

**Nevada**  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

*“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.”*

**Public Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**10:30am – 2:51pm**

**Location**  
**Nevada Department of Education**  
**9890 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 228, Las Vegas, 89183**  
**Teleconference #: 888 – 363 - 4735 Access Code: 8293971**

**MEETING MINUTES**

*The Council took a break for lunch from 12:05pm – 12:23pm.*

**1. Introductions and Housekeeping Items**

The meeting was called to order at 10:37am.  
Council members and guests introduced themselves.

*Council Members Present:*

Margot Chappel, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office  
Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center  
Angela Triche, Sunrise Children’s Foundation Early Head Start  
Ann Polakowski, Early Childhood Mental Health, Division of Child and Family Services  
Jack Zenteno, Child Care Development Program, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services  
Anna Severens, State Pre-K, Nevada Department of Education  
Sherry Halley, Part B 619 Office, Nevada Department of Education  
Rutu Ezhuthachan, MD, United Health Care

*Council Members on the Phone:*

Catherine Lyons, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Laura Valentine, Part C Office, Department of Health and Human Services  
Karen Taycher, Nevada PEP

*ECAC Members Absent:*

Gary Vause, Lit’l Scholars

*Members of the Public Present:*

Erin Hasty, The Governor’s Office  
Diane Hardy, Child Care Licensing  
Dolores Hauck, United Way of Southern Nevada

Denise Tanata-Ashby, Children's Advocacy Alliance

Marjorie Franzen-Weiss, Diabetes Prevention and Control Programs, Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Patti Oya, Office of Early Care and Education, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Nicole Nichol, Office of Early Care and Education, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Sarah Marschall, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.

Brenna Malone, Head Start of Northeastern Nevada

*Members of the Public on the Phone:*

James Rodriguez, Fathers and Families Coalition

Janice Lee, Nevada TACSEI

Melissa Burnham, University of Nevada, Reno

Monica Morales, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

*ECAC Membership Status:*

Margot Chappel provided an update on the ECAC membership structure.

- Existing ECAC members will remain the same until the Governor has appointed and confirmed the new members.
- The new Council structure should be in place by the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, pending any unforeseen issues.
- Annalyn Carrillo from the Governor's Office has sent emails to invite new members. The email includes a link for interested individuals to download the application online. Applications must be notarized and sent to the Governor's Office.
- Current members of the Interagency Coordination Council (ICC) would not have to complete the paperwork again.

## **2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **3. For possible action: Approval of June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Minutes\*\***

No changes were noted.

- Carrie Paldi made a motion to approve the June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes as written.
- Sherry Halley seconded the motion.
- All members voted in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

## **4. HSC & ECS Director Report – Margot Chappel**

### **Silver State KIDS**

- Senate Bill 486 was signed by the Governor and will fund the use of the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment tool for each child in pilot districts and publicly funded early childhood programs in the first year and 100% of those same populations during the second year. Publicly funded early childhood programs include Head Start, early childhood special education, State Pre-K, and Title I funded Pre-K.
- The Training of Trainers took place on July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. A second training will be offered next year.

- The contract to use Teaching Strategies Gold is on the agenda for the next Board of Examiners meeting.

### **ECCS Grant**

- Ms. Chappel received notification that Nevada has been awarded funding for the next three years beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The official Notice of Grant Award has not been received yet.

### **ECAC Membership Update**

- Existing Council members should have received an email from Annalyn Carrillo in the Governor's Office with information on the application process. Members are asked to contact her or visit the Governor's website for more information about the application process.

### **Office Status**

- Representatives from the Nevada Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Governor's Office continue to discuss the option of an early childhood office. The model is based on a federal model that includes a position for an early childhood liaison. No updates are available at this moment.

### **5. For possible action: Recommendation for P-20W Council Early Childhood Representative\*\***

Margot Chappel explained that individuals are not allowed to sit on more than one governor appointed statutorily established council. The Governor's office has requested that the ECAC recommend an early childhood representative for the P-20W Council that is not already sitting as an appointed member of a Council.

