Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council
Family Leadership and Engagement Subcommittee
Public Meeting, Thursday,
August 06, 2026, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Meeting ID: 889 9190 2210, Passcode: 927474

Attendance

10 out of 13 Members present

1. **Cherry Clark**, Developmental Specialist III, Nevada Early Intervention Services
2. **Dazzrael Lyke**, Developmental Specialist 4, Aging and Disability Services Division
3. **Octavia Mclaurin**, Child Care Owner
4. **Brittany Morris**, Sped-Itinerant ECE Teacher, Washoe County School District
5. **Betsy Newman**, Part C Coordinator, Clinical Program Planner II, Nevada Department of Human Services IDEA Part C, Aging and Disability Services Division
6. **Tiffany Olivas**, Childhood Comprehensive Systems Manager, The Children's Cabinet
7. **Kate Pflughoeft**, Assistant Grant Manager, Office of Early Learning and Development, Nevada Department of Education
8. **Darby Porter**, Youth Services Consultant, Nevada Library Systems
9. **Deetra Stewart**, Family Home Care Provider
10. **Tina Springmeyer**, Director, Department of Child and Family Services

Members Absent

1. **Elizabeth Glover**, CEO, Echoes of Excellence
2. **Tiara Huerta**, Senior Manager, Waterworks
3. **Anna Villatoro**, Family Engagement Specialist, The Children's Cabinet

Public in attendance

1. **Zepporah Lee,** Community Member
2. **Maddison Proctor,** Community member
3. **Anna Whitehead,** Community Member
4. **Jamelle Nance,** Early Childhood Policy Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance Nevada
5. **Sabrina Jones,** Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council Systems Coordinator, NDE, Office of Early Learning

MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Welcome and Member Attendance

Chair Tiffany Olivas **c**alled the meeting to order at 4:04 PM and welcomed all attendees to the August meeting of the Family Leadership & Engagement Subcommittee. Secretary Darby Porter conducted roll call, confirming the presence of eight members and noting several anticipated late arrivals. Quorum was established.
Chair Olivas reminded all attendees to complete the attendance link provided in the Zoom chat to ensure accurate documentation for the meeting.

2. Public Comment #1

Chair Olivas opened the floor for Public Comment #1, noting that comments could be offered on any items appearing on the agenda. She also emphasized that the subcommittee welcomes comments throughout the meeting following each agenda item, to support flexible and accessible family engagement.
No public comments were offered during this agenda item.

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda *(For Possible Action)*

Chair Olivas requested a motion to approve a flexible agenda, allowing items to be taken out of order as needed based on discussion flow and timing.

- **Motion:** Kate Pflughoeft
- **Second:** Zepporah Cousin Lee
- **Additional Second:** Dazzrael Lyke

The motion passed unanimously. No members opposed or abstained.

4. Approval of June 4, 2026, Minutes (Discussion for Possible Action)

Chair Olivas explained that the minutes distributed to members were mistakenly the May minutes, which had already been approved during a prior meeting. The June minutes**,** which should have been reviewed at this session, were not posted to the website nor shared with members in sufficient time.

Chair Olivas recommended tabling the approval of the minutes until the September meeting, during which both June and August minutes will be brought forward for approval. No objections were raised.

5. Chair Report

Chair Olivas reported that the subcommittee does not yet have a permanent co-chair. However, one individual has expressed interest in serving and intends to submit the necessary paperwork. She anticipates confirming and introducing the new co-chair during the September meeting.
She also reminded members to clearly state their name before speaking and to avoid acronyms, when possible, to ensure accessibility for families and caregivers.

6. Document Review *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

Members and Public Participant's continuing to review and provide feedback on Draft document "Share your Story" to be screenshared and noted during meeting.

Materials: Share Your Story Review Part 2

The subcommittee continued its review of the Share Your Story draft document, developed by the Communications & Engagement Subcommittee. Sabrina Jones shared the screen to walk through the digital version of the tool, demonstrating how families and early childhood professionals would navigate the survey using skip logic.

