

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, October 1st, 2013

Location
Nevada Department of Education
9890 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 228, Las Vegas, 89183

Teleconference #: 888 – 363 - 4735 Access Code: 8293971

MINUTES

1. New Member Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

The group took a lunch break from 11:00am – 11:20am.

Members present:

Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Educational Opportunity (State Pre-K)
Sherry Halley, Nevada Department of Education, Office of Educational Opportunity (Part B 619)
Carrie Paldi, Creative Kids Learning Center
Dolores Hauck, United Way of Southern Nevada
Margot Chappel, Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office
Latisha Brown, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing

Members on the phone:

Catherine Lyons, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Department of Educational and Clinical Studies
Angela Triche, Sunrise Foundation Early Head Start

Members absent:

Marty Elquist, The Children’s Cabinet

After introductions, Margot Chappel reviewed the list of the new Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) members that were appointed by the Governor. She noted there are vacancies for representatives of local School District Board of Trustees and Division of Mental Health and Development Services.

Ann Polakowski asked who will be appointed as the Mental Health representative. Ms. Chappel stated she is unaware of who this will be.

Laura Valentine stated there is a need for a developmental mental health representative. Ms. Chappel stated someone did submit an application to serve as the mental health representative to the Governor’s Office. This person was recommended by Richard Whitley.

Margot Chappel stated there is a discrepancy between the Head Start Act membership requirements for state advisory councils and AB 79 with the Nevada ECAC membership appointments. She stated Anna Severens and she will discuss this topic with state officials, especially since the Race to the Top application requires that the ECAC structure aligns with the Head Start Act.

It was noted that Sherry Halley's correct office representation is the Part B Office. The handout indicates she is with Part C, which is incorrect.

(Copies of the ECAC member list and AB 79 were provided.)

2. Introductions from Public and Housekeeping Items

Members of the public in attendance:

Laura Valentine, Department of Health and Human Services, IDEA Part C Office

Patti Oya, Office of Early Care and Education

Carol Gilman, Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office

Members of the public on the phone:

Ann Polakowski, Department of Child and Family Services

Denise Tanata-Ashby, Children's Advocacy Alliance

Sarah Marschall, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.

Cheryl Olsen, KNPB

Lindsay Knox, McDonald, Carano, and Wilson Law Offices

Brenna Malone, Head Start of Northeastern Nevada

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. For possible action: Approval of August 6th, 2013 Minutes**

Motion:

- Anna Severens made a motion to approve the August 6th, 2013 minutes as written.
- Catherine Lyons seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

5. For possible action: Nominations and election of Chair**

Margot Chappel asked if anyone would like to serve as chair. No ECAC members volunteered. Sherry Halley recommended that Ms. Chappel continue to serve as chair. ECAC members in attendance supported her recommendation.

Action taken:

- Sherry Halley made a motion to elect Margot Chappel as the chairperson of the ECAC.
- Catherine Lyons seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

6. HSC & ECS Director Report – Margot Chappel

Silver State KIDS:

- Ms. Chappel acknowledged that the project really should have a full time person to manage it, preferably an expert on assessment of young children.
- Feedback from teachers who are using the tool:
 - Most teachers love the tool, early childhood teachers especially.
 - There are some challenges being worked out.
 - Would like to request feedback in a more formal way.
- Pilot will end on June 30th, 2015.

Discussion:

Catherine Lyons asked if Head Start programs are participating in the pilot.

Ms. Chappel stated that all Head Start programs are anticipated to participate.

Anna Severens asked how many kindergarten classes are participating.

Ms. Chappel stated she did not have those numbers at this time.

Sherry Halley asked which districts are participating.

Ms. Chappel stated Churchill, White Pine, Washoe, Lincoln, and Mineral counties are participating by using the tool at kindergarten entry. Clark County School District is using the tool for 100% of their Pre-K programs including State Pre-K, Title 1, Striving Readers and Early Childhood Special Education. Churchill County is the only district field testing the 1st-3rd grade TSG tool.

- **Enhanced Assessment Grant Award:** - Anna Severens
 - Enhanced assessment grants support state KEA systems.
 - 4 year grant.
 - Nevada joined the Ohio Maryland Consortium (collaborating with Johns Hopkins University and West Ed)
 - Benefits include participating as part of the governance structure so that the state is involved in the planning process and the first year of building the system. Nevada will be able to continue with Silver State KIDS pilot and the state would own the KEA tool that the Consortium uses. It is also beneficial that WestED and the Nevada Department of Education (DOE) and the Ohio governor and Governor Sandoval already have a working relationship.
 - The tool is based on research that supports learning progressions for children 36 months through 72 months, and will equip teachers to: track individual children's learning trajectories, Individualize learning opportunities and plan for intervention, and ensure that children are on the path for kindergarten readiness. This tool includes formative assessments and KEA that measures the following domains of school readiness: social foundations; physical well-being and motor development; language and literacy; mathematics; science; social

studies; and the Arts. This work is aligned to Birth to K entry standards, and may include further development across the grades 1-3 continuum in the future.