- This is a new position. The early childhood representative would need to be willing to speak-up on behalf of young children's issues.
- The P-20W Council oversees data collection and linking to the state longitudinal system.
- Department representation includes – The Nevada Department of Education, the Nevada System of Higher Education, Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation, and the Department of Labor.
- This person does not need to be a state employee.

### *Discussion around membership appointments:*

Sherry Halley asked for clarification stating that she is an appointed member of the ICC and would that mean she could not sit on the Nevada ECAC? (Jack Zenteno, Catherine Lyons, and Ann Bingham are also members of the ICC.) Laura Valentine commented that some grants require certain positions to be members of Councils and AB 159 could provide clarification.

Margot Chappel asked if Erin Hasty from the Governor's Office could find out more information regarding the membership parameters of Council membership. Further clarification is needed to determine if a person who is appointed to one Council can sit on another Council.

At this time the Council would like more clarification on membership guidelines and to table the agenda item until the next meeting. Melissa Burnham is recommended to fill the position.

## **6. Nevada Head Start Association (NVHSA) Presentation - Brenna Malone, President, Nevada Head Start Association**

Ms Malone is the Director of the Head Start of Northeastern Nevada, President of the Nevada Head Start Association (NVHSA), and Co-chair of the Elko Early Childhood Advisory Council and spoke on behalf of the NVHSA.

### *Summary:*

- Historically, the Head Start Collaboration Office facilitated Partnership Committee meetings between Head Start Grantees and state agencies. The Nevada ECAC and local Councils, linking community and statewide initiatives, have begun to provide a more relevant venue for Head Start grantees to address issues at the local and state level.
- The NVHSA requests a formal relationship with the ECAC in order to facilitate and strengthen connections with statewide initiatives and increase opportunities for collaboration and support.
- Nevada Head Start and Early Head Start Program Assets:
  - 3,462 child level positions were federally funded in the 2011-2012 program year.
  - Programs emphasize the importance of family partnerships.
  - School Readiness Goals – All Head Start programs are required to establish School Readiness goals. Data driven analysis provides information regarding trends, strengths, needs, and opportunities for professional development.
  - Support Healthy Systems – Programs support and establish goals within a framework of Ready Families, Educators, Schools, Communities, and Systems. Programs participated in the I Am Moving, I Am Learning program and support the healthy initiatives that will be discussed later in the meeting.
  - Quality - Reauthorization requires programs to be assessed through the Classroom Assessment Scoring System Tool every three years to measure the quality of teacher/child interactions. Agencies that are below quality benchmarks must re-compete for funding. The tool enhances teacher support, overall performance, and opportunities for professional development.
  - Community Engagement – Community assessments provide valuable information and information to the community on needs.

### *Discussion:*

Sherry Halley stated she listened in on Arne Duncan's presentation on the importance of breaking down silos and this would create alignment.

Jack Zenteno asked about the impact of the Sequestration and how many slots were lost.

Ms. Malone stated the timing of the cuts depended on the grant year of the program. At this time she did not know the overall numbers.

Mr. Zenteno asked about the President's plan for possible expanded funding and how this will affect Head Start.

Ms. Malone stated she does not know yet and she has not received any new grant award announcements.

Mr. Zenteno stated Head Start is self-sufficient and what are the opportunities to collaborate?

Ms. Malone stated it will be important to observe what will happen with TSG and the crosswalk with Head Start and kindergarten. This will help with school readiness goals and determine opportunities for professional development. Create an opportunity for school readiness goal alignment, professional development, community partnerships.

Angela Triche stated all Head Start programs are required to conduct a community needs assessment and there needs to be a 20% in kind match. Since federal funds are used to fund programs, the local community should be invested. Head Start programs serve the most vulnerable families and work with their local community partners to provide a variety of services to the most vulnerable families in the population including child care assistance, health care, education, family support, etc.

Ms. Malone stated Nevada Head Start programs serve diverse communities and families. Grantees have found their commonalities and now want to be engaged with the state at a broader level.