Clarity & Reading Level
Members agreed that the introductory paragraph should be revised to reflect an 8th-grade reading level, noting that the current language may be too technical for families.
Skip Logic & Flow
Sabrina Jones demonstrated how the survey directs users to different sections depending on whether they identify as a parent or an early childhood professional. Members noted that the transitions could appear confusing and recommended improvements to ensure smoother navigation.
Content & Redundancy

Members identified several redundant questions, particularly within the story-collection portion of the form.

They recommended:

- Consolidating narrative questions;
- Adding dropdown "topic" options (e.g., childcare access, housing, health services, trauma, Early Head Start/Head Start experiences);
- Providing clearer prompts to help families understand what information is being sought.

Consent & Public Sharing
Members expressed concern that the consent-to-share section did not adequately explain what "sharing publicly" includes. Recommendations included clarifying potential venues, such as the ECAC website, social media, legislative testimony, or partner organizations, and placing this information earlier in the survey.
Terminology
Members raised concerns about inconsistent terminology within the childcare section (e.g., "childcare" vs. "family childcare"). The group recommended more precise labeling such as "licensed center-based care" and "licensed family childcare."
Family Perspective & Usability
Parents present noted that the form felt overwhelming, lengthy, and demanding, particularly for individuals sharing sensitive or emotional experiences. Multiple members recommended that the tool be used in partnership with trusted organizations, such as First 5 Nevada, Parent Ambassadors, or Head Start Policy Councils, instead of expecting families to complete it independently.
Overall Recommendation
Chair Olivas concluded that substantial revisions were needed. She requested that all feedback, including the meeting recording, be shared with the Communications & Engagement Subcommittee. The subcommittee asked that the updated draft be returned to FLE for further review once changes are made.

7. Family & Leadership Engagement Workplan Discussion *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

Members to review and discuss new shared ideas and actions steps for alignment of Workplan activities. **Materials**: Workplan

Chair Olivas introduced the ECAC Strategic Plan workplan, explaining that each subcommittee is responsible for developing activities that support specific objectives. For the Family Leadership & Engagement Subcommittee, the relevant objective is:
Objective 1.4:
Provide guidance and recommendations for coordinated and sustainable statewide infrastructure that elevates family voice, engagement, and leadership in decision-making.
Members developed the following initial activities:

- Create a formal process for organizations or subcommittees to request feedback from the FLE Subcommittee.
- Identify funding mechanisms to support and incentivize family participation, particularly following the conclusion of PDG stipends.
- Develop engagement strategies for families and community members wishing to share experiences or advocate for change in early childhood systems.
- Develop outreach strategies targeted to families receiving services across multiple early childhood programs (Early Intervention, Head Start/Early Head Start, WIC, childcare subsidy, etc.).
- Review Nevada's Family Engagement Plan to identify relevant recommendations and determine how they can be incorporated into ECAC structures.
- Members agreed to revisit Goal 4 and its assigned objectives during the next meeting.

8. Discuss Agenda Items to add to Oct 01, 2026, Meeting *(Discussion for Possible Action)*

Members can discuss and request items to add to the next meeting agenda
Members requested that the following items be added to the September 3, 2026, agenda:

- Continued workplan development
- Review of revisions to the Share Your Story document
- Discussion regarding changes to Head Start performance standards and the need for family-friendly communications
- Review of minutes from both June and August 2026

Public Comment will be made during discussion of this agenda item regarding this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item for another agenda item. The Co-Chairs may impose a time limit of two minutes.

9. Member Updates (*Informational and Discussion)*

Members of this Subcommittee can share their announcements as applicable.

No formal updates were provided. Members expressed appreciation for one another's participation and thoughtful discussion throughout the meeting.

10. Public Comment #2

Public comment will be 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 the matter is included on the agenda as an item on which action may be taken. The Chair of the Subcommittee will impose a time limit of three minutes.

No public comments were offered during the second public comment period.

11. Upcoming Meetings Dates (*For Review and Discussion)*

- Members were reminded to review the meeting schedule.

12. Adjournment

Chair Olivas adjourned the meeting at **5:30 PM**, thanking all members and parents for their contributions and engagement.