- Other consortium – North Carolina was too progressive and Nevada would not be able to continue with Silver State KIDS pilot.

Consortium discussion:

Sherry Halley asked if the early childhood learning outcomes are included in the data collection.

Anna Severens stated she would need to find out.

Ms. Halley stated she would follow-up with Ms. Severens and Ms. Chappel on who to contact for more information.

Catherine Lyons asked what the timeline was.

Ms. Chappel stated the state would use the tool at the end of the Silver State KIDS pilot and determine if the state would change tools. She stated possibly some schools could pilot this tool.

Dr. Lyons asked if the state would be required to implement this tool.

Ms. Chappel stated the state would not be required to implement the tool.

ECCS Work Group:

- Purpose: Increase access of developmental assessments for birth through three year olds.
- Workgroup is formed and Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan is the workgroup leader. The group will provide guidance on Section C of the Race to the Top application.
- Assessment tracking: Dr. Vigil is piloting a project with two to three schools to use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and data collection. There may be a possibility to expand this statewide and include this in the Race to the Top application.

Head Start Collaboration Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Update: - Carol Gilman

- Needs assessment survey was sent to all Nevada Head Start grantees.
- Report was compiled from the results.
- Ms. Chappel provided an overview of the results to the Nevada Head Start Association members during the September face to face meeting.
- Ms. Gilman met with a Head Start Strategic Planning workgroup to review and update the Strategic Plan.
- Next step is for Margot Chappel to review the updated plan and to clarify any questions from the workgroup. Ms. Chappel will finalize the plan and turn this in along with the 2014 HSCO grant application.

7. For possible action: Race to the Top Application Update and endorsement of approach and governance structure - Anna Severens, Nevada Department of Education**

(Application framework document was provided.)

Update:

- Nevada Department of Education will be the lead agency for the application.
- The collaborative approach to writing the grant will involve state, local, and private agencies.
- Sherry Halley stated Dale Erquiaga is providing engaged leadership and has thanked the ECAC for the work they are doing.
- First planning meeting took place on Tuesday, August 27th.
- Planning structure:

- Lead agencies: DHHS (Amber Joiner, Mike Willden), NDE (Dale Erquiaga), and the Governor's Office (Kathleen Sandoval).
- Project management: Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.
- State Lead: Anna Severens
- Grant Writer: – Kari Earle, Smart Strategy Consulting Services through a contract with Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.
- External reviewer: Glen Price Group.
- Nevada's Initiative is titled: "Silver State Strong". There are four strategies and content leads to manage each of the focus areas. (Silver State Stars, Silver State KIDS, Silver State Skills, and Silver State Supports)
- Timeline: Draft will be completed by this Friday. Team is currently collecting letters of support and the final version will be forwarded to the Governor to sign next Wednesday.
- Ms. Severens acknowledged everyone's contribution to create the application.

The Council members were asked to sign the ECAC Letter of Support and local members that called in to the meeting planned to stop by this afternoon to sign the document. Sherry Halley noted a typo on the document and the HSC & ECS Office will update the document with the correction. (Sherry Halley's correct Office is the Part B Office.)

Motion:

- Sherry Halley made a motion that the ECAC formerly endorses and approves the Silver State Strong Plan of for the Race to the Top application.
- Dolores Hauck seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

8. For possible action: Comprehensive Plan Project Update and Approval of Next Steps - Sarah Marschall, Project Manager, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) **

Update:

- Project began in May.
- Advisory group has been meeting and guiding the planning process.
- Information has been collected through surveys and key informant interviews with families, providers, and stakeholders. Deadline to complete the surveys has been extended and are available in paper or electronic form.
- Project timeline has been extended while SEI is completing work on the Race to the Top application and work is being leveraged within the Race to Top application. Plan will be finalized by end of December.
- Summit: Will take place on November 14th. Please contact Ms. Marschall if you would like to participate. A planning meeting for the Summit agenda will take place on October 24th.
 - Margot Chappel asked if all of the ECAC members have been invited to the Summit.
 - Ms. Marschall responded that all ECAC members have been invited. SEI has funding to support travel for ten people. She asked that interested people contact SEI if they would like to attend or participate. Participants would be able to call-in but the preference would be for everyone to attend in person. SEI is exploring whether Skype or webinar format could also be used.