Margot Chappel stated the President's Preschool for All Plan would allocate 32 million dollars in funding to Nevada and the Governor's Office is excited about the opportunity. At the August 21<sup>st</sup> Leadership Team meeting the members will discuss the possibility of the Lead Team becoming a work group of the ECAC. The relationship between the Nevada Head Start Association and the ECAC can be discussed at the next ECAC meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **7. Update from the Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) - Denise Tanata-Ashby, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance**

### *Summary:*

- **2013 Legislature:** A lot of positive work accomplished for early childhood during this session.
  - There continues to be a lack of understanding of the importance of high quality early childhood education.
- **National efforts and state support:**
  - Moving forward with national early childhood initiatives.
  - National Women's Law Center is providing guidance and public awareness materials and support. While there is no funding available to support states, they provide technical assistance and tool kits that can be found online.
    - Day of Action took place earlier in the summer. Southern Nevada ECAC participated by providing opportunities to educate the public.
  - The National Women's Law Center and First Five Years Fund would like Nevada to be one of the target states. (Higher profile because Senator Reid's status.)
  - Ms. Tanata-Ashby participated in a national meeting last week in Washington, D.C. that included representation from thirty different national organizations. She also met with Jason Unger from Senator Reid's office who is supportive but hesitant regarding the President's proposal. Details need to be forthcoming, regarding how the program will be implemented.
  - First Five Years Fund conducted a poll. A one page summary provides an overview of early childhood. The respondents communicated the importance of promoting quality early childhood environments.
- **Nevada's public awareness efforts:**
  - CAA is working with a marketing committee.

- Advertising company is providing in-kind support for public service announcements and billboards.
- *Messages:*
  - High quality early childhood programs have an impact on brain development.
  - Investing in early childhood education is investing in our future.
- A brand and logo are being developed and story development is taking place.
- Messaging will be carried out through advertisements, social media outlets, networking, and press conferences. A mobile station at events will provide interactive experiences to learn about brain development.
- They are developing a petition for people to sign-up and this will be shared.

▪ **Next steps and priorities:**

- The Children's Advocacy Alliance is leading efforts to bring awareness to legislators and the general public about the importance of quality early childhood experiences.
- Strong Start for Children (Advocacy campaign)
  - Kick-off meetings will take place in Northern and Southern Nevada. (Las Vegas will be held today and the Reno meeting will take place next Monday.)
  - A live action center will be developed. (The Children's Cabinet received a grant to provide this opportunity.)
  - Opportunities to help include distributing materials, writing op-eds, provide a presentation through the Speakers Bureau; contribute stories to storytelling campaign at both the national and local levels. Participants can also support and participate in video campaigns, and share information through social media outlets. Messaging templates are available.

*Discussion:*

Jack Zenteno asked what the priorities will be for the next Legislative session.

Ms. Tanata-Ashby stated with through the Robert Wood Johnson grant, CAA is advocating for the following priorities.

- The Quality Rating and Improvement System (Silver State STARS) should link with subsidy funding.
- Promote increased funding for subsidies.

**8. Update: Silver State Kindergarten Inventory of Development Statewide (KIDS) Project – Margot Chappel, Director, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office**

- **Public Awareness and Messaging**

This item was discussed during Agenda Item 4.

It was noted to check that all documents use Silver State KIDS as the project title.

**9. For possible action: Comprehensive Plan Project Update and Approval of Next Steps\*\* - Sarah Marschall and Kari Earle, Project Managers, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.**

- **Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant**

Margot Chappel stated there was a funding change and the ECAC funding continues through the end of August instead of September.

Sarah Marschall stated this would result in a pause in the project, rather than termination of it.

*Overview:*

- August 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for final deliverables.
- Comprehensive plan is aligned with ECAC vision.
- Race to the Top priorities were released and Comprehensive Plan can be leveraged for this application.
- Issue briefs were created on each of the planning categories.
- Stakeholder outreach through surveys and key informant interviews are important to the plan.
  - Surveys have been and are still being distributed through a link to Survey Monkey and in hard copy.
  - Family Surveys – Received 230 so far and need more feedback from lower and middle income households and rural areas. Survey respondents are entered into a drawing for gift cards.
  - Provider and Community Partner Outreach – Deadline to receive surveys by mid-August has been extended. Key informants are also completing these surveys.
  - Key informant interviews are taking place.
- Summit – No Planning Summit will take place in September but will possibly be tagged on to the Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Summit.

