* **6 min**
Public Comment taken during this agenda item on any matter within the Council'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.
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye announced plans an end of June release date for the Early Childhood Research Symposium, adding Dr. Nance and herself may reach out for presentation registrations, travel to Las Vegas could be covered.

**18. Adjournment**
- Patrice Gardner adjourned meeting at 12:40pm

- **3 Action Items:**
  - Sabrina Jones and Brandi Hearst to create flyer for evening General ECAC meeting to share with all ECAC
  - Missed and tabled items to be added to June Meeting Agenda
  - Amanda Haboush-Deloye to contact Anna Severns for social media logins

- **One Sentence Summary:** This Subcommittee discussed items to be removed from General ECAC meeting agenda to better fit family topics, decided to create a poll for Strategic Planning retreat dates and discussed importance of communication being the same from anyone on ECAC, leading to the creation of the Key Messaging Template.