Discussion:

Dolores Hauck asked if the comprehensive plan needs to be aligned with the Race to the Top application.

Ms. Chappel stated the plan does align.

Ms. Marschall stated the focus has been to align everything while possibly expanding details on certain areas.

Ms. Hauck commented that since plans are aligned this will provide a good marketing tool to approach private funding sources.

9. For possible action: ECCS Workgroup Recommendations Regarding Changes to NAC for Obesity Prevention in Licensed Child Care Environments - Dr. Rutu Ezhuthachan**

Dr. Ezhuthachan reviewed the ECCS Workgroup recommendations with the Council members. Workgroup recommendations were highlighted in yellow. (Copies of the document were provided.)

- *ECCS Workgroup Recommendations:*

- There are two options. One that retains the requirement to serve fruit juice (if this is a requirement of the Child and Adult Food Program). If juice is not required, the recommendation would be to serve whole fruit and vegetables instead of juice.
- The other addition is to state the amount of milk to serve each day (16 ounces per day).
- Offering whole fruit (instead of fruit juice) and vegetables daily.
 - Justification: Fruit juice is a sugary beverage, is really empty calories, and children only feel full for a little while. Fresh fruit is full of fiber, promotes colon health, and children feel fuller longer.

Discussion:

Keep in mind that wording in the Nevada Administrative Code that uses “must” are requirements while other statements are guidelines.

Ms. Chappel stated since the state does not align with all of the recommendations within the Caring for Our Children standards she recommends the Race to the Top application outline how the state will increase the state health standards in Section C of the application to better align with those standards.

Patti Oya asked if the guidelines are for providers only and not for parents.

Dr. Ezhuthachan stated the requirements are for providers and that it is important to be sensitive to families and the food selection they provide for their children.

Carrie Paldi asked to keep in mind the implications to providers regarding these changes and food storage requirements.

Brenna Malone asked if these changes do become regulation what would be the requirements of the program to comply.

Latisha Brown stated facilities would need to provide menu changes to Child Care Licensing during scheduled site visits and that no increased training would be required. Licensing surveyors would still check that the menu is posted.

Children’s Advocacy Alliance – Childhood Obesity Prevention Policy Recommendations:

- Dolores Hauck stated the Children’s Advocacy Alliance (CAA) has created childhood obesity prevention policy recommendations that Denise Tanata-Ashby presented during a partnership with

United Way of Southern Nevada family advocacy nights. (Sherry Halley reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that the CAA provided during the advocacy nights.)

- **CAA Presentation Highlights: - Denise Tanata-Ashby**
 - Percentage of Nevada children who are obese has increased with males showing the greatest increase.
 - 33.6% of Nevada kindergarteners are either in the overweight or obese status.
 - Recommendations align with Caring for Our Children guidelines.
 - Currently soliciting feedback from providers on these recommendations.

Sherry Halley stated Nevada's children are lucky to have Denise Tanata-Ashby as a champion working for them.

Next steps:

- Dr. Ezhuthachan will forward the footnotes to Ms. Chappel for the HSC & ECS to update the ECCS Workgroup recommendations document.
- Clarification is needed if the Child and Adult Food Program requires fruit juice.
- Denise Tanata-Ashby will conduct provider meetings to solicit feedback on the proposed changes. They will provide this information to Ms. Brown.
- After receiving provider feedback Latisha Brown will have the Deputy Attorney General review the ECCS workgroup and CAA's recommendations. She will communicate any progress with the Southern Nevada Health District and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- By early December a report will be presented to the Early Childhood Education Health Workgroup and then a final recommendation will be presented to the Board of Health by the Children's Advocacy Alliance.

Motion:

- Sherry Halley motioned to adopt and approve the ECCS workgroup recommendations on the proposed nutrition changes for the regulations as is.
- Anna Severens seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

10. For possible action: Head Start Collaboration Leadership Team Recommendation for the ECAC to Adopt the Leadership Team as a Work Group of the ECAC - Brenna Malone, President Nevada Head Start Association**

Overview:

- During the August Lead Team members discussed the relevance of the Partnership Committee meetings and concluded those meetings no longer meet the needs of state or local programs. The ECAC is very active and the Head Start grantees discussed how they could be better align with the Council.
- The Lead Team made a motion to recommend becoming a workgroup of the ECAC, enabling the Nevada Head Start Association and Lead Team to request agenda items for the ECAC to address.
 - Sherry Halley asked if that was the recommendation of the Lead Team.