*Next Steps:*

- Promote surveys.
- Continue with key informant interviews.
- Summarize outreach to inform plan development (postponed) and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) application. Utilize remaining ARRA funds to write the majority of the RTT-ELC application.

**10. Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework Discussion – Angela Triche, Director of Programs, Sunrise Foundation Early Head Start and Teresa Oster, Head Start T/TA Manager, STG International**

*Framework Overview:*

- Framework was designed by numerous researchers; it is a tool that staff and families can use to prepare children for school.
- There are six national centers that provide technical assistance and training.
- Head Start School Readiness Goals – Engage families and emphasize school readiness for families and the support for lifelong learning.
- A strong foundation and system that supports goals.
- Data collection and reflection provides continuous program improvement by improving professional development and outcomes for children and families. (The Bridges Out of Poverty training is helping staff understand the perspective of a family experiencing homelessness, for example.)
- All Head Start programs have school readiness goals. One goal is to increase the amount of time families read to children. Studies found that 85% of children who attended Head Start programs showed a 15% increase in the amount of time spent reading by the end of the year.

**11. Council of Chief State School Officers project to Enhance State Kindergarten Entry Assessment Initiatives Grant Update and Next Steps - Anna Severens, Educations Programs Professional, Office of Educational Opportunity, Nevada Department of Education**

*Overview:*

- \$20,000 of funding is available to support the implementation of the kindergarten inventory of development (Silver State KIDS).

- Funding could be used to develop a crosswalk and support statewide professional development.
- Elko Early Childhood Conference – Ms. Severens and Margot Chappel will provide a presentation on the work of the Council and Silver State KIDS. Presenters from North Carolina are being funded to provide a presentation on the Power of K project.
- Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Summit – The Save the Date was sent out.
  - Dates: October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Planning team met at the end of June.
    - Received grant from the National Governor’s Association Birth -3<sup>rd</sup> Policy Academy to support the Summit.
    - County teams will participate and members will include early childhood and school district representatives.
    - There is a possibility to include a state team of ECAC members to work on state planning and it would need to be determined how many members can be funded.
    - Kristie Kaurz is providing assistance to plan the agenda and will be a key note speaker.

**12. For possible action: Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion workgroup adoption\*\* -  
Marjorie A. Franzen-Weiss, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Bureau of Child, Family, and  
Community Wellness**

The Health Division is now called the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Marjorie Fanzen-Weiss and Monica Morales provided information on the initiative.

*Presentation Summary:*

- Using “Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards for Early Care and Education Programs” 3<sup>rd</sup> edition as the guidelines for health and safety standards.
- Focus is on revising licensing guidelines to prevent early childhood obesity.
- Obesity rate for children in Nevada is high and a third of U.S. preschool children who are two to five years of age are overweight or obese.
- As of 2010 Nevada licensing regulations met three out of forty seven standards for preventing childhood obesity in licensed early care and education settings.
- A workgroup of representatives from a variety of agencies met in 2012 to propose changes in the Nevada Administrative Code addressing nutrition, physical activity, standards, and discipline to align with national health and safety standards and to reduce the number of young children who are obese. (NAC 432A.380, 432A.385, 432A.390, 432A.400)
- Next steps:
  - Propose changes to Board of Health before next summer to implement the new regulations the following year.
  - Schedule meetings with child care providers to review the proposed changes and provide feedback. State Child Care Licensing will send out notices on the meetings.

*Discussion:*

Sherry Halley stated the nutrition office in the Nevada Department of Education moved to the Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Franzen-Weiss was aware of the move and has been working with them to develop the changes.



Carrie Paldi asked if the workgroup was aware of the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children's position statement.

Ms. Franzen-Weiss did not know about this position statement and stated staff from the UNR Co-Operative Extension participated in the work group meetings. Ms. Paldi will send a copy of the position statement to Ms. Franzen-Weiss.

Ms. Paldi stated it would be important to hear feedback from providers since each business serves different meals and there are costs associated with adhering to nutrition standards. The cost especially to single operators may be expensive, especially if the changes would require commercial equipment.

Ms. Franzen-Weiss agreed that the proposed health regulations for serving food and meal requirements necessitate feedback from providers. Nutrition is integral to brain development and it is important to be proactive and stay informed.

Ms. Paldi emphasized the importance of soliciting feedback and continuing to move forward with the proposed regulations.

Jack Zenteno stated that this should be a public health activity and asked whether the ECAC should not be responsible for all components since funding has been frozen.

Ms. Franzen-Weiss stated that funding on initiatives to reduce obesity were frozen, but they now have funding streams available and are working with the Children's Advocacy Alliance.

Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan stated she would like to review these proposed changes. She recommends discussing this with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Workgroup and then report back to the ECAC during the October meeting.

Margot Chappel stated the importance of supporting the family model of meal times.

#### *Request from the ECAC.*

Ms. Franzen-Weiss and Ms. Morales communicated that the work group would like to stay connected with Council by updating progress at meetings and in the long term request the Council's sponsorship of the workgroup's initiatives.

Margot Chappel asked for feedback from the Council and recommended no action during this meeting since the ECAC structure may change depending upon the Governor's appointment process.

#### *Next steps:*

Keep this as an action item for the next ECAC meeting in October and for the work group to provide updates of provider feedback.

- Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan made a motion to convene the ECCS workgroup and discuss this during the meeting. Place this on the October agenda and the ECCS workgroup will provide a recommendation to the ECAC.
- Anna Severens seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

### **13. For possible action: Expanding Opportunities (EO) Workgroup to Include the Nevada Technical Assistance for Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI) Project\*\***

Janice Lee requested more clarification on what this would entail. Ms. Lee stated she does not have clarification on where TACSEI will be housed and how the fiscal information will be managed.

Sherry Halley stated the TACSEI and EO workgroups include the many of the same people. More discussion with the Lead Teams of each group needs to take place. Ms. Halley suggested that the Council table this item until the ECAC meeting in October when more information will be available.

#### **14. Child Care Licensing Update – Latisha Brown, Interim Child Care Licensing Program Manager, Health Division**

*Diane Hardy provided an update on behalf of the Child Care Licensing Program.*

##### *Overview:*

- Health Division is now the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
- They are instituting sanctions for non-compliance.
- AB 109:
  - New legislation is in place, but new regulations have not been developed yet. Key points for providers will be created and workshops and workgroups will meet to provide a forum for feedback and discussion.

##### *Discussion:*

Jack Zenteno asked if a new program manager has been hired and the timeline of filling the position.

Ms. Hardy stated the position has not been filled and it is unknown when this will be completed.

Mr. Zenteno stated there is an audit in his office where information is needed from licensing. Who would be the best person for him to contact for information.

Ms. Hardy stated to contact Latisha Brown or Chad Westom.

Carrie Paldi asked about the status of the new background check process and when the workgroups will take place regarding sanctions.

Ms. Hardy stated workgroups will take place in the near future.

#### **15. Silver State STARS – Quality Rating and Improvement System Update – Patti Oya, Social Services Program Specialist, Early Care and Education Office**

##### *Overview:*

- Planning:
  - Developed a hybrid model that incorporates a block/star and point system. Programs need to meet certain standards and quality indicators.
  - Pilot: Took place from July 2009 through June 2012. Thirty centers from Southern Nevada were selected from programs that were interested in participating. Centers included a range of sizes, variety, etc.
  - Goals: Determine if indicators are clear, if criteria were too easy or difficult. Did not want to duplicate what licensing does and create a system that is flexible and adaptable to improvements and changes.
  - Environmental Rating Scales are used to score programs. Jennifer Kalas is the only person in Nevada that is tested for reliability against the North Carolina standards.
- Implementation:
  - Started first in Southern Nevada. 2013 program is implemented statewide.
  - Coaching: The Children's Cabinet is staffing coaches who will support directors to develop improvement plans. Jennifer Kalas is training coaches on ERS and coaches need to be reliable.
  - Currently thirty nine centers are participating in coaching.
- Star Levels and Participation:

- One through five stars.
- Licensing and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies indicate if centers are participating in the program and at which star level.
- 1 Star – Licensed program that is signed-up and is receiving coaching.
- 5 Stars – Program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a Head Start program, or accredited by other approved national early childhood accrediting agencies.
- Innovation and Sustainability:
  - Improving quality starts with directors. Planning and leadership is eventually transferred to directors and coaching support is reduced.
  - Using Branagh Information Group data tracking system that includes online portfolios, report creation and quality improvement plans.
  - Home providers will participate in future.
  - Website address: [nvsilverstatestars.org](http://nvsilverstatestars.org)
- Race to the Top:
  - Group participated in STAM and BUILD Conference in Washington, D.C.
  - QRIS is a major part of the proposal.
  - Group asked Joan Lombardi for advice on the application and she mentioned to hire a good grant writer.

*Discussion:*

Carrie Paldi asked if they are serving home care providers and rural communities.

Ms. Oya stated they have a coach in Elko and the Northern Nevada assessors will travel to other rural areas.

Anna Severens asked about State Pre-K participation.

Ms. Oya stated more discussions need to take place to determine how this would work since all classrooms in each program may not be accredited or following the same requirements.

Margot Chappel asked how Silver State KIDS and Teaching Strategies GOLD<sup>®</sup> (TSG) are incorporated in to system.

Ms. Oya asked if the cost of TSG would be covered for private centers and could Cindy Johnson, who is trained on the assessment tool, begin training private providers? On the Race to the Top application, there is an assessment component for QRIS.

Ms. Chappel stated that Ms. Johnson can offer trainings to private providers.

## **16. Home Visiting Update – Deborah Aquino, MCH Program Manager, Health Division**

Deborah Aquino was not present to provide an update.

## **17. Fathers and Families Coalition Conference Update – Angela Triche, Director of Programs, Sunrise Foundation Early Head Start**

James Rodriguez, CEO and President of the Fathers and Families Coalition of America provided an overview and update of the Fathers and Families Coalition Conference.

*Summary:*

- Planning meetings are taking place. Contact Lisa Page if you would like to participate. 404-405-5745.
- Conference will take place in February in Henderson.
- Registration is available on line.

- Executive Directors of the National Head Start Association the National Association for the Education of Young Children are confirmed presenters.
- Certificates will be offered in a variety of disciplines.
- Would like to invite Governor Sandoval.

## **18. Updates from ECAC members**

*Ann Polakowski:*

- New programs are rolling out.
- Child care mental health consultant positions were incorporated into state positions and provide eighty hours a week of free consultation services to centers.
- The Division of Child and Family Services now has a mini mobile crisis unit to provide mental health crisis services weekday evenings and on weekends. This is a two year grant. A stabilization team will work with the families two to four weeks after the initial intervention and then direct towards other resources if needed.

*Catherine Lyons:*

- UNLV offers a master's degree program in early childhood education plus a license in English Language Learning.

*Carrie Paldi:*

- The Southern Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children is starting a leadership academy. They are looking for participants and mentors.

## **19. Updates from Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils**

*Washoe County ECAC:*

- There is a new principal at Kate Smith Elementary school, where the P-3 pilot has been happening.
- Teachers are excited about continuing the project.
- They will offer a Leadership Academy in September or October.

*Southern Nevada ECAC:*

- Participated in an initiative on advocating for federal funding. All federal representatives were invited. A training session for parents will take place in the spring which will coincide with Kids Festival.
- There is no update on the "Essentials" grant application at this time.
- Step Up for Kids will take place on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Children's Cabinet has taken the lead and is looking for a location. All councils were forwarded this information.

## **20. For possible action: Agenda Items for Next Meeting October 1st\*\***

Race to the Top Application

## **21. Public Comment**

*Dolores Hauck – United Way of Southern Nevada:*

- Described the benefits of private funding and how that has enabled the agency to support early childhood initiatives in innovative ways. Projects include: STEM Trainings that included Head Start

Staff, High Scope that is used to assess child, teacher, and class levels, and Child Observation Record (COR) that includes an online portfolio that families can access.

- Private funders like to invest in new projects and new ways of doing things and move quickly.
- Just received one million dollars in additional funding.
- Volunteers provide connections to funding sources.

## **22. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:51pm.