- Margot Chappel confirmed that this was the recommendation from the Lead Team. The bylaws will need to be revised since the Partnership Committee is no longer meeting. She stated during the last year, less than half of the members attended and no quorum was met. The Lead Team would like to align with the work of the Council and there is already a connection with the local ECACs.
- Ms. Chappel stated the purpose of having the Lead Team as a workgroup of the Council would be to serve the needs of the Head Start grantees and provide a forum for them to discuss Head Start initiatives or concerns.
- Ms. Halley asked if the Leadership Team and Partnership Committee would be combined.
- Ms. Chappel stated the Partnership Committee would be dissolved and the bylaws would need to be revised to reflect this change.

Motion:

- Dolores Hauck motioned for the ECAC to adopt the Head Start Collaboration Leadership Team as a workgroup of the ECAC.
- Latisha Brown seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

11. For possible action: Create a bylaw workgroup to revise the current bylaws in accordance with AB79 and other actions taken today - Margot Chappel, Head Start Collaboration and Early Childhood Systems Office**

Motion:

- Carrie Paldi motioned to create a bylaw workgroup to revise the bylaws in accordance with AB 79 and other actions taken today.
- Catherine Lyons seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

Bylaw workgroup members include:

Margot Chappel, Laura Valentine, Carrie Paldi, Dolores Hauck, and Angela Triche.

(Current bylaws were provided.)

12. Update from the Children's Advocacy Alliance - Denise Tanata-Ashby, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance

The CAA is sponsoring and promoting the Strong Start for Children Campaign:

- Flyers are available.
- September 24th Children's Day Las Vegas event was held at a museum. Public awareness activities including flyers and a press conference focused on the importance of quality early childhood experiences.
- The Children's Advocacy Alliance will most likely receive funding from a national collaborative to support public service announcements on billboards, radio, and television.

13. Update on Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) 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

Ms. Severens reminded ECAC members that this is a T/TA grant with a small amount of funding:

- Purpose: Support Kindergarten Entry Assessment, with an emphasis on professional development for kindergarten teachers.
- Funding amount: \$20,000.00.
- Continues through September of 2014.
- Supporting the Birth-3rd Grade Summit and some expenses related to the P-3 track during the Elko Early Childhood Conference.
- Remaining funds may be used to provide mini-grants for Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) pilot kindergarten classes (purchase materials, etc.).
- Sherry Halley asked if the funds were going to be used for Eva Phillip's books.
- Ms. Severens confirmed that the funds would be used for the books.
- Tom Schultz from CCSSO will present at the upcoming Birth-3rd Grade Summit on October 11 & 12.
- *Birth-3rd Grade Summit:*
 - Kristie Kaurez will facilitate the event.
 - Session topics: teacher evaluation, teacher effectiveness, Washington State WA Kids, TSG, and other information to support P-3 alignment.
 - County team participation: Intentional cross sector involvement - School district superintendents, school teachers, and early childhood representatives.
 - All counties are participating except Eureka, Esmeralda, and Lander.

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

Latisha Brown is now the program manager for child care licensing.

- *AB 93:* (Requires background checks be initiated within twenty four hours of when a person is hired.)
 - Will go in to effect by July 2014.
 - Currently using this time for providers to get used to the new deadline and to resolve issues. The Child Care Licensing Office is experiencing an increase in faxes, which is creating unanticipated technical issues.
- *AB 109:* (Pertains to revised director qualifications and an increase in provider training hours.)
 - On hold at this time to better comprehend the language and intent.
 - Attorney General's Office reviewed the information and noted there may be a conflict to get a variance regarding director qualifications and grandfathering in experience, etc.
 - Created a memo that will be sent to providers soon.

Discussion:

- Margot Chappel asked if the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), Child Care Licensing, and the Nevada Registry are coordinating the implementation.
- Ms. Brown stated open communication continues between all programs regarding timelines, information exchange, and memos on how to implement the new requirements. Updates are also sent out through the licensing list serve to providers.

Silver State Stars – Patti Oya:

- Depending upon the ECCS workgroup recommendations, there may be changes to the Silver State Stars model regarding breast feeding and other adjustments may be made depending on child care regulations.
- Programs who are participating will be listed on the state licensing contact list and a description will provide information on how the program works. QRIS is also working with Washoe County Licensing to provide similar information.
 - Carrie Paldi asked if there is a statement that mentions that the program is voluntary.
 - Ms. Oya confirmed that it states the program is voluntary. Descriptions of each star level are also provided emphasizing that the star level is not comparable to hotel or restaurant ratings.
- Website: nvsilverstatestars.org. Site is being revised and updated. Applications are available to participate in the program.
- Data system: Stores online portfolios, documentation, and application.

15. Home Visiting Update – Deborah Aquino, MCH Program Manager, Health Division

No update at this time.

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

- Dates: February 11th – 14th, 2014 at the Westin Lake Resort Las Vegas.
- Rooms are already filling-up.
- Presenters include: Yvette Sanchez Fuentes (Office of Head Start), Anthony McClain (National Association of Social Workers), Jerlean Daniel (Retired – Executive Director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children), Yasmina Vinci (National Head Start Association), and Robert Garcia (Region IX Head Start).
- Program is in draft form and Ms. Triche will send to Margot Chappel for her to email to contacts.
- February 13th is a special event to honor seven couples of excellence who have been married from ten to twenty five years.
- Vendors receive a discount.
- Website: fathersandfamiliescoalition.org
- Target audience: Service providers for families and parents.

17. Updates from ECAC members

Dolores Hauck – United Way of Southern Nevada:

- Child Care Aware Advocacy Training will take place on Tuesday, October 22nd (North) and Wednesday, October 23rd (South). Business and early childhood communities are invited. Ms. Hauck will send the notice.
- Race to the Top letters are sent out to a number of Southern Nevada partners including Las Vegas Metro, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Southern Nevada Health District.
- United Way of Southern Nevada has funding to support teachers to complete a CDA and funding for high school early care and education students.
 - Carrie Paldi asked if there is an application for the funding.

- Ms. Hauck stated the funding is available for participating child care center staff, and teachers complete the application with the child care center director. Reimbursement goes directly to the center.

Carrie Paldi:

- Nevada AEYC Conference planning meeting is scheduled for Monday October 21st from 6:00pm – 8:00pm in Las Vegas. It is pot luck and will take place at the Urban League Conference Room.

18. Updates from Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils

Southern Nevada ECAC: - Dolores Hauck

- There has been good attendance at meetings and collaboration between providers and other early childhood community representatives.
- Received funding from private grants.
- Council has a consistent message and speaks with one voice to share information with the community on early childhood issues.
- Representatives from Congressman Heck, Senator Reid, and Senator Heller's Offices attended the last meeting.

Margot Chappel commented additional funding to support local ECACs will be requested as part of the Race to the Top application.

19. For possible action: Agenda Items for Next Meeting December 3rd**

- Sherry Halley will discuss the future of TACSEI and Expanding Opportunities and she will communicate with the HSC & ECS Office if this will need to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

20. For possible action: Schedule meetings for 2014**

- Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm or until business is completed.
- No lunch break.
- 2014 Dates: Bi-monthly, first Tuesday of the month beginning in February 2014.
 - February 4th, April 1st, June 3rd, August 5th, October 7th, December 2nd.
- Face to face format for the first couple of meetings and then determine if the format will switch to video conferencing.
- Location: Nevada Department of Education – Las Vegas and Video Conference Sites in Las Vegas and Reno. Patti Oya will work with Cindy Johnson to reserve video conference sites for the 2014 meetings and open help tickets to connect sites.

Motion:

- Carrie Paldi motioned for the ECAC to meet bi-monthly on the first Tuesday in a face to face format initially and then determine if the group would meet through video conference. Meeting would run from 9:30am – 12:30pm or until the completion of business.
- Latisha Brown seconded the motion.

- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

Next meeting: December 3rd, 9:30am – 12:30pm or until business is completed at the Nevada Department of Education, Las Vegas.

21. Public Comment

Laura Valentine reported the statewide Early Intervention Services policies are being finalized. She will send that to Ms. Chappel to email to contacts to share feedback.

22. Adjournment

Motion:

- Latisha Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:30pm.
- Dolores Hauck seconded the motion.
- All members were in favor.
- There were no oppositions or abstentions.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and would like to participate. If special arrangements are necessary, please contact Carol Gilman or Margot Chappel at (775) 688-7453 in advance to make arrangements.

THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Washoe County Public Library, 301 S. Center Street, Reno, NV 89501, Las Vegas Library, 833 Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89101
 Elko County Public Library, 720 Court Street, Elko, NV 89801, Little People's Head Start, 435 S, 13th Street, Ely, NV 89301
 Department Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706,
 State Library & Archives, 100 Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701, http://dhhs.nv.gov/Sitemap_HeadStart.htm#committee